

**At a meeting of the NORTH SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in the BUNNY HILL CENTRE, HYLTON LANE, SUNDERLAND on MONDAY, 23<sup>rd</sup> APRIL, 2012 at 5.30 p.m.**

**Present:-**

Councillor Bell in the Chair

Councillors Bonallie, Copeland, Curran, S. Foster, T. Foster, Shattock, Stewart, Walton and Wiper

**Also in Attendance:-**

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|---------------------|--|
| Ms. Susan Brown     | - Area Community Coordinator, Sunderland City Council                                  |
| Mr. Graham Burt     | - Community Development Manager, Sunderland City Council                               |
| Insp. Tony Carty    | - Northumbria Police   |
| Mr. Les Clark       | - Head of Streetscene, Sunderland City Council   |
| Mr. Neil Cole       | - Lead Policy Officer for Planning, Sunderland City Council                            |
| Mr. Phil Conn       | - Senior Youth Worker, SNCBC   |
| Mr. Lee Ferry       | - XL Youth Villages Coordinator, Sunderland City Council                               |
| Ms. Victoria French | - Assistant Head of Community Services, Sunderland City Council                        |
| Ms. Gillian Gibson  | - Consultant in Public Health, STPCT   |
| Mr. Dean Heward     | - Projects Manager, CEED   |
| Ms. Helen Lancaster | - Scrutiny Officer, Sunderland City Council  |
| Ms. Julie Lynn      | - Area Officer (North), Sunderland City Council  |
| Mr. Ron Odunaiya    | - Executive Director City Services, ALE (Area Lead Executive), Sunderland City Council |
| Mr. Andy Old        | - Area Response Officer, Sunderland City Council                                       |
| Mr. John Ord        | - Phoenix Manager, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Services                              |
| Mr. Alan Scott      | - North Locality Manager, Sunderland City Council                                      |
| Ms. Joanne Stewart  | - Principal Governance Services Officer, Sunderland City Council                       |
| Mr. Dave Tully      | - Project Officer, CEED  |
| Mr. Simon Woolley   | - Head of Learning, Beamish  |

**Chairman's Welcome**

The Chairman advised that this would be the last meeting of the North Sunderland Area Committee for Councillors Charlton, T. Foster and Walton as they would not be standing at the next elections in May, 2012. He thanked them for their work and contribution to the Committee and wished them well for the future. He then opened the meeting and invited introductions around the room.

## **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Francis, Howe, MacKnight and N. Wright.

## **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Bell declared a personal interest in the update from Beamish which would be considered under Item 2 (a) – Annual Report, as a Council appointed Member on the Joint Committee for the North of England Open Air Museum (Beamish).

## **Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2012**

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2012 (copy circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to Councillor Charlton being amended to read Councillor Curran on page four of the minutes.

## **Community Action in the North – Progress Review**

### Annual Report

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided a copy of the Committee's Annual Report for Members consideration.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Julie Lynn, Area Officer North, presented the report advising Members that the report provided a snapshot of the Committee's work over the 2011/12 municipal year, highlighting some of the major achievements and successes and changes implemented in the way the Committee operates seeing a greater alignment with priorities and a clearer focus on delivery.

Ms. Lynn introduced Mr. Dave Tully and Mr. Dean Heward, CEED and Mr. Simon Woolley, Beamish to the Committee who gave updates on the projects they had undertaken following funding contributions from the North Sunderland Area Committee.

Following questions from Members around future funding for projects, Ms. Lynn advised that with regards to the CEED project the task and finish group would be considering as part of their next meeting how the improvements could be continued to be maintained via other sources of funding that may be available.

Councillor Shattock commented that the reports back from the two groups had been encouraging and suggested it may be beneficial for the Committee to

take a tour around these and other projects the Committee had helped to fund. Ms. Lynn agreed to look into sites which may be suitable, especially those where that had been major refurbishments carried out and would organise during the new municipal year.

With regards to the Beamish project Members were keen to see that families who may not have otherwise been able to afford a visit were taking part and highly commended the project. Mr. Woolley commented that they had found that the visits and work had fit in well with the curriculum the children had been studying at school and they would look to continue to engage with the schools in Sunderland who he felt the organisation already had quite a good relationship with.

Councillor Foster referred to the Castle View MUGA and asked how work was progressing on site. Ms. Lynn advised that a meeting had been arranged with the Principal at the school as she understood they were having difficulties finding the match funding they required but that she would keep Members informed of developments, and it was:-

2. RESOLVED that the content of the Annual Report be received and noted.

#### Work Plan 2011/12 Update

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update against agreed action the current year's work plan as attached at Annex 1 of the report.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Julie Lynn, Area Officer North, presented the report advising that the task and finish group for activities for young people had proposed an alignment of a further £30,000 SIB funding for the coming year in order to provide holiday activities for young people aged 11-19 with the agreement of the Committee at this meeting.

Ms. Lynn also gave an update into the work of the task and finish group for anti social behaviour and advised that in order to deliver an operation to tackle sales of alcohol to underage young people, it had been proposed that £19,000 be aligned, with the agreement of the Committee, with match funding being provided in kind through Police resources, Gentoo resources and the Council.

Councillor Copeland referred to areas of the Southwick whereby rubbish and drug paraphernalia was still being found behind and around local businesses and asked if there was a possibility of cameras being installed or more lighting to prevent it. Mr Old agreed to send his Enforcement Officers around the areas identified to try and alleviate the problem.

