

At a meeting of the WASHINGTON AREA COMMITTEE held at THE GRANARY, ARTS CENTRE WASHINGTON on THURSDAY 3RD MARCH, 2016 at 6.00 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Williams in the Chair

Councillors Farthing, Fletcher, Kelly, Lauchlan, Middleton, F. Miller, G. Miller, Scaplehorn, Taylor, D. Trueman, H. Trueman and Walker.

Karon Purvis	-	Chief Executives
Louise Butler	-	Chief Executives
Neil Revely	-	Executive Director, People Directorate
Paul Wood	-	Commercial and Corporate Services
David Hardy	-	Community Services
Jacqui Reeves	-	VCS Representative
John Rostron	-	VCS Representative
Colin McCartney	-	Gentoo
Joanne Coulson	-	Gentoo
Acting Inspector Les Goodliff-		Northumbria Police
Steve Graham	-	TWFRA
Colin Wade	-	SNCBC
Ev Ripley-Day	-	Foundation of Light

Members of the Washington Community.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors David and Dianne Snowdon. Bryan Beverley.

Declarations of Interest

Item 6 – Financial Statement and Proposals for further allocation of Resources

Councillor Fletcher made an open declaration in relation to Annex 3 – Washington Events Programme as her husband was an employee of SNCBC but retained an open mind on the application as he was employed in a different department to the one involved in this project.

Councillor Kelly declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in Annex 2 – Support for the VCS as the Chair of Washington Trust and took no part in the decision.

Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 10th December, 2015

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 10th December, 2015 (copy circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Washington Area Committee Annual Report 2015-2016

The Chair of the Washington Area Committee submitted the Committee's Annual Report (copy circulated) for approval as part of the combined Area Committee Annual Report 2015-16 to be presented to Full Council.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

2. RESOLVED that Members considered and approved the Washington Annual Report for inclusion in the combined Area Committee Annual Report for 2015-16.

Partner Agency Reports

(a) Report of the Washington Area Community Voluntary Sector Network

The Washington Area Community Voluntary Sector Network submitted a report (copy circulated) to inform the Committee of activity, progress, issues and concerns of the sector.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Jacqui Reeves, VCS Representative, presented the report and advised that the Network was continuing on its work in developing and supporting the VCS.

3. RESOLVED that Members noted the contents of the report.

(b) Northumbria Police

The Chairman introduced Acting Inspector Les Goodliff to provide the Committee with a verbal update on the Washington based crime statistics.

Acting Inspector Goodliff informed the Committee that there had been a rise in overall crime by 27% on the figures of 2014/15. Force wide there had been an increase by 29%. South Tyneside had seen an increase by 30%. The Washington Area was the fourth best performing out of all commands.

There had been 74 sexual offences in total and a rise in violent crime of 34%. Increases in Burglary Dwellings, Burglary other than dwellings and Youth related ASB had been seen also, but there had been a reduction in non-youth related ASB, which was down 11%.

Acting Inspector Goodliff advised that as Members would be aware, the introduction of the new crime reporting system has reflected in the increase of statistics.

There was concern over a spate of burglaries in the Washington South Ward, predominantly daytime offences and these areas were being targeted with extra patrols and a dedicated burglary team were to investigate.

The recent incidents of sexual assaults (4 in the last 3 months) were currently under investigation and operation bolt was underway with reassurance patrols being carried out.

Acting Inspector Goodliff advised that he was aware of the recent increase in Antisocial Behaviour with hotspots in Lambton Village and Concord Centres. Operation Eos had gone live to inform licensed premises of their responsibilities in who they sell alcohol to, etc and Operation Griffin was a force wide operation which was working well in tackling ASB with tools such as sending letters to parents, reminding them of responsibilities and included a staged process for repeat offending.

Officers were also looking at the positioning of a camera in Lambton Village Centre.

Councillor Kelly referred to the ASB occurring in Concord and enquired if the possibility of dispersal orders were going to be implemented as this had been an issue on-going for the last eight years.

Acting Inspector Goodliff advised that Officers were aware of the problems in the area such as night time economy disorder and as he was covering for Inspector Pescod he had been able to give the issue “a fresh pair of eyes” and this had resulted in a new operation being commenced with a dedicated team covering the area.

Councillor Kelly commented that he felt it was time to start looking at more permanent measures. Acting Inspector Goodliff advised of similar problems occurring in Hetton centre and they were looking at where they could implement alternative measures.

In response to Councillor Farthings enquiry, Acting Inspector Goodliff advised that they were aware of the burglaries committed in the Rickleton, Harraton and Fatfield areas and that they were investigating leads and had to be open minded about all possibilities including the chance that this was a gang carrying out the offences. Officers were also working with Durham intelligence on the matter.

Neil Revely, Executive Director of People Services, suggested that the use of the British Crime Survey may be an easier way to provide benchmarking in terms of Crime figures.

Acting Inspector Goodliff advised that their reports needed to marry up to the statistics and a tactical assessment which was carried out by an analyst who would look at all offending patterns. If they relied solely on the British Crime Survey it would ignore where the problems were taking place.

Mr Revely commented that if the survey was broken down into Washington specific statistics, this would help the Area Committee in terms of benchmarks but he did appreciate the problems this might cause to the police.

