

At a meeting of the NORTH SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in the BUNNY HILL CENTRE, HYLTON LANE, SUNDERLAND on MONDAY, 19th MARCH, 2012 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Bell in the Chair

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

Also in Attendance:-

Ms. Susan Brown	- Area Community Coordinator, Sunderland City Council
Insp. Tony Carty	- Northumbria Police
Mr. Les Clark	- Head of Streetscene, Sunderland City Council
Ms. Simone Common	- Locality Manager, Sunderland City Council
Mr. Michael Donachie	- Gentoo
Ms. Victoria French	- Assistant Head of Community Services, Sunderland City Council
Ms. Gillian Gibson	- NHS
Ms. Nicola Hawyes	- Community Development Support Officer, Sunderland City Council
Mr. Kevin Johnson	- Landscape Architect, 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
Ms. Joanne Stewart	- Principal Governance Services Officer, Sunderland City Council
Mr. James Third	- Community Relations Officer, Nexus

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman invited introductions around the room and opened the meeting.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillor N. Wright.

Declarations of Interest

Councillors Francis, MacKnight and Shattock declared personal interests in the Community Chest application towards the Family Justice Adoption Fund.

Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 30th January, 2011

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 30th January, 2012 (copy circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Community Action in the North – Identifying Issues and Agreeing Actions (2011/2012 Work Plan)

Process for the Review of Local Area Plans and Priorities for 2012

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided a proposed approach and timeline for the Area Committee to review its Local Area Plans and Priorities for 2012.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Julie Lynn, Area Officer North, presented the report advising Members that the initial desk top research commenced in March, Area Needs Assessments were developed and would be used as the basis for the Area Committee's further consideration and approval of priorities commencing late May through to July, and it was:-

2. RESOLVED that:-
 - the proposed approach and timeline outlined in section 4 of the report, be received and noted; and
 - the Committee continue to deliver actions against current workplans until approval on 2012 priorities.

Healthy City Investment Fund

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which advised that the Sunderland Teaching Primary Care Trust's Healthy City Delivery and Improvement Group were proposing to change the way in which the Healthy City Investment Fund is administered.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Julie Lynn, Area Officer North, presented the report advising that all five Area Committee's were being asked to consider allocating and administering the fund as of March, 2012.

In response to a question from Councillor S. Foster regarding why the scheme was aimed at males, he was advised that there had been indications that they were not reaching men at risk of cancer and it had been highlighted as an urgent problem which needed addressing.

Councillor Bell commented that there were pockets of wards which appeared to suffer more cases and asked if it could be linked to the industries that were previously in the area. Councillor MacKnight also referred to issues of toxins in the air from sites around the North Sunderland area and Members were advised that some work had been undertaken around the Castletown area but there had been no evidence to support that any toxins were apparent. Members were advised that should issues around smells from factories and units reoccur then the Environmental Health department needed to be contact to investigate further.

3. RESOLVED that:-

- the taking on of the allocation and administration of £30,745 Healthy City Investment Fund per Area for 2012/13 be agreed;
- the Committee agree that the Area Officer develop and implement the approach for working with the Area VCS network to develop initiatives in support of male cancer mortality, focusing on the two themes as set out in paragraph 3 of the report; and
- each Area Committee's Public Health representative being available to advise on the potential impact of any proposed project to be funded, be noted.

Community Action in the North – Progress Review

Activities for Young People

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Members with an update of progress against agreed action in the current year's workplan with regards to the young people priority.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Julie Lynn (Area Officer North) presented the report advising Members of the activities that had taken place to date including feedback from the holiday provision and future provision, the mobile youth bus and the North Area Skate Park.

Councillor T. Foster referred to the skate and wheeled park and was thrilled to hear that the young people had been consulted and involved in the location and development of the site. Upon questioning, Ms. French advised that money had been identified and was available to develop the current BMX track that was on site at the North Community Sports Complex, extending to include the development of the skate park, similar to that available at Silksworth whilst still of original design.

Members of the Committee referred to issues around engaging with the young people in the Fulwell area and how best to address these. Ms. Lynn advised that Monkwearmouth School had been approached but indications were that

young people would not attend activities on the school site. Mr. Odunaiya suggested that Children's Services be contacted to understand why provision in the area was not working and how changes could be made to address the problem.

Councillor Stewart advised that the Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee had been looking into early intervention and had identified where in some areas of the city activities were successful which in others were not and had requested a further report be submitted to the Committee to identify any trends which could be circulated to Members for their information.

Councillor Bell having thanked Officers for their report and input, it was:-

4. RESOLVED that:-

- the content of the report be received and noted;
- the proposal to move the mobile youth bus from April, 2012, if attendance remains poor, subject to the identification of a new site be agreed;
- the extension of SIB funding awarded for holiday activities to allow the development of an event in the six week holiday period in 2012, be agreed;
- the allocation of £34,392.20 SIB towards the development of a skate park and refurbishment of the BMX trail at Sunderland North Community Sports Complex be agreed, subject to full application, consultation and appraisal; and
- the creation of a young people's steering group to develop the skate park and fitness trail within the North area of Sunderland, be agreed.

Attractive and Cared for Environment

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update on progress against agreed actions in the current years work plan with regards to the attractive and cared for environment priority.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Lynn presented the report advising the Committee of the schemes and projects that had been undertaken in relation to the Committees priority for an attractive and cared for environment.

Councillor Charlton referred to the feasibility study that had been undertaken on the future use of Roker Park Lodge and asked if Members would be receiving the findings of this study and was advised that they would be circulated. He also asked if the toilet facilities could be looked at with a view to replacing them to be in line with the potential improvements that may be planned.

Members spoke of the developments for the Fulwell Quarry Site and commented on the planned planting of trees and shrubs, asking that they be advised of what is intended to be planted before the work is carried out. They also referred to the Acoustic Mirror and commented that it should be signposted as it is not presently, with historical information provided as a matter of interest for visiting public.

Ms. Lynn advised that the planting on site would be carried out through groundwork who were intending on involving schools and local groups and would ensure Members were included as part of the overall process.

The Chairman having thanked the Officer for their report and Members queries having been answered, it was:-

5. RESOLVED that:-

- the progress made against greening programmes in the North Sunderland Area be noted; and
- the allocation of £30,000 SIB funding to extend the Thompson Park improvement plan be agreed, subject to full application, consultation and appraisal.

North Sunderland Area Committee 2011/12 Work Plan

Ms. Lynn, Area Officer, presented the work plan which was set out as an Annex to the progress report. She advised that if Members had any queries they could either raise them at the meeting or get in contact with her outside of the meeting.

Councillor Copeland referred to an increase in litter around Southwick and in particular the route to the Primary School. Mr Old advised that he was not aware of any issues but would ask Officers in the area to be vigilant and report any problems they came across, arranging Enforcement Officers to be placed in areas of any concern.

In response to a query from Councillor MacKnight regarding the Castletown Warden Scheme, Ms. Lynn advised that they were awaiting a full application from SNCBC, and it was:-

6. RESOLVED that the Work Plan for 2011/12 be noted.

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:-

7. 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 SNCSC skate park of £34,392.20 and Thompson Park of £30,000, subject to applications, full appraisal and consultation;
- approval be given to the allocation of SIP funding from the 2011/12 budget of £1,574 as a contribution towards the St Peters Environmental Improvements;
- approval be given to the allocation of SIP funding from the 2011/12 budget of £1,870 as a contribution towards the Fulwell Environmental Improvements; and
- approval be given to the 21 proposals for support from the 2011/12 Community Chest, totalling £11,214, as set out in the Annex to the report.

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

(Signed) R. BELL,
Chairman.