

At a meeting of the NORTH SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held at the BUNNY HILL CENTRE, NORTH HYLTON ROAD, SUNDERLAND on THURSDAY, 30TH OCTOBER, 2008 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Bell in the Chair

Councillors Charlton, Copeland, Foster, Howe, Shattock, Stewart, Symonds, J. Walton, L. Walton and D. Wilson

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Francis, G. Hall, Leadbitter and N. Wright.

Minutes of the last Meeting

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 4th September, 2008 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Declarations of Interest

The respective Councillors declared interests in the undermentioned items of business as follows:-

Item 4 – Workforce Modernisation Demonstration Site

Councillor Foster declared a personal interest in the item as a member of the Northumbria Police Authority.

Item 9 – Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB): Regeneration Issues Report

Councillor Copeland declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the application from Southwick Hacks as a Council Member of the Southwick Neighbourhood Youth Project and withdrew from the meeting prior to consideration of the item.

Item 12 – Seaburn Centre: Sunderland AFC Foundation

Councillors Bell and Foster declared a personal interest in the item as season ticket holders of Sunderland AFC.

Presentation from Northumbria Police on Crime Rates Relating to the North Sunderland Area

Chief Inspector Brian Walker and Sergeant John Bailey were in attendance and presented recent statistics illustrating crime detection and arrest management information for the North Sunderland area.

Councillor Symonds questioned why the crime rates appeared to have increased in general. Sergeant Bailey advised that the number of arrests made by officers had increased which could in part be attributed to the new ways of working brought about by the Workforce Modernisation Programme which freed up fully warranted officers to work on the front line. This enabled officers to carry out more stop searches. Sergeant Bailey advised that the derby football matches tend to create an increase in arrests. A high profile drugs operation had recently taken place and arrests made which accounted for 49 crimes.

In response to a question from Councillor Foster regarding anti social behaviour, Sergeant Bailey advised that young people were one third less likely to be involved in anti social behaviour than adults. High profile media cases tended to give the perception that youths were the main perpetrators of such behaviour.

Councillor Howe referred to residents' disproportionate fear of crime and questioned to what extent the Home Office encouraged police to record all reported crimes. Sergeant Bailey assured the committee that the Home Office actively encouraged the police to record crime.

In response to a question from Councillor Shattock, Sergeant Bailey confirmed that within stop and search statistics, an individual's BME background was recorded.

2. RESOLVED that the contents of the presentation be received and noted.

Workforce Modernisation Demonstration Site

Chief Inspector Brian Walker gave a presentation relating to the Workforce Modernisation site.

The Chief Inspector advised that the Workforce Modernisation Programme was a national project ran by the Home Office which generates ideas, methods and tools to help the police service improve performance and deliver

value for money. Effective policing is delivered by an appropriate mix of police officers, police staff and police community support officers (PCSO's). This means fewer officers behind desks, greater visible police presence on the streets and freeing up officers to take jobs that make best use of their skills and training.

Chief Inspector Walker advised that prior to workforce modernisation there had been 93 officers working in Southwick, the new 'demonstration' meant that there were now 105 officers in the area. A significant improvement had been made in the victim appointment system, pre August there had been 100 applications being processed, post August this had increased to 200. There was now a system in place to update victims regarding crime.

Councillor Charlton queried whether the area now had a full compliment of PCSO's and was advised that by 5th November there would be a full compliment of staff. The Committee commended the Police on the excellent work carried out in the area.

3. RESOLVED that the presentation be received and noted.

Consultation on Relocation of Fulwell Fire Station

The Chairman welcomed Iain Bathgate, Chief Fire Officer, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue, and invited him to give his presentation.

Mr. Bathgate provided the Committee with a PowerPoint presentation and explained the rationale behind the new fire station which was to provide an enhanced operational response and community service to the area. The proposal was subject to the outcome of the formal consultation exercise with the public and key stakeholders. Alongside the operational imperatives for moving, Mr. Bathgate also explained the financial implications.

Councillor Howe commented on the regeneration occurring in Southwick and queried whether this potential demographic change had been taken into account.

