

At a Meeting of the COALFIELD AREA COMMITTEE held at EASINGTON LANE COMMUNITY ACCESS POINT, BRICKGARTH, EASINGTON LANE, HOUGHTON-LE-SPRING, DH5 0LE, on WEDNESDAY, 22ND JANUARY, 2014 at 6.00 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Richardson in the Chair

Councillors Blackburn, Ellis, Lawson, Scott, D. Smith, Speding, Tate and Wakefield

Also in Attendance:-

Ron Barrass	Member of the Public	
Susan Brown	Project Manager, VCS	ELCAP
Charlotte Burnham	Area Lead Executive for the Coalfield Area Committee and Head of Scrutiny and Area Arrangements	Sunderland City Council
Melanie Caldwell	Head of Operations – Houghton/Hetton	Gentoo Ltd.
Dave Ellison	Area Response Manager	Sunderland City Council
Sam Gallilee	Area Network Representative	VCS
Pauline Hopper	Area Community Officer, Coalfield	Sunderland City Council
Lisa Musgrove	Neighbourhood Inspector	Northumbria Police
Rachel Putz	Coalfields Locality Manager, Children's Services	Sunderland City Council
Kay Rowham	Member of the Public	
Christine Tilley	Governance Services Team Leader	Sunderland City Council
Gill Wake	Area Co-ordinator	Sunderland City Council
Jeff Wilkinson		Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman offered a warm welcome to everyone at the first Coalfield Area Committee meeting for 2014 and invited all those present to introduce themselves.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Anderson and Heron, together with Councillor J. Heron from Hetton Town Council, Ms. Amelia Laverick and Ms. Ann Owen, Area Network Representative.

Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 18th September, 2013 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Partner Agency Reports – Area Voluntary and Community Sector Network – Request for Funding to the Heritage Lottery Fund

Ms. S Brown, Project Manager, VCS advised in response to Councillor Lawson that a request for funding for £10,000 had been made in respect of the WW1 Commemoration and notification was anticipated soon as to whether the application had been successful.

Partner Agency Reports – Coalfield Area Voluntary and Community Sector Network

Ms. Sam Gallilee and Ms. Ann Owen, Area Network Representatives submitted a report (copy circulated), providing an update with regard to the Coalfield Area Voluntary and Community Sector Network.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Pauline Hopper, Area Community Officer highlighted the issues raised at the Coalfield VCSN meetings held in October, November and January. She pointed out that Mr. Lee Wardle, VCS Network Representative and Co-Chair of this Group had resigned from ELCAP and therefore was no longer eligible to present the report to the Area Committee.

Ms. Melanie Caldwell, Head of Operations – Houghton/Hetton, Gentoo Ltd referred to the update provided at the November meeting in respect of Welfare Reform and the Benefits Cap and highlighted to the Committee the Real Life Reform reports about the impact of welfare reform on household across the north.

Ms Caldwell undertook to forward a copy of the reports to Members for their information.

Ms. Caldwell also briefed the Committee in relation to the demand for houses to rent from Gentoo which was down in the Coalfield and was therefore resulting in vacant properties.

Ms. Caldwell invited Members to encourage people living in their ward to make enquiries with the housing company if they were looking to move home or were wishing to rent a property and advised that it was intended that an article be placed in Community News to this effect.

Full discussion having taken place on the report it was:-

2. RESOLVED that the update from the Area Voluntary and Community Sector be received and noted and a letter of thanks be forwarded to Mr. Lee Wardle for the work he has undertaken in the sector and the contributions he has made to the work of the Area Committee.

Partner Agency Reports – Northumbria Police

Neighbourhood Inspector Lisa Musgrove provided the Committee with verbal update on crime in the Coalfield Area. She advised that there had been a 5% rise in crime overall which equated to 79 offences. There had been rises in Violence against the person and Criminal Damage to Dwellings.

In comparison to the above there was good news as there was a 9% reduction in Burglary to Dwellings and a decrease of 3% in vehicle crime.

Youth Anti Social Behaviour was showing a 28% reduction across the Coalfield Area. There were however two hotspots, Hall Lane Estate and Hetton Town Centre where there had been minor damage and nuisance issues and there were operations in place to tackle the situation.

