

At a meeting of the NORTH SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in the COUNCIL CHAMBER of the CITY HALL, PLATER WAY, ROAD, SUNDERLAND on 14 DECEMBER, 2023 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Wilson in the Chair

Councillors Bond, Chequer, Chisnall, Foster, Hartnack, Johnston, A. Smith, Stewart, Vera and Walton

Also in Attendance:-

Lee Bell	-	Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Services (TWFRS)
Michelle Coates	-	Safer Communities Officer, Sunderland City Council
Peter Curtis	-	NE Sports, Area Network Representative
Richy Duggan	-	SCAG, Area Network Representative
Vivienne Metcalfe	-	Partnership and Community Resilience Manager, Sunderland City Council
Emma Peat	-	Gentoo
Kayley Richardson	-	Southwick Neighbourhood Youth Project (SNYP)
Joanne Stewart	-	Principal Democratic Services Officer, Sunderland City Council
Ruth Walker	-	SNYP, Area Network Representative

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Butler, McKeith, Samuels and Usher and on behalf of Inspector Stephen Prested and Neil Guthrie

Declarations of Interest

Item 4 – North Sunderland Area Budget Report

Councillor Wilson made a DPI in the application for Neighbourhood Fund from Castletown Scouts for the mural project and left the meeting during consideration of the application. Councillor Foster took the chair for consideration of the application.

Councillors Foster and Stewart made open declarations in the application for Neighbourhood Fund from Redhouse Community Centre as members of the centre.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

Councillor Walton referred to the discussions that were held around motorcycle disorder and raised that he had requested that a multi-agency approach be taken towards the problem; asking that it be raised at future LMAPs meetings. Ms. Metcalfe advised that there had been a similar piece of work being undertaken as part of the HALO project which would be rolled out in the North Sunderland area.

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 28 September, 2023 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

North Area Committee Area Plan 2023-2026

The Chairman of the North Sunderland Area Neighbourhood and Community Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update on progress against the North Sunderland Area Committee Area Plan priorities which would be the focus for the Committee during 2023-2024.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Foster presented the report which highlighted progress against the Committee's delivery plan, advising of areas of key action and progress. He also advised Members that the report attached the Committee's delivery plan which highlighted progress and shared good news stories and promotion of projects which were shared at every opportunity. The report also gave an update on the Council's Service Plans, specifically relevant to the North Sunderland area, which included a quarterly update on progress and was for information purposes only.

The information in the report having been fully considered, it was:-

2. RESOLVED that:-

- The progress and performance updates with regard to the North Area Committee Plan 2023-2026 be received and noted; and
- The progress update with regard to Sunderland City Council Service Plans – Area Priorities be received and noted for information.

Partner Agency Reports - Northumbria Police Update

Northumbria Police submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with a community update and key performance information in relation to the North Sunderland Area.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

There being no representative in attendance, Ms. Metcalfe advised that any queries could be forwarded to herself via email and she would pass them on to Northumbria Police for a direct response, and it was:-

Members having fully considered the report, it was:-

3. RESOLVED that the update report from Northumbria Police be received and noted.

Partner Agency Reports – Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service

The Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Services submitted a report (copy circulated) which gave performance monitoring details in relation to local indicators for the Committee from 13 September to 30 November, 2023.

(for copy report – see original minute)

Mr. Lee Bell, Station Manager, TWFRS, took Members through the report advising of the numbers of deliberate primary and secondary fires, giving a ward breakdown and providing an incident heatmap by ward.

In relation to discussions around bonfire night, Mr. Bell advised that it had been better this year, with less intent and deliberate acts on colleagues. It had still been a challenging time but the severity had been a lot less and crews had felt a lot safer when attending incidents.

There being no further comment or questions for Mr. Bell, it was:-

4. RESOLVED that the item be received and noted.

Partner Agency Reports - Report of the North Area Voluntary and Community Sector Network

The Voluntary and Community Sector Network submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update with regard to the North Sunderland Area Voluntary and Community Sector network.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Ruth Walker, Area Network Representative, took Members through the report advising that the network had met three times in June, September and October, 2023 and shared the agenda items that had been covered. She also provided an update in relation to the Sunderland Voluntary Sector Alliance (SVSA) from November 2023.

Ms. Metcalfe advised that since the agenda had been printed the network meeting had a presentation on digital dashboards and advised that they intended to bring a similar item to a future meeting of the Neighbourhood and Community Board for Members' information.

Councillor Chequer raised concerns that the household support funding was coming to an end and the impact that would have on residents; adding that she was keen to look at everything they could do locally to help those that it would affect the most and asked that it be included in future conversations. The Chairman asked that it be included as a future item for consideration.

Members having no further comments or questions, it was:-

5. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Partner Agency Reports - Gentoo Update

Gentoo submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update with regard to the work undertaken by Gentoo between September to December, 2023.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Emma Peat, Neighbourhood Manager, took Members through the report advising of the current situation in relation to allocations of properties, upcoming estate walks, work undertaken by staff on bonfire night and the Gentoo Christmas campaign.

Councillor Chequer commented that there had been a lot of concerns regarding damp and mould in properties adding that she was disappointed that information on the issue had not been included within the report. Ms. Peat advised that there was now a specialist team dealing with those issues who looked to prioritise customers as and when they reported any problems.

In response to a query from Councillor Johnston, Ms. Peat advised that she would look to get feedback on the longer term plans for areas where properties had been demolished.

In relation to average waiting times for the allocation of properties as raised by Councillor Bond, Ms. Peat advised that she would feed this back and look to see if it could be included in future reports.

Having no further comments or questions, it was:-

6. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

North Sunderland Area Committee Budget Report

The Assistant Director of Housing and Communities submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided a financial statement as an update position on progress in relation to allocating Area Committee Neighbourhood Funds and Community Chest and presented proposals for further funding requests.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Metcalfe, Area Community Development Lead, presented the report drawing attention to the recommendations detailed therein.

In relation to the application for funding for the Motorcycle Disorder Taskforce Project, Members had discussions around the performance measures that would be reported back to the Area Committee. Ms. Coates advised that it would not be a problem to provide data and that she would be more than happy to return to the Committee in

three months time to review the work that had been undertaken and consult with Members about what could be done further.

With regards to social media, Ms. Coates explained that they had recently undergone some training and met with the data protection team so that they were aware of what could be shared and they could then actively manage social media accounts, promoting the work and enforcement action that had been carried out.

Councillor Hartnack commented that Councillors should be provided with the contact details for the Anti Social Behaviour Officers so that they could report problems directly with them and Ms. Coates advised that this was not an issue but they should not be shared with members of the public. She also advised that at present there were no dedicated forms on the Council website for the public to report incidents of anti-social behaviour so this was something they were devising.

There being no further questions or comments, it was:-

7. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the financial statements as set out in tables 1 and 2 be received and noted;
- (ii) the application for £20,000 of Neighbourhood Fund from Sunderland City Council for the Motorcycle Disorder Taskforce Project be approved;
- (iii) the application for £10,000 of Neighbourhood Fund from Redhouse Community Centre for the Refurbishment Project be approved;
- (iv) the application for £21,774 of Neighbourhood Fund from Castletown Scouts for the Castletown Mural Project be approved; and
- (v) the approvals for Community Chest supported from the 2023/2024 budget as set out in the report be noted.

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

(Signed) D. WILSON,
Chairman.

