

At a meeting of the WEST SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE, SUNDERLAND on WEDNESDAY, 19TH SEPTEMBER, 2012 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor P. Gibson in the Chair

Councillors Allan, Atkinson, Essl, Gofton, Porthouse, Turton, Tye and S. Watson.

Also Present:-

Karen Alexander	Employment Delivery Manager	Sunderland City Council
Bill Blackett	Area Response Manager	Sunderland City Council
Colin Clark	Head of Planning and Property	Sunderland City Council
Simone Common	West Locality Ops Manager	Sunderland City Council
Kevin Douglas	Media Officer	Sunderland City Council
William Foster	Station Manager	Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service
Gillian Gibson		Sunderland TPCT
Anita Heskett-Saddington		VCS Network
Bob Hoy	Youth Lead West	Sunderland City Council
Bill Leach		VCS Network
Julie Lynn	Area Officer	Sunderland City Council
Vivienne Metcalfe	Area Community Coordinator	Sunderland City Council
David Noon	Principal Governance Services Officer	Sunderland City Council
David Pickett	Neighbourhood Inspector	Northumbria Police
Edna Rochester		VCS Network
Phil Spooner	Head of Community Leadership Programmes	Sunderland City Council

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and those present introduced themselves.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Dixon, Oliver, P. Smith, Waller, P. Watson, A. Wilson and T. Wright.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 26th June, 2012 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Place Board Progress Report

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with an update on progress against the West Sunderland Area Place Board's Work Plan for 2012/13, with particular reference to:-

- i) Responsive Local Services (RSL); and
- ii) Proposals to resolve issues associated with Council owned land to the rear of residential properties at Hadleigh Road.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Gibson having introduced the item, Julie Lynn, Area Officer, presented the report and introduced Bill Blackett, Area Response Manager who briefed the Committee on those issues reported to and considered by the Place Board, including:-

- Vandalism in Barnes Park
- The impact of the weather on addressing the excessive growth of grass and weeds
- Ongoing work to the Newport Grove Site
- Delays to the start of work on the Eden Vale Site and an opportunity to make cost savings
- The operation of the Community Payback Team in the Barnes Park Extension
- Plans to address the overgrown rights of way and cycle tracks
- The short term solution provided by the Community Payback team regarding footpaths at the Sandhill end of Barnes Park (curb ends made safe and loose chippings lain) together with the possible requirement to identify a long term solution
- work being undertaken to identify any impediments to the effective use of time and resources by the RLS Team and whether any resources subsequently freed up could be better utilised elsewhere

With regard to the issues concerning Hadleigh Road, Colin Clark Head of Planning and Property advised the Committee of the following potential options to address issues associated with the Council owned land to the rear of the residential properties with a

view to reducing the ongoing maintenance requirement of land which was no longer required for operational purposes :-

- i) do nothing
- ii) complete a land transfer to the residents at nil consideration
- iii) complete a land transfer to residents at best consideration

Members having indicated that they were minded to progress a transfer at nil consideration, Mr Clark recommended that work continue in respect of the outstanding legal matters and that consideration should also be given to the introduction of an overall policy approach to the transfer at nil consideration of small areas of non operational land in the City, where it could be demonstrated that it would be appropriate to utilise well being powers. The Committee was informed that this would be particularly appropriate given the formation of Place Boards and the need to maintain a consistent approach to such matters across the City. Any such policy would require Cabinet approval.

Consideration having been given to the matter it was :-

3. RESOLVED that:-

- i) the report and the Place Board's timetable of activity for the remainder of the municipal year be noted
- ii) approval be given to the submission of progress update reports as based on the timetable outlined in Annex 1 of the report
- iii) approval be given to option 2 (Land Transfer to Residents at Nil Consideration) as detailed in paragraph 4.3 of the report, to resolve the issues with land to the rear of Hadleigh Road. (see also minute 5iv)

People Board Progress Report

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with an update of progress against the West Sunderland Area People Board's Work Plan for 2012/13, with particular reference to:-

- i) Health and Wellbeing
- ii) Activities for Young People
- iii) Job Prospects for Young People
- iv) Crime and Community Safety.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Porthouse having introduced the item, Julie Lynn, Area Officer, presented the report and invited Gillian Gibson of Sunderland TPCT to provide the Committee with a powerpoint presentation detailing an evaluation undertaken by Leeds Metropolitan University in respect of the Sunderland Health Champions Programme.

