

At a meeting of the NORTH SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in the BUNNY HILL CENTRE, HYLTON LANE, SUNDERLAND on THURSDAY, 20TH JUNE, 2013 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Bell in the Chair

Councillors Bonallie, Copeland, Curran, Davison, Francis, Howe, MacKnight, Shattock, Stewart, D. Wilson and N. Wright

Also in Attendance:-

Mr. Michael Donachie	-	Gentoo
Ms. Gillian Gibson	-	Consultant in Public Health, Sunderland City Council
Mr. Hugh McShane	-	SNCBC
Ms. Viv Metcalfe	-	Area Community Coordinator, Sunderland City Council
Mr. Andy Old	-	Area Response Manager, Sunderland City Council
Ms. Ruth Oxley	-	SNYP, VCS Network
Ms. Allison Patterson	-	Scrutiny and Area Arrangements Manager, Sunderland City Council
Mr. Alan Scott	-	North Locality Manager, Sunderland City Council
Ms. Sue Stanhope	-	Director of HR & OD, Sunderland City Council – ALE (Area Lead Executive)
Ms. Joanne Stewart	-	Principal Governance Services Officer, Sunderland City Council
Ms. Clare Tulley	-	Nexus
Mr. Graham Wharton	-	Salvation Army, VCS Network
Mr. Gary Yates	-	Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting, inviting introductions around the room.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Foster and Wiper and from Mr. S. Anderson, Ms. W. Cook and Ms. N. Vokes.

Declarations of Interest

Ms. Joanne Stewart, Principal Governance Services Officer, gave Members of the Committee an overview on declaring interests at the Area Committee.

There were no declarations of interest made.

Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 22nd April, 2013

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 22nd April, 2013, subject to the attendance to be amended to show that Ms. Gillian Gibson now works within Sunderland City Council and not STPCT.

Setting the Scene for 2013/2014

The Chairman and Ms. Patterson, Area Officer, gave a presentation which set the scene for the work that would be done by the area committee during the coming year. They advised that the Council was committed to devolving decision making for local services to a local level; the Area Committees were responsible for these devolved powers and over the last year there had been a number of changes made to the way the area committees supported the decision making. The Place and People boards had been set up to identify areas of priority and develop actions in line with these priorities.

The priorities for 2013/14 had been agreed at the last meeting of the area committee and these were:-

Place: Influencing Responsive Local Services - Streetscene; Greenspace and Shopping Centre Improvements; Accessibility of Services, Facilities, Events and Information; and Heritage.

People: Influencing Early Intervention Locality Services; Influencing the transformation of adult social care; Activities for young people; and Job Prospects and Activities for young people.

The area committee had access to both Strategic Initiatives Budget and Community Chest funding; there was £340,294 of SIB funding available and there was Community Chest funding totalling £75,762.

Members raised a number of concerns over the detrimental impact the welfare reform would have on local residents lives in the North Sunderland area and following discussions it was agreed that Ms. Fiona Brown, Head of Transactional Services, as the Head of Service with responsibility for this area, be invited to a future meeting of the Area Committee to provide an update on the welfare reform when appropriate, including information on the number of residents accessing foodbanks in the North area, details of waiting

times for the processing of housing and council tax benefits, and how the Council were looking to prepare for future issues and areas of concern which were relevant to the North Sunderland area or that the Area Committee could influence within their remit.

Members having fully considered the presentation, it was:-

2. RESOLVED that the scene setting presentation for the year ahead be received and noted and that feedback reports be received on matters of interest to future meetings of the Committee and that the Head of Transactional Services be invited to a future meeting of the Area Committee to provide an update in relation to the Welfare Reform.

Place Board Progress Report

The Chairman of the Place Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update of progress against the current year's (2013/14) Place Board Work Plan.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Vivienne Metcalfe, Area Officer presented the report drawing Members' attention to the initiation of action towards achieving key priorities as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report together with the Area Governance arrangements and the request to agree membership of the Place Board for 2013/14.

In addition Ms. Metcalfe provided members with a summary of key areas of influence and achievements of the Place Board in relation to Responsive Local Services, Greenspace and Shopping Centre Improvements, Accessibility of services, facilities, events and information and Heritage.

With regard to the Place Board membership discussions ensued around how by only allowing one member from each ward to be represented on the Board other Councillors were being excluded. Members were advised that although the core membership of the Board needed to be agreed, all Members of the North Sunderland Area Committee would receive notifications of the meetings and be invited to attend if they so wished.

