

At a meeting of the WASHINGTON AREA COMMITTEE held at WASHINGTON FIRE STATION MAIN HEADQUARTERS on THURSDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER, 2013 at 6.00 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Scaplehorn in the Chair

Councillors Fletcher, Kelly, Lauchlan, G. Miller, D. Snowdon, D. Trueman, H. Trueman, Walker and Williams.

Louise Butler	-	Chief Executives
David Hardy	-	City Services
Paul Wood	-	Commercial and Corporate Services
Jane Eland	-	Children's Services
Lorraine Hughes	-	Children's Services
Alan Caddick	-	Health, Housing and Adult Services
Tim Ducker	-	Office of the Chief Executive
Jacqui Reeves	-	Washington Mind
John Rostron	-	VCS Representative
Steve Anderson	-	TWFRS
Sergeant Ron Hyde	-	Northumbria Police
Colin McCartney	-	Gentoo
Claire Tulley	-	NEXUS

Members of the Washington Community.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Farthing, F. Miller, Padgett and D. E. Snowdon. Karon Purvis and Kasia Kurowska.

Declarations of Interest

Item 5 Annex 1 – Financial Statement and Proposals for further allocation of Resources

Councillor Scaplehorn made an open declaration in the Golden Age People Call for Projects application as a member of the Springwell Village Community Venue Management Committee and therefore withdrew from the meeting prior to discussion of the application.

Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 20th June, 2013

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 20th June, 2013 (copy circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

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 (2013/14) Place Board Work Plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

The Chairman of the Area Committee presented the report in the absence of the Washington Area Place Board Chairman and advised that the Dog Control Orders Report would be presented to Cabinet in November and asked if any Members had any suggestions for possible locations of the control orders, to let the officers know.

The Chairman commented that he was keen for the Village Centre work to progress under the Responsive Local Services item and introduced Tim Ducker, Cycle Network and Public Rights of Way Officer who updated the Committee on the work to be done at Princess Anne Park.

2. RESOLVED that the Committee
 - (i) Considered the progress and performance update with regard to the Washington Place Board's Work Plan for 2013/14
 - (ii) Noted the additional installation of goalposts at a Ward level, and recommended sites as detailed in the achievements table for consideration.
 - (iii) Noted the Flooding Update as detailed under Annex 2
 - (iv) Noted the Executive Summary in relation to SIB for the Community Health and Green Spaces Report as detailed under Item 5 Financial Statement and Proposals

People Board – Progress Report

The Chair of the People Board submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide the Committee with an update of progress against the current years (2013/14) People Board Work Plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Williams presented the report and advised that the services available for older and vulnerable people would be considered under Item 5 – Call for Projects.

In relation to reviewing and influencing the health agenda, Councillor Williams advised that a meeting had been arranged with the Clinical Commissioning Groups to take place in November to discuss the development of effective links.

Councillor Williams introduced Lorraine Hughes, Public Health Lead who advised the Committee that they were undertaking a comprehensive review of Sexual Health Services and the Council were responsible for Open Access Contraception Services and a significant amount of spend from the public health budget goes on sexual health.

Ms Hughes advised that they were hoping for a draft report by the end of November and asked for the Area Committee to give consideration on if they wish to be involved and for the review to come back to Area Committee/Boards for input from Members.

Councillor Williams asked Members if they wanted to be included in the review and to what degree.

Councillor Kelly commented that this was an essential part of what the Area Committee should be involved in as it provides the demographics of the area and he would like to see the Committee support this, even if it was just for discussion and awareness.

Members agreed for the review to be an agenda item for a future meeting of the Committee.

In relation to Integrated Wellness, Ms Hughes advised of a stakeholder event taking place on the 15th November in which they were seeking representation and for Washington to feed in their views. Further information would be circulated on this.

Councillor Williams introduced Berni Whitaker, Enterprise Manager to give a presentation/update on the Washington Managed Workspace. Ms Whitaker informed the Committee that planning approval was granted in January of this year and work started on the 1st July with an anticipated 33 week schedule to open early in 2014.

Ms Whitaker commented that a tremendous amount of work had been done so far and they now had a big job in getting the building filled and they were busy developing the brand/marketing as well as looking at rent levels.

Councillor Kelly commented that he was more interested in the facts/costs and that it needed to be affordable for new businesses, he was concerned that there were not enough parking spaces and he would have liked more in-depth details.

Ms Whitaker advised that all of that work was being done and the Business Investment Team manage other incubator centres so they have an idea of what the

rents/incentives should be and she was quite happy to come back to Committee with these details when available.

Councillor G. Miller referred to the parking spaces and commented that he had a memory of a higher figure and queried why this had been reduced.

Ms Whitaker advised that the interior remodelling had an impact on turning spaces and they had lost space due to bin storage etc.

Councillor H. Trueman commented that he felt this was a super building and that he just hoped the Business Investment Team gives us the help to look at Crowther/Swann Industrial Estates and tackling those awful buildings on the trading estates.

Ms Whitaker commented that this building would have a knock on effect and acknowledged that there needed to be a balance between Business/Industrial use and the issue of displacement was a massive challenge.

