

At a meeting of the NORTH SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in the BUNNY HILL CENTRE, HYLTON LANE, SUNDERLAND on MONDAY, 21st NOVEMBER, 2011 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Bell in the Chair

Councillors Copeland, Curran, S. Foster, T. Foster, MacKnight, Shattock, Walton and Wiper

Also in Attendance:-

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| Ms. Karen Alexander | - Employment and Training Manager, Sunderland City Council |
| Mr. Graham Burt | - Strategy Development Manager, Sunderland City Council |
| Insp. Tony Carty | - Northumbria Police |
| Ms. Zoe Channing | - Sunderland City Council |
| Ms. Laura Coverdale | - ICASS Worker, Impact Family Services |
| Ms. Lynn Fletcher | - Locality Operational Manager, Sunderland City Council |
| Ms. Victoria French | - Assistant Head of Community Services, Sunderland City Council |
| Ms. Gillian Gibson | - Consultant in Public Health, Teaching Primary Care Trust |
| Mr. Keith Hamilton | - Deputy Sunderland City Council |
| Ms. Hazel Hedley | - CEO, Impact Family Services |
| Ms. Jane Hibberd | - Head of Strategy and Policy, People and Neighbourhoods, Sunderland City Council |
| Ms. Julie Lynn | - Area Officer (North), Sunderland City Council |
| Ms. Vicki Medhurst | - Cultural Heritage Manager, Sunderland City Council |
| Ms. Sandra Mitchell | - Head of Early Intervention and Locality Services, Sunderland City Council |
| Mr. Andrew Old | - North Area Response Manager, Sunderland City Council |
| Mr. Stephen Pickering | - Deputy Executive Director City Services, Sunderland City Council |
| Ms. Dawn Rugman | - Senior Partnership Officer, Sunderland City Council |
| Ms. Joanne Stewart | - Principal Governance Services Officer, Sunderland City Council |
| Mr. Ken Tears | - Strategic Development Director, SAFC Foundation |
| Mr. James Third | - Nexus |
| Mr. Gary Yates | - Tyne and Wear Fire Service |

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman invited introductions around the room and opened the meeting. He also advised that Graham Wharton, Salvation Army and Bill Forster, Tyne and Wear Fire Service would no longer be representatives on the Committee and thanked them for their hard work in supporting the Committee and wished them good luck for the future. He welcomed Gary Yates, Tyne and Wear Fire Service to his first meeting.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Bonallie, Charlton, Francis, Howe, Stewart and N. Wright and also from Mr. Ron Odunaiya, Area Lead Executive.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 19th September, 2011

Councillor MacKnight referred to page 5 of the minutes and asked if the information was available on which schools the 118 young people who had been stopped by the Police attended. Inspector Carty agreed to get this information back to the Member.

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 19th September, 2011 (copy circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Community Action in North Sunderland – Identifying Issues and Agreeing Actions (2011/12 Work Plan)

Community First

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided detailed information to the Committee to enable the future development of area based working.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Julie Lynn, Area Officer (North), presented the report, advising that seven wards across the City had been selected to benefit from the neighbourhood grant programme, one of which falls within the North Sunderland Area. Southwick Ward was eligible for £33,910 of neighbourhood grant over the next four years.

She advised that the delivery partner was the Community Development Foundation (CDF) and that the purpose of the funding was to help groups in the ward improve the area. The wards selected were based on communities that appeared to require additional support based on relatively high levels of economic deprivation and low levels of social capital.

Members raised concerns and queries over how the wards had been identified as each could identify alternative areas just as worthy of the funding. Ms. Lynn advised that Central Government had made the decision on allocating funding and that she could circulate a copy of the rationale behind their decision to Members for information.

When asked who would be leading the projects, Mr. Graham Burt, Strategy Development Manager, advised that it would be the voluntary sector and information had already been forward to a representative. He commented that £33,910 was not a huge sum and it would be important for the Panel to come up with creative and interesting ways to spend the funding to benefit the ward.

2. RESOLVED that the opportunity for funding to come into the area as a community led initiative, with the potential for the Council to offer additional support be noted.

Locality Based Working – Children’s Services

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided detailed information to the Committee to enable the future development of area based working.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Sandra Mitchell, Head of Early Intervention and Locality Services, presented the report, advising that the aim of the early intervention service is to deliver services in an integrated way, based across each of the five areas of the city. She informed Members that a Locality Operational Manager had been appointed in each area and that the North Manager was Ms. Lynn Fletcher who would have a dual role of citywide professional lead for a specific service as well as the operational lead for the range of services which are delivered within North Sunderland area.

Councillor T. Foster sought clarification on the membership of the Area Committee as the report had a recommendation to appoint the manager as a member of the Committee. Ms. Joanne Stewart, Governance Services Officer, advised that only Elected Members were Members of the Area Committee and Ms. Fletcher would be asked to attend in her capacity as an officer/partner representative.