In response to issues around a local shop selling alcohol to under age young people, Inspector Carty commented that they had not been advised of any

problems with the establishment but that he would ensure it was visited as part of the planned operation.

With regards to tackle anti social behaviour around the seafront, Councillor Wiper commented that not all of the young people involved were from the North Sunderland area. Inspector Carty advised that as officers visited areas around the seafront they would be recording which schools the young people attended so they could target their approach as part of a project if there was a trend as to which school the young people attended.

Having answered Members questions on the work plan, it was:-

3. RESOLVED that:-

- the content of the report and work plan be received and noted;
- the Committee agree the alignment of £30,000 SIB to the delivery of holiday activities for young people for the 2012/2013 period, subject to application full appraisal and consultation; and
- the Committee agreed the alignment of £19,000 SIB to the delivery of an anti social behaviour operation across the North Sunderland area, subject to application, full appraisal and consultation.

Community Chest, Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) and Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) – Financial Statement and Proposals for Further Allocation of Resources

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which requested Members to give consideration to requests for funding from Strategic Initiatives Budget, Strategic Investment Plan and Community Chest to support initiatives which would benefit the area.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Lynn presented the report and advised Members of the applications for funding which were set out as an Annex to the report, and it was:-

4. RESOLVED that:-

- the financial statement as set out in paragraph 2.1 of the report be noted;
- approval be given to the allocations of SIB funding from the 2011/12 budget towards the holiday activities for young people of £30,000 and the ASB operation of £19,000, subject to applications, full appraisal and consultation;
- approval be given to the allocation of SIB funding from the 2011/12 budget of £4,000 as a contribution towards the Phoenix Project;

- approval be given to the allocation of SIB funding from the 2011/12 budget of £25,000 as a contribution towards the Wearside Allotments Improvements; and
- approval be given to the 10 proposals for support from the 2011/12 Community Chest, totalling £5,275, as set out in the Annex to the report.

## **Influencing Practice, Policy and Strategy**

### Provision of XL Village Youth Activity

The Executive Director of Children's Services submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided information on the current position in relation to the XL Youth Village provision both citywide and specifically in the North Area.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Mr. Lee Ferry, XL Youth Village Coordinator, presented the report which detailed the current position together with proposals for amendment to the delivery model in order to provide better value for money and which also sought approval for the intended summer sites as proposed by the North Sunderland Area Task and Finish Group.

To compliment the report Mr. Ferry provided Members with a comprehensive powerpoint presentation highlighting:-

- i) the new delivery model
- ii) the type and scale of provision
- iii) the time and location of the 4 Block City wide programme
- iv) a depiction of the increase in face to face youth work hours.

Discussion ensued during the course of the presentation around how the provision would be communicated to young people to ensure that they continued to build on the success they already had achieved in the past and Members were advised that they would be promoted a number of ways using social media, the schools and youth providers.

Mr. John Ord, Phoenix Manager, provided an update to Members on the Phoenix project, advising that they had fallen short of the target for participants from the North Sunderland Area due to fewer referrals of young people from that area. Having looked into the reason for this Mr. Ord advised that there had been eleven young people from the area who they had not had the personal addresses for so had not been included in the initial figures.

The Chairman commented that the project was worthy of support and that the contribution it made with regards to young people in the city could only continue to be beneficial, and it was:-

5. RESOLVED that:-

- the proposed changes in the delivery model be received and noted;
- the sites for the XL Village locations for summer 2012 as recommended by the North Task and Finish Group be agreed; and
- a further report on the progress and outcomes of the project be submitted to a future Committee.

City of Sunderland Local Development Framework : Core Strategy Revised Preferred Options and Supporting Evidence Papers

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided members with an opportunity to be consulted on the LDF Core Strategy revised preferred options document.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Mr. Neil Cole, Lead Policy Officer for Planning, presented the report which advised that the Core Strategy lay at the heart of the Local Development Framework (LDF). It would set out the overarching strategic planning framework for the development of the city for the next 20 years and draw from other strategies of the City Council (such as the Sunderland Strategy and Economic Masterplan). Apart from the allocation of “Strategic Sites”, the Core Strategy would otherwise not be site specific and would only indicate the broad locations for delivering new development such as housing, employment and transport. Once the Core Strategy was adopted, all other Development Plan Documents (DPD’s) would need to conform to the broad requirements of the Core Strategy.

To compliment the report, Mr. Cole provided Members with a presentation which outlined the purpose of the core strategy, major changes to planning policy arising from the Localism Act and the National Planning Policy Framework, together with the impact on Sunderland and the North Area in particular.

Discussion on the matter ensued with Mr. Cole addressing questions from Members regarding the provision of affordable and social housing, imminent changes in relation to the welfare reform and areas of unoccupied new build housing around the city.

Councillor Shattock referred to the road links in and around the North Sunderland Area and referred to the one way system that was in place at the Wheatsheaf area which left places such as Howick Park completely isolated. She commented that the roads in that area should be reinstated for two way traffic to improve road links to the area and then on to the city centre and asked that the issue be looked into further.

Mr. Odunaiya stated that there was quite clearly a desire for Members to look into transport links into the North Sunderland area and the city and suggested that it be an issue for Members of the Committee to forward on to the

proposed Area Boards for consideration in the next municipal year, as to what improvements Member would like to see made and what could actually be undertaken in the area to improve the situation.

6. RESOLVED that the content of the LDF and its relating documents be received and noted.

The Chairman thanked everyone for the attendance and closed the meeting.

(Signed) R. BELL,  
Chairman.