Following Member discussions, it was:-

3. RESOLVED that:-
 - i) Councillors Bonallie, Copeland, Foster, Stewart D. Wilson (Chairman) and Wiper be agreed as the member representation for the Place Board for 2013/14;
 - ii) the progress and performance update with regard to the North Sunderland Area Place Board's Work Plan for 2013/14 be received and noted; and

- iii) elected Members on governing bodies of Seaburn Dene, Bexhill Academy, Bishop Harland CE, Dame Dorothy, Hylton Red House, Redby, Southwick, Town End Academy and Willow Fields Schools encourage them to return the audit information request to Sports and Leisure.

People Board – Progress Update

The Chairman of the People Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update of progress against the People Board's Work Plan for 2013/14.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Metcalfe, Area Officer presented the report drawing Members' attention to the initiation of action towards achieving key priorities as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report, together with the Area Governance arrangements and and the request to agree membership of the Place Board for 2013/14. Members' attention was also drawn to Annex 2 of the report and the Committee were requested to agree the proposals within the report on youth provision.

In addition Ms. Metcalfe provided members with a summary of key areas of influence and achievements of the People Board in relation to Influencing Core Services Devolved to the Area Committee, Early Intervention and Locality Based Services and Job Prospects and Activities for Young People.

With regard to the People Board membership, Members agreed that it should remain the same as it had the previous year, namely Councillor Foster in the Chair and Councillors Davison, Francis, Jackson, Shattock and D. Wilson as member representation on the Board.

Members referred to the proposals for the provision of community goal posts as detailed in paragraph 4.1 of the report. Members raised concerns over the siting of goalposts at Fulwell Quarry as it was not felt that it was a safe area for young people to be directed toward and if a further site was requested other options in the north area should be investigated.

The Chairman having thanked Ms Metcalfe for her report, it was:-

4. RESOLVED that:-

- i) Cllrs Davison, Francis, Jackson, Shattock and D. Wilson be agreed as the membership of the People Board for 2013/14;
- ii) the progress and performance update with regard to the North Sunderland Area People Board's Work Plan for 2013/14;
- iii) the proposals set out within the report on youth provision attached as annex 2 of the report be agreed; and

- iv) that the agreed location for installation of goalposts of Thompson Park, Downhill and the New Derby Green Space be agreed, subject to any further consultation deemed necessary.

Community Chest, Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) and Healthy City Investment Fund (HCIF) – 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 Community Chest and providing a financial statement as an up to date position in relation to the allocation of Strategic Initiatives Budget, Healthy City Investment Fund and Community Chest to support initiatives which would benefit the area.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Metcalfe presented the report and Members having fully considered the report, it was:-

5. RESOLVED that:-

- the financial statements as set out in paragraphs 2.1, 3.1 and 4.1 of the report be noted;
- approval be given to the allocation of £4,582 from the SIB budget for 2013/14 towards the SiGN (Sunderland Green Neighbourhoods) project;
- approval be given to the allocation of £5,500 from the SIB budget for 2013/14 towards replacing the footpath, bridge repairs and environmental works at Staveley Road, which supports delivery to the Greenspace Improvements Priority (subject to assessment of relevant project and financial information); and
- approval be given to the ten proposals for support from the 2013/14 Community Chest, totalling £9,831.68, as set out in the annex to the report.

Partner Agency Reports – Area Voluntary and Community Sector

Ms. Ruth Oxley and Mr. Graham Wharton gave an update to the Committee on the issues being raised by the VCS Group for the North Sunderland Area advising that the most prevalent at present was the ability and capacity of groups to continue delivering core services not being delivered by the Council whilst funding is continuing to be cut and funding streams less available.

The representatives welcomed the opportunity to work jointly with the Council and other partner agencies to collectively approach issues in communities and organise how best they can be supported using the resources and facilities that were available to them.

6. RESOLVED that the update from the Area Voluntary and Community Sector be received and noted.

Partner Agency Reports – Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Services

Mr. Gary Yates, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Services gave an update to Members on the developments for the new station to be built at Marley Park. He advised that there were to be two public information sessions held on 30th July, and 1st August, 2013 to allow members of the public to attend to see the rationale behind the move from Fulwell Fire Station to a new more fit for purpose station, as well as a scaled model of the new development.

The Committee were advised that they would be forwarded a copy of the presentation on the new development and any feedback should be sent to Mr. Yates for compiling and inclusion as part of the consultations planned.

Members were pleased with the proposed development but raised concerns over what may replace the current site at Fulwell. Mr. Yates advised that at this stage they were unaware as to what the site would be developed for but explained that it would be subject to a full public consideration beforehand.

Councillor Curran referred to previous conversations regarding a visit to the Safetyworks project for Members. Mr. Yates agreed to speak with the relevant Officers to investigate the possibility of this being undertaken.

7. RESOLVED that the update from the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service be received and noted.

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

(Signed) R. BELL,
Chairman.