

**At a Meeting of the COALFIELD AREA COMMITTEE held in the Civic Centre, Sunderland on TUESDAY, 26<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2013 at 4.00 p.m.**

**Present:-**

Councillor D. Richardson in the Chair

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

**Also in Attendance:-**

Ron Barrass	Member of the Public	
Les Clark	Head of Street Scene	Sunderland City Council
Pauline Hopper	Area Officer, Coalfield	Sunderland City Council
Malcolm Page	Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services & Area Lead Executive	Sunderland City Council
Christine Tilley	Governance Services Team Leader	Sunderland City Council

**Chairman's Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Anderson, Councillor Julianna Heron, Hetton Town Council, John Chapman, Head of Neighbourhoods, Gentoo and Lee Wardle, Volunteer Coordinator, VCS Network.

**Declarations of Interest**

There were no interests declared.

**Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) Financial Statement and Proposals for Further Allocation of Resources**

The Chief Executive submitted a report requesting the Area Committee's consideration of a proposal for the allocation of Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) to support initiatives that will benefit the area.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Mr Les Clark, Head of Street Scene tabled a copy of an appendix to the report setting out proposals considered at a meeting of the Coalfield Area Place Board in February where Members were asked for their input into the 2013-14 Highway Maintenance Capital programme in allocating up to a value of £60,000 to highways maintenance schemes and also in respect of the allocation of the various categories of highways maintenance funded through the revenue budget.

(For copy Appendix – see original minutes).

Mr Clark briefed the Committee on the process in respect of the allocation of highway maintenance funding explaining that an allocation from the Highway Maintenance Capital Programme had been divided equally between the five areas of the city in order to broaden local influence. He added that a review would be undertaken at the end of the process to assess the impact and whether to increase the proportion of the budget to be determined in future by local input.

Mr Clark referred the Committee to the schemes recommended for approval to the Area Committee from the Place Board shown in the table and to the estimated funding required to carry out the schemes which came to a total of £64,500.

Councillor Tate advised that Nidderdale Avenue was in fact in Peat Carr and not Low Moorsley as detailed in the table. Mr Clark confirmed that this would be corrected.

Ms Pauline Hopper, Area Officer briefed the Committee on the up to date position in respect of the Committee's allocation of SIB advising that a balance of £50,673 remained to be allocated from the 2012/13 budget. She added that should the Committee approve the Place Board recommendation to align £4,500 of the SIB 2012/13 budget against the Highways Maintenance Programme to cover the shortfall of funding needed to undertake all of the schemes detailed on the list, that £46,173 SIB would remain in the budget.

The Chairman confirmed that any under spend from the SIB budget for 2012/2013 would be carried forward to the 2013/2014 budget.

The Vice Chairman enquired whether any under spend in respect of the SIP budget could be converted to SIB.

Mr Malcolm Page, Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services & Area Lead Executive advised that consideration would be given to whether this could be done.

The Committee discussed the highways maintenance schemes recommended for approval and queried the relatively high cost associated with the scheme at Salters Lane (from east Gillas Lane junction to farm).

Mr Clark assured Members that all the schemes had been through an evaluation process and ranked against the criteria set for highways maintenance projects. He would however circulate the details to all Members of the Committee for information.

Full consideration having being given to the reports it was:-

2. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the financial statement set out in paragraph 2.1 of the report of the Chief Executive be received and noted;
- (ii) the proposed schemes for inclusion in the 2013-2014 Highways Capital Programme, detailed in the table of the appendix to the report totalling £64,500 be approved (subject to a delegated decision being taken by the Portfolio holder and the Head of Street Scene); and
- (iii) approval be given to align £4,500 of 2012/13 SIB against the Highways Maintenance Programme 2013/14.

(Signed) D. RICHARDSON,  
Chairman.