Councillor David Snowdon commented that this was a great opportunity for Sunderland to attract new business and referred to past comments he had made in relation to setting up a business club that would provide a marvellous opportunity to bring businesses together and give them some help.

Ms Whitaker advised that there was a business network in place but maybe it needed to have a focus on Washington in particular.

Councillor Williams commented on the need for marketing and to get the details out as soon as possible so people are aware of the building and the opportunities there.

Ms Whitaker advised that the team were working on this and they were hoping to have the marketing materials done and out by the end of October and also advertising through the relevant agents etc.

Councillor Kelly enquired if we had made any direct marketing to those who privately owned the lesser quality units we have in the area that may be looking to relocate as he did feel we have had long enough to market and generate interest in the new building.

The Chairman commented that Ms Whitaker will have picked up on the general feeling Members have by their comments but on the other side this was a very positive piece of work but we needed to look at the rent levels etc to make sure there was a take up of the building.

In relation to the car parking spaces issue, Neil Revely, Executive Director, People Directorate enquired if there were Cycle Rack/routes available. Ms Whitaker advised that there was suitable provision available.

In relation to the work surrounding Anti Social Behaviour at Sulgrave Flats, Alan Caddick, Head of Strategic Housing informed the Committee of the £80,000 received

from the Crime Commissioner and that a bid had been made to the Rogue Landlords Fund also.

Mr Caddick advised that things were progressing and that they hoped to see outcomes soon. A meeting was being arranged to brief Ward Members and a meeting with the management committee of the flats was also being arranged to start and engage more.

In relation to Items 19 and 20 of the workplan, Councillor Miller commented that personally he would like to see the Committee receive feedback from Karen Mallin of SNCBC and Karen Alexander in relation to the business breakfast in which nothing has been progressed.

Councillor Williams suggested that they be invited to the next Area Committee meeting scheduled for January.

Ms Whitaker informed the Committee that Karen Alexander had been seconded into another role so she would investigate further as to who would pick this issue up within the team.

The Chairman commented that a lot of hard work and money had gone into the business breakfast so it shouldn't just be left or stopped.

Councillor Kelly commented that he was disgusted that a staff member had been seconded without the work being passed over to another officer to take forward and felt too many jobs/pieces of work were starting to slip.

Councillor Williams commented that the Committee needed the appropriate officer from Ms Whitakers team to attend the next Board meeting to give some answers on what will be done.

3. RESOLVED that the Committee
 - (i) Considered the progress and performance update with regards to the Washington People Board Work Plan for 2013/2014
 - (ii) Members considered the People Board recommendations in relation to the successful applicants to take forward the Addressing Social Isolation Project for Older People as detailed under Item 5 Financial Statement and Purposes.

Financial Statement and Proposals for further allocation of Resources

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to request the Committee's consideration of proposals for the allocation of the Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB), Healthy City Investment Funds that would benefit the area and to note the Community Chest initiatives that would benefit the area.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Call for Projects

In relation to the Project for Capacity Building for Washington Social Clubs, Councillor David Snowdon queried why we were funding Age UK to provide something they should already be doing.

John Rostron, VCS Representative advised that the bid had been generated by the Washington 50+ Club rather than Age UK itself.

Councillor G. Miller commented that the proposal would provide a Day Club Co-ordinator and had scored 47 out of a possible 50 points available so whilst it was right we have to keep an eye on if these projects are a good use of resources, he felt this one was worthy of approval.

Councillor David Snowdon commented that the fact the bid was from Washington 50+ Club did put a different slant on the proposal.

Councillor Kelly queried why the bid had come in under the Age UK name, which did have substantial resources of their own, however he did think this proposal was value for money and would support the project.

Mr Rostron commented that he believed it was purely around working with the Washington 50+ Club that had been set up.

Councillor Williams advised that each group would only receive £1000 funding up front and monitored so that any issues can be identified/rectified before they would receive the remaining funds.

Councillor Kelly commented that he was happy to fund a Washington group but not a Sunderland wide organisation.

The Chairman commented that we have to make sure the monitoring process is followed and took Members point that the wording of the project organisers was misleading.

In relation to the Wearside Women in Need project, Councillor Kelly commented that we already pay for this service through the Council.

Councillor G. Miller commented that he was happy to support this proposal but the previous comments made in relation to the Age UK application also applied here as Wearside Women in Need also have their own resources, however the project had been independently assessed and scored 47 out of 50 but we just needed to be mindful of which organizations applied for funding.

Councillor Kelly commented that he was happy to fund a project that is going to help a person but felt it should not be used for printing posters etc.

The Chairman commented that in order to help people, the service would need to be publicised and advised that this had been scored independently with monitoring being the key to these projects so that the money will be stopped should they not be working.

Ms Butler advised that visits would be undertaken to see if the projects were meeting their objectives and achievements before the rest of the money would be allocated.

Having agreed the proposed Call for Projects, the Chairman informed the Committee that there was a £10,000 underspend, therefore proposed that this money be kept for further projects that may possibly come forward to be scored and agreed at a future meeting. This was duly agreed by Members.

