

At a meeting of the WASHINGTON AREA COMMITTEE held at THE LIFE HOUSE, GRASMERE TERRACE on THURSDAY 19TH JUNE, 2014 at 6.00 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Scaplehorn in the Chair

Councillors Farthing, Fletcher, Kelly, F. Miller, G. Miller, Padgett, Thompson and Williams.

Karon Purvis	-	Chief Executives
Louise Butler	-	Chief Executives
David Hardy	-	City Services
Nicky Rowland	-	City Services
Paul Wood	-	Commercial and Corporate Services
Kasia Kurowska	-	VCS Representative
Steve Graham	-	TWFRS
Colin McCartney	-	Gentoo
Jackie Pitt	-	Gentoo
Councillor Michael Mordey		
Gillian Gibson	-	Consultant in Public Health
Alesha Aljeffri	-	Healthwatch Sunderland
Jacqui Reeves	-	Washington Mind

Members of the Washington Community.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Lauchlan, D.E Snowdon, D. Snowdon, D. Trueman, H. Trueman and Walker. Neil Revely, John Chapman, Jane Eland, Julie Parker-Walton, John Rostron, Jim Kennedy and Inspector Paul Stewart.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 10th April, 2014

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 10th April, 2014 (copy circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Partner Agency Reports

(a) Report of the Washington Area Community Voluntary Sector Network

The Washington Area Community Voluntary Sector Network submitted a report (copy circulated) to inform the Committee of activity, progress, issues and concerns of the sector.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Kasia Kurowska, VCS Representative presented the report and advised the Committee that the recruitment of the Co-ordinator by Washington Trust was ongoing. The health priorities were discussed at the last Network meeting and a workshop had been agreed for July. Ms Kurowska also advised that the Network were looking to produce an Annual Review.

In relation to the Washington Trust recruitment, Councillor Kelly advised that one application had been received, therefore they were widening the net to incorporate the whole of Tyne and Wear in order to increase the number of potential applicants.

2. RESOLVED that Members noted the contents of the report and considered the opportunities and issues raised by the Washington ACVSN.

(b) Northumbria Police Update

Northumbria Police submitted a report detailing the Washington Crime and ASB Performance Summary from 1st April 2014 to 30th May 2014.

The Performance figures were compared against previous year same period figures.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

The Chairman informed the Committee that Inspector Paul Stewart could not attend the meeting but there was a report included in the papers which detailed the statistics if Members had any comments or queries they wished to be passed on.

Councillor Thompson commented that there were no statistics relating to domestic violence in the report which had been requested previously and asked that this be passed on to the relevant Officer.

3. RESOLVED that Members noted the report

Fire Service Update

Steve Graham, Fire Station Manager submitted a report (copy circulated) detailing the statistics for the Washington Area in the period of 1st April, 2014 to 31st May, 2014.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Kelly wished to thank the Fire Authority for the fantastic service they provided and continue to provide and congratulated them on the context of the report.

The Chairman commented that he believed the whole Committee would agree with Councillor Kelly and those sentiments.

4. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Healthwatch Presentation

Alesha Aljeffri, Sunderland Healthwatch Manager, provided a powerpoint presentation to outline the background of Healthwatch, the progress they had made to date, and to advise of what they would be doing next.

(For copy presentation – see original minutes)

The Chairman thanked Ms Aljeffri for her presentation.

5. RESOLVED that Members considered and noted the presentation.

Place Board – Progress Report

The Chair of the Place Board submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide the Committee with

- a. An annual update of the 2013/14 Work Plan, including SIB funded projects.
- b. To seek the Committee's approval for priorities to be taken forward as part of the Work Plan for 2014/15;and
- c. To provide an update on Place Board Governance Arrangements for 2014/15.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Fiona Miller, Chair of the Place Board presented the report and enquired if Members had any comments they wished to make.

In response to Councillor G. Miller's enquiry, Mrs Purvis advised that a flooding update report was scheduled to be brought to the next Place Board.

Councillor Farthing commented that there had been successful work carried out under the Banner project in relation to the heritage offer in Washington, but parts of Washington had not received any engagement and enquired as to where we were at with this.

Mrs Purvis advised that this would come under the People Boards remit and if they wanted this to continue as an action, then this could be raised at the first scheduled meeting to be established as a priority. However there was a need to identify a lead agent to apply to take the works forward.

With Regards to the 2014/15 Workplan and the Linking of Ward Members to activities and events being delivered, Mrs Purvis advised that Officers would be trying to provide support to Members in their community engagement and leadership role.

Councillor Kelly referred to the Heritage and Culture Priority and wished to reiterate that the events were not just about looking at dusty artefacts and such like.

Councillor Thompson commented that there was a dearth of heritage/culture in Washington and requested that consideration of the map be given again. Mrs Purvis advised that this could be taken to the first Place Board.

In relation to the Membership of the Place Board Councillor Fletcher proposed a change, with Councillor Kelly to replace her on the Board, this was seconded by Councillor G. Miller.