Councillor Kelly commented that it would be useful for an officer to attend a future Place/People Board meeting to explain the powers involved in banning orders/dispersal orders.

Louise Butler, Area Co-ordinator advised that she would take the issue up with LMAPs and look to invite an Officer to a future People Board meeting.

Councillor Scaplehorn enquired if the Police and Councillor meetings could be reinstated. Mrs Purvis advised that attempts had been made but due to changes of staff this had not been possible but they would be looking at diaries to arrange in the future.

Councillor G. Miller commented that there was a need for the PACT meetings but we needed to look at how they operated.

4. RESOLVED that the verbal report be received and noted.

TWFRA

Steve Graham, Station Manager presented a verbal report on the Washington based statistics for the period of 1st Dec – 2015 – 29th Feb, 2016.

Mr Graham advised that there had been no deaths by fire in the Sunderland area as a whole during this period and it had been relatively quiet in general. The fire authority had taken this opportunity to carry out free safety checks and the fitting of smoke alarms in homes.

There had been 2 incidents of injuries by fire, such as residents receiving burns through leaving pans on hobs etc. 4 accidents from kitchen fires, some of these were drink and drug related accidents. 5 accidents that were non kitchen related. There had been 3 deliberate car fires but they did not appear to be related.

In relation to ASB fires, there had been a number of wheelie bin/rubbish fires and they were in the process of putting together a campaign and meeting with Police and partners to try and target certain areas with the Washington West ward seeming to be the main area of concern.

Councillor Kelly commented that it cost £250 to dispatch an ambulance and enquired the cost for dispatching fire engines. Mr Graham advised that it would be between £1000 - £3000 to dispatch a vehicle and for the cost of officer time and repairs to damage etc.

Councillor Scaplehorn enquired if small fires reported via 999 would be logged as a crime. Mr Graham advised that they wouldn't be obliged to notify the Police. Ms

Butler advised that the Police would find out such information at the LMAPs meetings.

Councillor Farthing suggested that it may be worth the Fire Authority attending the arranged meeting with the voluntary litter pickers to get them involved in their campaigns.

5. RESOLVED that the verbal report be received and noted.

People Board – Progress Report

The Chair of the People Board submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide the Committee with an update of the progress against the current year's (2015/2016) People Board Work Plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Farthing presented the report and then opened it up for discussion.

Councillor Williams gave an update on the Washington Strategic Partners Health Group event and Mrs Purvis advised that she would be following up on the findings of what came out of the meeting. Councillor Farthing wished to thank Washington Mind for hosting the event.

In relation to the Can Do funding, Councillor Farthing advised that she had been surprised by the strength of the applications received and how well the young people had presented their proposals and how impressive they were.

6. RESOLVED that the Committee
 - (i) Considered the progress with regard to the Washington People Board's Work Plan for 2015/16 as detailed in Annex 1 of the report

Place Board – Progress Report

The Chair of the Place Board submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide the Committee with an update of progress against the current years (2015/16) Place Board Work Plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Fiona Miller, Chair of the Place Board presented the report advising that in relation to Washington's heritage and culture offer, the project was to be discussed at April's meeting of the Place Board and requested Members consideration on ideas going forward.

7. RESOLVED that the Committee

- i) Considered the progress and performance update with regard to the Washington Place Board's Work Plan for 2015/16 as detailed in Annex 1 of the report.
- ii) Considered and agreed the recommendations of the Place Board regarding the Highways Capital Maintenance programmes for Washington for 2016/2017 attached to the report as Annex 2.

Financial Statement and Proposals for further allocation of Resources

The Head of Scrutiny and Area Arrangements submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide a financial statement as an update position on progress in relation to allocating SIB and Community Chest and present proposals for further funding requests.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

In relation to the Events Programme Call for Projects, Councillor Kelly raised his concern and requested an opportunity to discuss the use of commercial applicants and the processes involved in awarding funding.

Mrs Purvis advised that as it was a grant being awarded, commercial companies could not apply as per the regulations but there was nothing to stop commercial companies being involved in the proposals so long as they had a VCS partner taking the lead on the project.

Councillor Scaplehorn agreed with Councillor Kelly on the need to look at the procurement process.

8. RESOLVED that the Committee:-

- i) Noted the financial statements set out in the report.
- ii) Considered and approved the contribution of £20,000 SIB 2015/16 for the Home from Hospital Project (matched to £20,000 CCG funding) as detailed in paragraph 3.1 and Annex 1 of the report.
- iii) Considered and approved the contribution of £35,000 SIB 2015/16 for the Support for the VCS Project as detailed in paragraph 3.2 and Annex 2 of the report.
- iv) Considered and approved the contribution of £50,000 SIB 2015/16 for the Washington Events Programme 2016 as detailed in paragraph 4.1 and Annex 3 of the report.
- v) Noted the 14 Approvals of Community Chest detailed within the report.

Planning Applications – For Information Only

Current Planning Applications relating to the Washington Area for the period 1st January, 2016 to 16th February, 2016 were submitted for Members information only (copy circulated).

(For copy report – see original minutes)

9. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

The Chairman wished to place on record the Committees thanks to Neil Revely for his efforts and wished him all the best in his retirement.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting

(Signed) L. WILLIAMS,
Chairman.