In relation to the SIB application for the Washington Community Health and Green Spaces project, Mr Ducker provided an update, advising that work was advancing for detailed designs and that additional monies were being obtained through other streams and external funding with hopes to connect links to Nissan also. All of this had been made possible through the endorsement of the Area Committee.

Councillor Thompson enquired if there had been any movement on a circular cycle route around the Galleries Shopping Centre.

Mr Ducker advised that there had been no movement but discussions had taken place with the Galleries but we couldn't do it all as this may affect their parking provision. The Galleries management were on board however as there was a clear business case for more cycle access.

4. RESOLVED that the Committee:-

- i) Noted the financial statements set out in the report.
- ii) Approved the SIB Call for Projects applications as detailed under Paragraph 2.2.1 and Annex 1 of the report totalling £20,774
- iii) Approved the £50,000 SIB ring fenced from the 2013/14 budget for the Community Health and Green Spaces Project and £50,000 ring fenced from the 2012/13 budget as detailed in Annex 2 of the report
- iv) Noted the 19 applications for Community Chest agreed and supported from the 2013/14 allocations, between June – September as set out in Annex3 of the report

Partner Agency Reports

Area Community Voluntary Sector Network

The Washington Area Community Voluntary Sector Network submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide an update with regard to the Washington Area Community and Voluntary Sector Network

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Mr Rostron provided an update advising that representatives had been involved with the VCS relationship transition project that the Council had instigated and one representative would be invited to sit on the Board to help take the project forward. Mr Rostron advised that he would be happy to keep Members updated on this and report back to the People Board.

Mr Rostron commented that at the last network meeting concerns had been raised over the possible duplication of work in relation to the One Directory and he was happy to discuss this outside of the meeting with lead personnel if they so wish.

Mr Rostron also advised that there was still a reasonable pot of money available for grants for a whole host of things such as carers and such like, if Members wanted to direct people to the VCS.

5. RESOLVED that Members noted the report and considered the opportunities and issues raised by the Washington ACVSN.

Police Update

Northumbria Police provided a report (copy circulated) and verbal update informing the Committee of Washington Police Mid Year Performance Report – Data taken from 12th August 2013.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Sergeant Ron Hyde informed the Committee that in addition to the figures contained within the report, the 2012 figures showed 379 instances of Domestic Violence, with only 338 for the year to date. Sergeant Hyde advised that he could send these figures to Members if they wished, could see him after the meeting or if they wanted more specific information to let him know.

In response to Councillor Thompson's request for the Domestic Abuse figures to be included regularly in future reports Sergeant Hyde advised that this would be possible.

Councillor Thompson commented that this issue was grossly unreported by victims so we should be looking at an increase in reporting so we can tackle the instances of abuse from happening.

Sergeant Hyde commented that there had been a 10% reduction in reports but 59 more instances had been detected via thorough work by the Police to get a real drive in the reduction of domestic violence.

Councillor H. Trueman commented that there should be an increase in reporting as a greater awareness is achieved and referred to a video shown at the Safer Sunderland partnership which informed of the cameras installed on Police body armour which have led to prosecutions of perpetrators of domestic abuse even

where the victim would not press charges and informed the Committee that the Safer Partnership had given extra funding for officers to obtain these cameras.

Sergeant Hyde commented that the whole focus of tackling domestic violence has changed dramatically.

Councillor Miller commented that there had been a remarkable reduction in Anti Social Behaviour and the money spent by the Area Committee had helped this and he was delighted with the figures and the excellent job carried out by the Police.

The Chairman thanked Sergeant Hyde for his report

6. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted

Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service Update

The Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service submitted a report (copy circulated) and verbal update advising the Committee of their comparative performance statistics between the periods of 01 January 2012 – 31 July 2012 and 01 January 2013 – 31 July 2013.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Steve Anderson, Station Manager presented the report and advised that if any Members needed Ward specific figures, to let him know and he could provide them where available.

7. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Strengthening Families

Jane Eland, Youth and Washington Locality Manager provided a powerpoint presentation informing the Committee of the work on Strengthening Families and Promoting Community and Family Resilience.

(For copy presentation – see original minutes)

Ms Eland advised that she would be happy to bring back case studies to the People Boards to show how this was working if Members so wished.

In response to Councillor G. Miller's query as to when we would get to the stage that we could see the Council saving money and how long it would be before we would see improvements, Ms Eland advised that we were already starting to see these as we had the systems running already.

Councillor Miller suggested that this be fed back in the Annual Review.

In response to Councillor Thompson's query if there had been any problems with information sharing, Ms Eland advised that there had been issues with Health bodies but we were working on that.

Mr Caddick advised that there are Partnership Boards and Steering Groups which is where the information is shared, the issue is with referrals which is where Members could help. Schools are not referring as much as they could and Members/Governors could help in raising the profile as the more we can work with the families the more we will see the cost benefits.

Councillor Williams commented on the need to do something for those people that won't sign up.

Ms Eland advised that they were getting a lot of assessments from Social Care and getting more people signed up through engagement.

8. RESOLVED that the presentation be received and noted.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting

(Signed) B. SCAPLEHORN,
Chairman.