6. RESOLVED that the Committee

- i) Considered the Annual Performance Update with regard to the Washington Area Place Board's Work Plan for 2013/14 attached as Annex 1 and 2 of the report)
- ii) Considered and agreed the Washington Area Place Board Work Plan Priorities for 2014/15 attached as Annex 3 of the report
- iii) Noted the Area Governance arrangements for 2014/15 outlined in Section 5 and Annex 4 of the report
- iv) Agreed for Councillor Kelly to replace Councillor Fletcher on the Place Board.

People Board – Progress Report

The Chair of the People Board submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide the Committee with

- a. An annual update of the 2013/14 Work Plan, including SIB funded projects.
- b. To seek the Committee's approval for priorities to be taken forward as part of the Work Plan for 2014/15;and
- c. To provide an update on People Board Governance Arrangements for 2014/15.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Williams presented the report and enquired if Members had any comments.

Councillor Kelly proposed that Councillor Fletcher replace Councillor Walker on the membership of the Board. Councillor G. Miller seconded this.

In relation to the Childrens Centre's Local Area Board (CLAB) Mrs Purvis advised that Councillor Farthing would be the Elected Member Representative with Councillor Williams.

7. RESOLVED that the Committee

- (i) Considered the Annual Performance Update with regard to the Washington Area People Board's Work Plan for 2013/14 attached as Annex 1 and 2 of the report.
- (ii) Considered and agreed the Washington Area People Board Work Plan Priorities for 2014/15 attached as Annex 3 of the report.
- (iii) Noted the Area Governance arrangements for 2014/15 outlined in Section 5 and Annex 4 of the report; and
- (iv) Agreed for Councillor Fletcher to replace Councillor Walker on the Membership of the People Board.

Part 6, Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005, Dog Control Orders – Consultation Results and Findings

Responsive Local Services submitted a report and powerpoint presentation (copies circulated) to update and advise the Committee of the results of the public consultation relating to Sunderland City Council's intention to implement legislation, subject to Part 6, Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005, Dog Control Orders and to seek approval to implement the orders detailed within Appendix 1 of the report.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Nicky Rowland, Area Response Manager presented the report and was on hand with Councillor Mordey to answer any queries Members may have.

Councillor Kelly commented that his only concern was with regards to the huge emphasis placed on erecting signage in areas that were already cluttered with numerous signs.

Ms Rowland advised that it was a legal requirement for the areas to be clearly marked and they would be very specific and separate from the other signs.

Councillor G. Miller commented that he was not a fan of these orders and would've liked to have seen more enforcement covering a broader period of time as in his view, this wasn't going to deal with dog walkers early in the morning or late at night.

Councillor Williams agreed with Councillor Miller and commented that this was costing a lot of money to deal with a small minority of people. Councillor Williams also commented that residents were very passionate about the use of the dog bins and them constantly being full, which was not the case and people were leaving bags on top of the bins instead of putting them inside so this was a difficult area to manage.

Councillor Thompson enquired as to how many enforcement officers there were across the city and if the numbers would be increasing.

Ms Rowland advised that there were none within the Responsive Local Services Team, 38 Officers across the city had enforcement powers and RLS staff were trained in gathering evidence to refer to the relevant officer within the service.

Councillor Kelly commented that this was designed not just to tackle dog fouling but also to focus on owners having control of the dog.

The Chairman commented that as an ex professional dog walker this was correct and it was more about educating the person who was in control of the dog.

8. RESOLVED that Members

- i) Noted the contents of the report; and
- ii) Authorised the recommendations for implementation of Dog Control Orders within the Washington Area of the City.

Strategic Initiative Budget (SIB), Community Chest, Financial Statement and Proposals for further allocation of Resources

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to request the Committee's consideration of proposals for the allocation of the Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) that would benefit the area and to note the Community Chest initiatives that would benefit the area.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

In relation to Round 3 for the Washington 50 Community Programme, Councillor Kelly advised that he had received a phone call from a school over the consultation process and they claimed they had not been aware.

Mrs Purvis advised that she had conversations with the school in question and they were aware of the consultation.

Councillor Williams also added that she had received an email in which the school in question had been copied into.

Mrs Purvis commented that there was nothing to stop further pieces being added on and working with those schools not yet applied.

Councillor Farthing enquired if all primary schools had applied yet. Mrs Purvis advised that some were working in partnership with other organisations and there was a whole range of different projects ongoing. The few remaining schools did have bids in for the next round and those that didn't had been invited to apply.

Louise Butler, Area Co-ordinator commented that she would be sending a calendar of events to all Members which would be useful in determining where they could take part in community engagement if they wished to do so.

9. RESOLVED that the Committee:-

- i) Noted the financial statements set out in sections 2.1, 2.4, 2.5 and 3.1 of the report.
- ii) Approved the contribution of £125,000 SIB funding towards the Neighbourhood Improvements Project as detailed in Annex 1 of the report.
- iii) Noted the allocation of £15,938 SIB (2013/14 budget Call for Projects) to support three rounds of applications for the Washington 50 Community Programme as detailed in Annex 3 of the report
- iv) Noted the Community Chest approvals supported from 2014/15 Community Chest as set out in Annex 4 of the report.

Planning Applications – For Information Only

Current Planning Applications relating to the Washington Area for the period 1st May to 31st May 2014 were submitted for Members information only (copy circulated).

(For copy report – see original minutes)

10 RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting

(Signed) B. SCAPLEHORN,
Chairman.