In response to Councillor Wakefield, Neighbourhood Inspector Musgrove confirmed that there had been a number of road traffic offences and penalty points issued in a number of locations in the Coalfield Area as referred to in the press.

3. RESOLVED that the update from Neighbourhood Inspector Musgrove be received and noted.

Partner Agency Reports – Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service

Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service submitted a report (copy circulated) providing Performance Monitoring details in relation to the Local Indicators for the Coalfield Area Committee area from 1.10.2013 to 31.12.2013.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Mr. Jeff Wilkinson, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service briefed the Committee on the report highlighting that there had been no deaths or injuries

from fires during this period. The area of concern was the three deliberate property fires as detailed in paragraph 3.5 of the report, the most concerning of which was the fire at Queensway and Police were investigating the incident.

There had been 52 deliberate secondary fires during the period as detailed in paragraph 3.7; November being a traditionally busy month.

Mr. Wilkinson highlighted that 369 pupils were booked to attend the SafetyWorks interactive Centre run by the Fire Service within this academic year and he asked that his thanks to Neighbourhood Inspector Lisa Musgrove and her staff be placed on record for making the bookings.

Members having asked questions in respect of the individual fires in their wards as to the exact locations and causes, it was:-

4. RESOLVED that the contents of the report be received and noted.

Place Board Progress Report

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with an update against the Place Board Work Plan for 2013/14.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Scott, Chair of the Place Board, introduced the update on the progress made by the Place Board on the priorities identified, highlighting the work carried out to develop proposals in respect of a Dog Control policy and drawing attention to the order proposals for the various locations in the area detailed at annex 2 of the report.

Mr. Dave Ellison, Area Response Manager advised that Officers had sought to develop a consistent approach in respect of the Dog Control policy which would be applied across the city. A public consultation exercise was being carried out in respect of the Policy and the locations identified. Following this signs would be erected informing the public in the specific locations.

Councillor Scott and Mr Ellison briefed the Committee on the detail of the work undertaken to improve areas of neglected land and the measures taken to tackle fly tipping which were to be rolled out across the city.

Councillor Scott drew attention to the process to influence the Highways Capital Maintenance Programme advising that Members would be asked to suggest roads in need of repair in their communities and the work carried out in respect of allotments in the area.

Councillor Scott advised the Committee that Mr. Ellison would be retiring from the Council at the end of the financial year and asked that the Committee's thanks be placed on record for the tremendous amount of work he had done to improve the

Coalfields area and his contributions to the Area Committee and wished him well for the future and it was:-

5. RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the progress and performance update with regards to the Place Board work plan for 2013/14 be noted; and
- (b) the recommendations from the Place Board regarding SIB allocations for place based projects be noted and supported.

People Board Progress Report

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with an update on the progress made against the 2013/14 People Board Work Plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Chair of the People Board, Councillor Lawson, presented the report highlighting the work that had been done by the Board up to December 2013 in influencing early intervention and locality services and the work carried out in reviewing Library services.

Councillor Lawson urged Members to continue to provide suggestions for services/programmes that can improve provision in the area by feeding into the consultation on the Integrated Wellness project. She also reminded Members to continue to provide information for the Directory which was being developed using information and knowledge from Council Departments, Public Health Services, Elected Members, the VCS Network partners and residents to raise awareness of services available for Older and Vulnerable People.

Councillor Lawson highlighted the Dementia Awareness Workshops which provided a free half day training course available to anyone living, volunteering or working in the Coalfields Area on Wednesday 5th February and Monday 10th March. She advised that arrangements were being made for the next meeting of the People Board to be held in the 'Living Room' based at Bernard Gilpin School; the new community 'dementia café' facility which the Committee had supported with SIB funding.

Councillor Lawson drew the Committees attention to the People based projects which the Board was recommending for support detailed at item 5 on the agenda.

Mr. Jeff Wilkinson, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service referred to the projects being provided to support older people, vulnerable adults and carers and commented that the fire service would be happy to offer safety checks for anyone taking part in the projects.

