

**At a meeting of the EAST SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE, SUNDERLAND on MONDAY, 24<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2010 at 5.30 p.m.**

**Present:-**

Councillor Ball in the Chair

Councillors P. Dixon, Emerson, Errington, M. Forbes, E. Gibson, Maddison, McClennan, Mordey, O'Connor, Vardy and Wood

**Also Present:-**

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Kath Butchert     | - Manager, Youth Development Group, Sunderland City Council               |
| Bob Donaldson     | - Transportation Manager, Sunderland City Council                         |
| Mike Foster       | - Virtual Head teacher, Sunderland City Council                           |
| Gillian Gibson    | - Public Health Specialist, Sunderland Teaching Primary Care Trust        |
| Matthew Jackson   | - Democratic Services Officer, Sunderland City Council                    |
| Janet Johnson     | - Deputy Chief Executive and Area Lead Executive, Sunderland City Council |
| Dave Leonard      | - Area Co-ordinator, Sunderland City Council                              |
| Trina Murphy      | - Business Development Manager, Sunderland City Council                   |
| Richard Parry     | - Area Officer, Sunderland City Council                                   |
| Allison Patterson | - Area Co-ordination Manager, Sunderland City Council                     |
| Jane Peverley     | - Communications Manager, Sunderland City Council                         |
| Mike Poulter      | - Head of Project and Service Development, Sunderland City Council        |
| Joan Reed         | - Strategic Change Manager, Sunderland City Council                       |
| Janet Snaith      | - Head of Business and Investment, Sunderland City Council                |
| Nicol Trueman     | - Area Officer, Sunderland City Council                                   |
| Cheryl Warcup     | - Neighbourhood Inspector, Northumbria Police                             |
| Jeremy Wicking    | - Media Officer, Sunderland City Council                                  |

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Kay and T. Martin and also on behalf of Ray Leonard, Hazel Clark and David Curtis.

## **Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on**

Cllr Mordey reminded the Committee that a briefing note relating to the future of the Orphanage was outstanding. Ms. Johnson apologised for the delay and promised that the note would be prepared and circulated as a matter of importance.

Councillor Wood stated that with regards to the questions to area committee he had said that he felt the process was too bureaucratic rather than too democratic as was recorded in the minutes.

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> April, 2010 be confirmed and signed as a correct record subject to the inclusion of the above amendment.

## **Declarations of Interest**

Item 4 – East Sunderland: Establishing a New Work Plan 2010-11

Councillor E. Gibson declared a personal interest as a family member was employed by the Sunderland Teaching Primary Care Trust.

Councillor Errington Declared a personal interest as a family worker was employed by the Sunderland Teaching Primary Care Trust.

## **East Sunderland: Establishing a New Work Plan 2010-11**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which informed Members of the proposals for the Local Area Plan priorities and sought the Committee's agreement of up to six priorities to form the 2010/11 Work Plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Janet Johnson, Deputy Chief Executive and Area Lead Executive, introduced the report and advised that during the previous municipal year it had been agreed that this year would start with a workshop style meeting in order to identify the key priorities for the area. There had been a number of successes last year which had been summarised in the Annual Report which the Committee had considered at its last meeting. Throughout the year there had been the introduction of an Area Committee Handbook and an Area Committee web page. The Strategic Initiatives Budget had also been refreshed. These changes would help to strengthen the links with Scrutiny and the LSP.

It had been recognised that the Committee would be able to work better if it was concentrating on a smaller number of priorities which were of real importance to the area.

Ms Johnson introduced Vince Taylor, Head of Strategic Economic Development, who was facilitating the workshop session.

Mr Taylor advised that it had already been agreed that Responsive Local Services would be one of the priorities examined by the Committee. There was a further 12 priorities identified and the Committee was recommended to choose up to 5 of these priorities to examine throughout the year. He explained how the workshop session would operate.

Councillor M. Forbes expressed concerns that the priorities identified last year were not included. There were issues with the orphanage and Holy Trinity Church in the East End, problems at Hendon Beach and at Backhouse Park. These had been discussed during the last year however were not listed as priorities for this year. The SIP funding should not be allocated for this year until it had been agreed what needed to be spent on the priorities from last year.

Nicol Trueman, Area Officer, advised that the priorities from last year would be continued into this year. The committee would still be able to receive funding bids and make decisions based on the priorities from last year.

Mr Taylor suggested that the Committee could agree to set aside funds for projects which were coming through as a result of the priorities from last year.

The Chairman advised that the financial matters would be discussed following the agreement of the priorities for the coming year.

The Committee then split into two groups to discuss the proposals for the priorities in preparation for voting on which priorities to include in the work plan.

Following the discussions Mr Taylor asked the Members to vote by placing stickers onto a board to identify the priorities they felt most strongly about. Each Member had been given 10 stickers to vote using. The votes were then tallied up and the results were as follows:

(1)	Employment	30 votes
(2)	Gaps in Youth and Play provision	23 votes
(3)	Reduce Anti Social Behaviour by tackling hotspots, including deliberate secondary fires	22 votes
(4)	Transport	13 votes
(5)	Increase Confidence and Trust levels	10 votes
(6)	Reduce the number of residents self reporting Obesity	9 votes
(7)	Support for families and Carers of children and young people through family learning	8 votes
(8)	Child Poverty in East Sunderland	3 votes
(9)	Increase awareness and opportunities for joint working under the Inclusiveness and Community Cohesion Agenda	2 votes

Councillor Wood commented that the increasing confidence and trust levels priority could be included in the reducing antisocial behaviour priority.

The Police advised that these priorities could be linked as when anti social behaviour was reduced confidence levels increased.