Mr. Bathgate advised that it was anticipated that the population in Southwick would remain broadly the same.

Councillor D. Wilson queried whether the credit crunch would affect the new build. Mr. Bathgate advised that there were swings and roundabouts in relation to the credit crunch. The key difficulty would be trying to obtain a piece of suitable land.

Councillor Charlton queried what plans the Fire and Rescue Authority had for keeping Members informed of progress. Mr. Bathgate advised that proposals were at the initial consultation stage, once the site had been chosen further consultation with Members would take place.

Councillor Symonds agreed that the data provided by Mr. Bathgate substantiated the need to have a more central location for the new station.

In response to a question from Councillor Howe, Mr. Bathgate advised that attendance standards in Fulwell would still be excellent and response times were some of the best in the country.

4. RESOLVED that the contents of the presentation be received and noted.

Minutes of the Meetings of the Local Multi Agency Problem Solving Group

The Local Multi Agency Problem Solving Group (LMAPS) submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with the report of the minutes of their meetings held on 5th August, 2008 and 9th September, 2008.

5. RESOLVED that the report of the LMAPS Group held on 5th August, 2008 and 9th September, 2008 be received and noted.

Strategic Initiatives Budget Update

The Chief Executive (Acting) submitted a report (copy circulated) providing Members with an update on live projects for which the Area Committee had previously approved funding through its Strategic Initiatives Budget.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

6. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) Regeneration Issues Report

The Chief Executive (Acting) submitted a report (copy circulated) outlining proposals for the allocation of Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) to support the following new initiatives to benefit the area:-

- i) Southwick Hacks Project;
- ii) SVLB Heating System Upgrade Project;
- iii) Southwick Primary School Community Sports Hall Project.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Julie Foster presented the application in respect of Southwick Hacks and Kathleen Gill in respect of Sunderland Volunteer Life Brigade.

With regard to the application for Southwick Primary School, due to the absence of the applicant, the Committee agreed to defer the application.

The representatives having answered Members' questions, it was:-

7. RESOLVED that -

- i) approval be given to the allocation of SIB funding of £9,340 from the 2008/9 budget as a contribution to the 'Southwick Hacks' project;
- ii) the approval be given to the allocation of SIB funding of £8,000 from the 2008/9 budget as a contribution to SVLB's Heating System Upgrade Project;
- iii) the proposal for £13,990 from the 2008/9 budget as a contribution to Southwick Primary School's Community Sports Hall Project be deferred.

Regeneration Issues Report: Feedback on Projects Previously Funded Through Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB)

The Chief Executive (Acting) submitted a report (copy circulated) providing information to the Area Committee on expenditure from SIB towards the following:-

- Roker Park Bowling Club, who were awarded £4,642 in January 2007;
- Witherwack Primary School who were awarded £25,650 in January 2008.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

8. RESOLVED that the feedback reports be received and noted.

Strategic Initiatives Budget: 2008/09 Ward Based Community Chest

The Chief Executive (Acting) submitted a report (copy circulated) to bring forward 31 proposals recommended for support from the 2008/09 Community Chest Scheme.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

9. RESOLVED that approval be given to the 31 proposals recommended for support from the 2008/09 Community Chest with a total value of £9,002 as detailed in Annexes 1 and 1A of the report.

Carnegie Libraries Celebrations

The Director of Community and Cultural Services submitted a report (copy circulated) to update Members of the North Area Committee on the proposed Carnegie Libraries Celebrations.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Having considered the report, it was:-

10. RESOLVED that the contents of the report be received and noted.

Seaburn Centre: Sunderland AFC

The Director of Community and Cultural Services submitted a report (copy circulated) to advise the Area Committee of a partnership between Sunderland AFC Foundation and the Seaburn Centre.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Amanda Cantle, Centre Manager, Bunny Hill, presented the report.

In response to a question from Councillor Copeland, Ms. Cantle advised that the Kickz project did liaise with youth clubs in the area and she informed the Committee that the Youth Offending Team were also heavily involved with the Project.

11. RESOLVED that the contents of the report be received and noted.

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

(Signed) R. BELL,
Chairman.