

At a Meeting of the WEST SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE, SUNDERLAND on WEDNESDAY, 30TH MARCH, 2011 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor P. Gibson in the Chair

Councillors Allan, M. Dixon, Essl, Gofton, Morrissey, Oliver, P. Smith, Tye, A. Wilson and T. Wright.

Also Present:-

Ruth Barker	Extended Services Manager	Sunderland City Council
Bill Blackett	Area Response Manager	Sunderland City Council
Les Clark	Head of Street Scene	Sunderland City Council
Kevin Douglas	Internal Communications Officer	Sunderland City Council
Alan Duffy	Head of Operations	Gentoo
Victoria French	Wellness Manager	Sunderland City Council
Peter Iveson	Station Manager	Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service
Sandra Mitchell	Head of PIP, Children's Services	Sunderland City Council
Keith Moore	Area Lead Executive	Sunderland City Council
James Newell	Interim Head of Traffic	Sunderland City Council
David Noon	Principal Governance Services Officer	Sunderland City Council
Mark Overton	Consultant in Public Health	Sunderland TPCT
Richard Parry	Area Officer	Sunderland City Council
Jenny Scott	Policy Officer (Inclusion)	Sunderland City Council

Andy Neal

The Chairman referred to the sudden death of Andy Neal, the Council's Youth Development Group Manager, and paid tribute to the work provided by Andy on behalf of the Area Committee and for the Authority as a whole.

The Committee stood for a minute's silence as a mark of respect.

Chairman's Welcome

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

Declarations of Interest

Item 2 – Community Chest, Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) and Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) – Financial Statement and Proposals for further Allocation of Resources.

With regard to the Community Chest allocation, Councillor Allan declared a personal interest in the report as a member of Grindon Broadway Social Club. Councillor P. Smith declared a personal and prejudicial interest as a Governor of St. Leonards Primary School. Councillor Essl declared a personal and prejudicial interest as a member of Grindon Broadway Social Club and Councillor Tye declared a personal and prejudicial interest as Chair of the Youth Almighty Project.

With regard to the SIB allocation, Councillor P. Smith declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the application concerning the Silksworth Park Ground Improvement Project as she had family involved with the football team and left the meeting room during consideration of the item.

With regard to the Community Leaders of the Future Project, Councillors T. Wright and Gofton declared personal and prejudicial interests and left the Committee Room during consideration of the item.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors D. Forbes, L. Martin, Old, P. Watson, S. Watson, A. Wright and also on behalf of Bill Leach (VCS Network), Edna Rochester (VCS Network), Nonnie Crawford (STPCT), Julie Raine (City of Sunderland College), Angela Cousins (Sunderland City Council), and Lucy Malarky (Gentoo).

Minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 5th January, 2011

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 5th January, 2011 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Community Action in Sunderland West: Identifying New Issues and Agreeing Actions (2010/11 Work Plan)

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which apprised Members of the following new issues that had been identified for inclusion in the Committee's 2010/11 Work Plan:-

- (i) the Empty Properties Team;
- (ii) East meets West.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Consideration was given to the report. With regard to the Empty Property Team concern was raised that the dedicated patch for Michael Horsburgh being both Sunderland West and Washington was too great.

With regard to the East meets West Project, Councillor Gofton stated that she was uncomfortable with its title. In addition, she stated that the Committee would need to be provided with costings and on a wider issue it would need to understand the principles underlying the project before it could agree any specifics. The Chairman stated that the Task and Finish Group would report back to both the East and West Area Committees before any decisions were taken.

2. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the action taken by Sunderland City Council to bring empty properties back into use be noted and that further progress reports be submitted in due course;
- (ii) an 'East meets West' project group be established, the representatives from the West Sunderland Area Committee to comprise Councillors P. Gibson, Essl, Tye and Morrissey.

Community Action in Sunderland West – Progress Review – 2011/12 Priorities and Work Plan

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which updated Members on the progress of developing the 2011/12 Work Plan and the priorities that had been identified for the West Sunderland area through this process.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Richard Parry, Area Officer, presented the report highlighting that:-

- Local residents and the Community and Voluntary Sector would be given the opportunity to express their views on the identified priorities for the area.
- The views received from this exercise, along with other qualitative research available within the Council, would be used within the Task and Finish Group to add value and support the development of priorities and the 2011/12 Work Plan.
- A final design of the 2011/12 Work Plan would be provided to Members for input prior to its final presentation to the Committee's May meeting for approval.

3. RESOLVED that:-

- i) the updated process on the development of the 2011/12 Work Plan and progress made be noted;
- ii) the final design of the plan be circulated to Members for their input and comment; and

- iii) the final draft plan be submitted to the Area committee's meeting on 25th May, 2011 for approval.