The Members agreed that increasing Confidence and Trust levels should be included with reducing Anti Social Behaviour, taking the votes to a total of 33.

Councillor M. Forbes stated that the top three priorities were wide topics and had received a lot more votes than the other priorities. She moved that the committee concentrate on these three priorities and keep Transport as a reserve priority.

The Members agreed with this motion to include the top three priorities in the work plan with Transportation as a reserve priority.

Mr Taylor then asked the Members to give consideration to which of the options they would prefer to follow for each of the agreed priorities.

With regards to increasing employment and enterprise opportunities across the area Councillor Mordey advised that the Prosperity and Economic Development Scrutiny Committee had operated a task and finish working group. He felt that it would be appropriate for the Area Committee to receive the report of the task and finish group along with the area specific information from this task and finish group as proposed in option C within the report.

The Committee agreed with this and agreed to follow option C for the Employment priority.

Mr Taylor then asked Members to consider the options for the youth and play provision priority.

Ms Trueman advised that there was already a lot of work being undertaken for this priority and suggested that Members could be minded to choose option B and receive information throughout the year. There would be an update available in September.

The Committee agreed that option B would be most appropriate and agreed to receive the information updates on the scoping documents from Children's Services and City Services, and monitor the Area Action Plans and e-bulletins.

The Members then gave consideration to the options for the Anti-Social Behaviour and increasing Confidence and Trust priorities.

Councillor Wood commented that it was important for information to be provided to the Committee however he did not feel it was necessary for the police to attend every Area Committee meeting. The informal meetings held

by the police could be used with the information then fed back to the Committee.

The Northumbria Police Neighbourhood Inspectors advised that the work could be looked at as part of the LMAPS. Currently the LMAPS groups looked at major problems and ongoing issues. There had just been £11,000 spent on CCTV cameras in Hendon, additional funding from the Area Committee could allow more work like this to be carried out.

The Committee agreed that the most appropriate course of action would be to enhance the informal meetings between the Police and Elected Members and to align some SIB budget to the priority in order to support the delivery of project proposals; as set out in option A for the increasing Confidence and Trust priority.

On the Responsive Local Services priority Mike Poulter, Head of Project & Service Development, advised that the proposed task and finish groups would not be operated in the traditional way but would instead be set up as necessary to quickly deal with problems as they emerged. The groups would be able to look at the issues and then come back to the Committee with solutions.

Councillor M. Forbes stated that this work should already be taking place as it was a duty of the Council to respond to these issues. She did not see why there was a need for additional funding to be allocated to this.

Mr Poulter advised that the funding would not always be needed however it would be useful to have the funding available for if it was required.

The Committee agreed with this and agreed to follow option A for the Responsive Local Services priority.

Mr Taylor then drew Members attention to the SIB and SIP for the coming year. There were SIB funds totalling £417,154 available to the committee, including a carry-over from 2009/10 of £139,698. There was the potential for this carry-over to be ring fenced for projects which would be coming through from the 2009/10 year if Members felt that this would be appropriate.

There was SIP funding of £196,386 available for allocation; this funding was split into wards as follows:

Hendon Ward: £56,123  
Millfield Ward: £52,261  
Ryhope Ward: £31,178  
St. Michael's Ward: £56,823

The Committee were asked to give consideration to reaffirming this split in SIP budget which had been agreed for 2009/10 or combining the funds into a central pot.

Councillor Mordey stated that the SIP funding had been set out into wards and he felt that it would not be appropriate for the funding to now be combined.

The Members agreed that the SIP should continue to be ward based.

Mr Taylor then referred to the SIB funding; there was £227,456 allocated to the area for 2010/11, excluding the carry over from 2009/10. He asked Members to consider how they wanted to allocate the funding to the priorities identified.

Councillor Wood stated that he was not comfortable allocating money to the priorities before any information was available. There was a need to provide resources however at the same time there was a need to ensure that funding was available for any requests that come to the Committee throughout the year.

Ms Johnson advised that it would be possible for the Committee to leave a contingency fund unallocated and then notionally allocate the remainder.

Councillor Errington stated that he felt it would be most appropriate to wait until there was information available and then prioritise the funding. There was a need to see where there were 'quick wins' and how core funding could be allocated to the priorities.

Councillor Mordey advised that he felt that it would be hard to argue that one priority would be more deserving of funding than another without having more information about the priorities. It would be most appropriate to wait and decide on funding as issues arise.

Mr Taylor suggested that a limit be set to the amount of funding made available as the opportunities fund to ensure that there was enough funding set aside for the identified priorities.

Councillor Mordey commented that the next meeting was to be held in July and the Committee would be able to make a more informed decision at this meeting as there would be more information available.

The Members agreed that it would be most appropriate to defer the decision on the SIB split until the July meeting of the Committee.

2. RESOLVED that:

- i) The following priorities be approved to join Responsive Local Services in forming the basis of East Sunderland Area Committee's Work Plan for 2010/11:

- Increasing Employment and enterprise opportunities across the area
- Identifying gaps in youth and play provision

- Reducing anti social behaviour by targeting hotspots and increasing confidence and trust levels
  - Improving transportation to be a reserve priority
- ii) The following options be selected to assist in the delivery of the priority:
- Responsive Local Services – Option A
  - Employment – Option C
  - Youth and Play – Option B
  - Anti social behaviour and increasing confidence and trust levels – Option A
- iii) Consideration of the allocation of funding to the priorities be deferred until the July meeting of the Committee.
- iv) The SIP funding continue to be operated on a ward basis
- v) Regular updates on progress in implementing the priorities identified in the Work Plan be submitted to the Committee.
- vi) Area Committee to receive online information updates, via e-bulletin and Area Action Plans

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

(Signed) E. BALL,  
Chairman.