Councillor Lawson thanked the VCS for their support in delivering the projects in the community and Elected Members for all the work they had undertaken and

attendance at the People Board meetings. She invited issues for inclusion in the next edition of Community News which was due to be published in the next few weeks.

Full consideration having been given to the report it was:-

6. RESOLVED that:-
 - (a) the progress and performance update with regards to the People Board work plan for 2013/14 be noted; and
 - (b) the recommendations from the People Board regarding SIB allocations for people based projects be noted and supported.

Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) and Community Chest - Financial Statement and Proposals for Further Allocation of Resources

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) providing a financial statement as an update position on progress in relation to allocating Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) and Community Chest and presenting proposals for further funding requests to support initiatives that will benefit the area.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Pauline Hopper presented the report highlighting the table at paragraph 2.1 showing the financial position of SIB following the September 2013 meeting of the Area Committee.

Ms. Hopper drew attention to the projects submitted for approval from the People and Place Boards detailed at paragraphs 2.2 and 2.3 and to the application from Philadelphia Cricket Club detailed in paragraph 2.4 which would allow the club to increase the community activities delivered on site, including a lunch club and social activities for older people. She advised that the club had already raised a substantial amount of funding themselves and had also secured funding of £5,000 for the project from Biffa Waste Services.

Ms. Hopper referred to the budget which would be returning to the Committee in respect of 'The Last of the Summer Wine' project which had now ended, advising that taking everything into account if all recommendations were approved at the meeting that evening that a total of £95,946 SIB would remain and ideas were being generated to allocate this funding.

The Chairman reminded Members in respect of Community Chest that they could only make applications for funding from their own ward allocation in the first instance and not from that of other wards unless there was agreement from the Members of another ward to jointly fund a project.

Ms. Charlotte Burnham, Area Lead Executive for the Coalfield Area Committee and Head of Scrutiny and Area Arrangements advised the Committee that Officers were looking to continue to improve how the Community Chest Fund was

administered to make it easier for Elected Members and Community Groups and that Members would be consulted on any proposed changes to the arrangements.

Full consideration having been given to the report it was:-

7. RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the financial information set out in sections 2 and 3 of the report and in further detail in annexes 1 to 3, together with the previously approved Community Chest applications detailed in annex 4 be noted;
- (b) the SIB project applications recommended by the People and Place Boards listed in sections 2.2, 2.3 of the report and detailed in Annexes 1, 2 and 3 be approved as follows:-

People Board

Support for Older People	£
Space 4 Care	2170
Hope social	1500
Health Mentor b active b fit	3000
Luncheon club ShARP	2600
Ipad EngAGE Age UK	3000

Healthy Weight	£
Family Health YMCA	4982
Food and ceramics ELCAP	5000
St Aidans	5000
Tackle it SAFC	5000
Awareness W/ton Mind	3050
High Five SNCBC	3640
Trails, snails,scales Groundwork	5000

Sexual/Mental Health	£
Peer educator YMCA	4918
Looking after yourself SNCBC	4318
Healthy young minds	4950

Place Board

Neglected Land (increase to existing project)	£30,000
Promotional project (new project via youth groups)	£2,000
Love Where You Live (call for projects)	£30,000
Local Celebrations 2014 (via VCS Network) including £5,000 for WW1 project)	£15,000

- (c) approval be given to a sum of £5,000 SIB funding to Philadelphia Cricket Club subject to an application being completed; and
- (d) approval be given to the £4,040 previously allocated to the Last of the Summer Wine project (as stated in paragraph 2.5 of the report) being returned to the main budget.

Rectory Park Regeneration – Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) Application Information Report

The Head of Streetscene submitted a report (copy circulated) providing an overview of the Rectory Park Regeneration Project including the aim of the project, the HLF Application process and key activities which cut across the work of both the Place and People Boards and also the VCS Network.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Chairman welcomed the report and invited Members to bring forward any suggestions for development of the project.

8. RESOLVED that the information in the report be noted and that further reports on the progress of the project be submitted to the Committee at the appropriate times.

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

(Signed) D. RICHARDSON,
Chairman.