Community Action in Sunderland West – Progress Review – Environmental and Street Scene Improvements

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which updated Members on workshops held to progress the Sunderland West Green Space Strategy.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor T. Wright having requested a copy of the updated Ward maps presented at the second workshop held on 26th January, it was:-

4. RESOLVED that the progress towards the development of a Green Space Strategy for the West Sunderland Area be noted.

Community Action in Sunderland West – Progress Review – Health and Well Being – Focussing on Areas of Concern and Risk Taking Lifestyle Behaviour

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

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Mark Overton, Consultant in Public Health, presented the report highlighting the progress made to date via the Task and Finish Group and through the 'Health Champions' and 'Achieving Marmot' projects. With regard to next steps, Members were advised that the Task and Finish Group would be considering how to progress the growing momentum and further involve other neighbourhood based partners such as the Police and Gentoos.

5. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Community Action in Sunderland West – Progress Review – Traffic and Parking

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

(For copy report – see original minutes).

James Newell, Interim Head of Traffic, presented the report informing Members that an initial draft report proposing assessment criteria for dropped kerbs was being completed by the Network Management Team of City Services, and would be considered by Cabinet.

There was a high demand for dropped crossings across the City and the developing policy proposed a weighted scoring mechanism to prioritise their provision. The five 'top line' criteria were:-

- Potential type of users of facilities;

- For example, high volumes of users with disabilities.
- Relationship to Network;
 - For example, main or secondary pedestrian route.
- Access to Local Amenities;
 - For example, routes to health centres, shops and other amenities.
- Safety of the Highway User;
 - For example, hazardous nature of alternative routes should kerbs not be installed.
- Local Physical Features.
 - For example, one side of road with dropped kerbs.

The Chairman having thanked Mr. Newell for his report, it was:-

6. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Child and Family Poverty Strategy 2011-13

The Executive Director of Children's Services submitted a report (copy circulated) in respect of the above matter.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ruth Barker, Extended Services Manager, presented the report highlighting the development of a Neighbourhood Model to assist the Council and its partners in carrying out its duty under the 2010 Child Poverty Act to reduce child poverty in its area.

7. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Responsive Local Services (Verbal Update from the West Area Response Manager)

The Chairman welcomed and introduced Bill Blackett, the recently appointed Response Manager, for the West Sunderland Area who provided the Committee with a verbal update on his role and that of his team within the West Sunderland Area, together with details of recent service requests and enforcement action taken. Copies of the Responsive Local Services staffing structure were circulated for members' information.

Members welcomed the new approach being taken with regard to Responsive Local Services and raised the following points:-

- the importance of the attendance of the Response Manager at LMAPs meetings;
- the increased instances of TV 'shells' being dumped in back lanes;
- water logging issues at the Sunderland Tennis Centre;

- the need to provide email addresses and telephone numbers for everyone in the Response Local Services Team;
- the need to provide ward based fire figures in future.

The Chairman having thanked Mr. Blackett for his presentation it was:-

8. RESOLVED that the verbal update be received and 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) in respect of the above matter.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Dave Leonard, Area Co-ordinator, presented the item informing Members of the following recommendations as detailed in the report:-

- (i) to note the financial statement for Area Committee funding for 2010/2011;
- (ii) to approve the granting of SIB funding of £50,000 in respect of the Jubilee Centre's Learning and Employment Support Services Project;
- (iii) to approve the granting of £25,634 SIB funding in respect of the Lambton Street Youth Centre's Minibus Project;
- (iv) to approve the granting of SIB funding of £15,529 for West End FC's Ford Quarry Ground Improvement Project;
- (v) to approve the granting of SIB funding of £20,600 in respect of the Belford House FC's Silksworth Park Ground Improvement Project;
- (vi) to approve the granting of SIB funding of £10,000 in respect of the Tunstall North Allotment Association's Environmental Improvement Project;
- (vii) to approve 28 proposals for support from the 2010/2011 Community Chest; and
- (viii) to note the position statement in respect of the Education Business Connections, Community Leaders of the Future Project.

Consideration was given to the report and to the funding requests.

Councillor M. Dixon placed on record his thanks to Cath Morrow for her dedicated and professional administration of the Council's Community Chest.

The Chairman referred to reference earlier in the meeting and moved that the SIB funding request for £50,000 in respect of the Jubilee Centre's Learning and Employment Support Services Project should stand deferred.

Accordingly it was:-

9. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the Area Committee's funding statement for 2010-11 be received and noted;
- (ii) approval be given to the granting of SIB funding of £25,634 to Lambton Street Youth Centre in respect of the 'Mini Bus' Project;
- (iii) consideration of the application from the Jubilee Centre for SIB funding of £50,000 be deferred to allow for the establishment of a Task and Finish Group;
- (iv) approval be given to the granting of SIB funding of £15,529 to West End FC in respect of the Ground Improvement Project;
- (v) approval be given to the granting of SIB funding of £26,600 in respect of Belford House FC's Silksworth Park Ground Improvement Project;
- (vi) approval be given to the granting of SIB funding of £10,000 to Tunstall North Allotment Association in respect of the Environmental Improvement Project;
- (vii) approval be given to the granting of the 28 Community Chest applications as detailed in Annex 1b of the report; and
- (viii) the position statement in respect of the Education Business Connections Community Leaders of the Future Project be received and noted.

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

(Signed) P. GIBSON,
Chairman.