Members were also informed by Vivienne Metcalfe, Area Community Coordinator, of a proposal to allocate £31,079 from the Healthy City Investment Fund in respect of the West Men's Health project. Mr. Leach confirmed that Pennywell Community Centre were more than happy to act as lead agent for the project on behalf of the consortium of 11 organisations from within the West Sunderland Area.

With regard to Job Prospects for Young People, and to compliment the report, Karen Alexander, Employment Delivery Development, provided members with a powerpoint presentation on a proposal recommended by the People Board to make financial incentives available to encourage Sunderland based small and medium sized enterprises to take on young people living in the West Sunderland area and give them the opportunity to work towards and complete an apprenticeship.

In addition members' attention was drawn to paragraph 5.5 of the report which asked the Committee to consider either an internal or external option for the management of the programme.

With regard to Community Safety, the Chairman welcomed and introduced Dave Pickett, Neighbourhood Inspector, Northumbria Police and William Foster, Station Manager, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service who presented their statistical reports (as detailed in appendices 2 and 3 respectively) and addressed questions and comments from members.

Councillor Tye placed on record his thanks to Inspector Pickett and the Police Officers of the West and City Centre Teams for their outstanding policing of the recent demonstrations in the City, especially given the difficult operational circumstances.

4. RESOLVED that :-
 - i) the contents of the report be received and noted
 - ii) the People Board's timetable of activity for the year ahead be submitted to a future meeting
 - iii) approval be given to the proposals for the delivery of the men's health project to achieve the priorities for the Healthy Investment Fund.
 - iv) approval be given to the proposal to deliver an apprenticeship scheme within the West Area as detailed in paragraph 5 of the report
 - v) approval be given to the appointment of ITEC and Riverside Training as internal programme managers for the apprenticeship scheme.

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

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) in respect of the above matter.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Julie Lynn, Area Officer, presented the report highlighting the financial statement including an update on the allocation of Community Chest, HCIF, SIP and SIB funding together with details of:-

- i) 17 approvals for support from the 2012/13 Community Chest budget as detailed in Annex 1 of the report.
- ii) an application for £35,000 SIP funding in respect of Street Scene Improvements in Hadleigh Rd
- iii) an application for £31,079 HCIF funding in respect of the West Men's Health Consortium
- iv) a request for support of £81,900 SIB funding in respect of the apprenticeship programme for Young People.

Consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

5. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the Area Committee's funding statement be received and noted,
- (ii) the approval of the 17 Community Chest applications as detailed in Annex 1 of the report be noted
- (iii) approval be given to the allocation of £81,900 SIB funding in respect of the West Area Apprenticeship project subject to the submission of a full application, consultation and appraisal
- (iv) approval be given to the allocation of £35,000 SIP funding in respect of the land transfer proposals at Hadleigh Road as detailed in annex 2 of the report
- (v) approval be given to the allocation of £31,000 (HCIF) funding in respect of the West Men's Health Consortium as detailed in annex 2 of the report

The Chairman then closed the meeting having thanked everyone for their attendance and contribution to the meeting and having advised that an extraordinary People Board had been arranged for Wednesday 17th October, 2012 to consider the commissioning of services and activities for young people.

All members of the Committee would be invited to attend the Board with the view to agreeing a recommendation for consideration at an extraordinary meeting of the West Sunderland Area Committee to be held on Monday 22nd October, 2012.

(Signed) P. GIBSON,
Chairman.