Members raised concerns over services being provided by Children's Services and Children's Centres to families that needed them or may be hard to reach during the current economic climate and Ms. Mitchell advised that a public consultation was due to begin with a lot of publicity around the way the new model of providing services would be moving forward. She explained that they were committed to maintaining all service delivery and expressed that no decisions had been made on the Children's Centres in each of the areas and which would be designated centres moving forward.

The Committee were advised that Ms. Fletcher was setting up a team who would then arrange to meet with Members of the Committee to share information on developments for the area.

3. RESOLVED that:-

- i) The North Locality Operational Manager become an officer/partner representative of the Area Committee; and
- ii) The North Locality Operational Manager arrange an information gathering meeting with Members of the Committee.

Employability Provision

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided detailed information to the Committee to enable the future development of area based working.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Karen Alexander, Employment and Training Manager, presented the report advising Members of the plans for future service delivery with regards to employability and the impact the changes would have.

Members having discussed the issues surrounding the welfare reform and the impact it could have on residents felt it would be beneficial to establish a task and finish group to ensure they were kept up to date on developments as they felt the full results of the changes would not be apparent for quite some time.

4. RESOLVED that:-

- i) that the report be received and noted; and
- ii) that the Area Officer set up a task and finish group to consider the issue further and contact Members of the Committee for expressions of interest to join.

Community Action in the North – Progress Review

Heritage

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Members with information on the progress against the actions which had been agreed as part of the Heritage Priority.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Vicki Medhurst, Cultural Heritage Manager, presented the report advising that a Community Heritage Development Worker for the North Sunderland Area had now been recruited but unfortunately had recently been taken into hospital so they had approached the Switch Team again to refill the post. They post had now been filled and they would start on 28th November, 2011.

In response to a query regarding the resubmission of the Hylton Castle application, Ms. Medhurst advised that they were taking on board all of the comments made by the Heritage Lottery Fund Board so that they could focus on addressing those issues in the resubmission of the application.

5. RESOLVED that:-

- i) the content of the report be received and noted; and
- ii) the Community Heritage Development Worker be invited to attend a future meeting of the Area Committee.

Attractive and Cared for Environment

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update on progress against agreed actions in the current years work plan with regards to the Attractive and Cared for Environment Priority.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Members referred to the changes that had been introduced at sites such as the Colliery Tavern and commended Officers for the visual improvements that had been made. Comments were made concerning the area near the Albion House which suffered from similar issues with regards to parking on match days, with the grass being churned up, etc. and asked if some form of railings or bulbs could be introduced there to stop the problem. Mr. Old agreed to

have a look at the site but explained that railings were generally not installed if the area could be redesigned instead.

Councillor T. Foster referred to St Margaret's Court in the report and queried if this should actually be St Margaret's Avenue as the Court was a care home. Councillor S. Foster commented that the projects in the area were coming on well and he was looking forward to further improvements in the future.

6. RESOLVED that:-

- i) the progress made against greening programmes in the North be noted;
- ii) the development of the environmental improvements at Fulwell Quarry be agreed;
- iii) the establishment of a Friends of Fulwell Quarry Group be agreed;
- iv) the allocation of £29,000 SIB funding for the environmental work at Fulwell Quarry be agreed subject to full application, consultation and appraisal; and
- v) the allocation of £10,000 SIB funding as a match funding for the St Margaret's Avenue programme be agreed subject to full application, consultation and appraisal, and with conditions of other funding being sourced.

Anti Social Behaviour

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update on progress against agreed actions in the current years work plan with regards to the Anti Social Behaviour Priority.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Copeland referred to the information sheet and fridge magnet, providing vital information to local residents on report anti social behaviour and crime and asked how they would be distributed. Inspector Carty advised that the paraphernalia would be distributed to residents home in the areas where it was felt anti social behaviour was an issue and Officers would have them to hand out whilst on duty. He explained that there would not be enough for one per household but they would try to get an even spread of distribution across the North Sunderland Area.

Councillor Walton referred to disturbances that had been reported in and around Roker Park and thanked the Police for their presence in the area which was acting as a deterrent to young people. Inspector Carty advised that there had been some issues over Officers accessing the Park when youths were congregating inside after the gates had been locked, but following discussions with the Council, keys were to be provided to all vehicles that served the North Sunderland area.

The Chairman having thanked Officers for their report and Members queries having been answered, it was:-

7. RESOLVED that:-

- i) the content of the report and actions to be progressed be received and noted; and
- ii) the allocation of £2,000 SIB funding to the development of marketing information, subject to full application, consultation and appraisal be agreed.

Activities for Young People

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which informed Members of the work that had been undertaken in relation to the activities for young people priority.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

8. RESOLVED that:-

- i) the contents of the report be received and noted;
- ii) proposals and a funding application for the development of the Redhouse Youth Project be received; and
- iii) proposals for the development of a skate park be received.

Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) and Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) Interim Report Covering the Period April to September, 2011

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to inform the Committee of how the money it has allocated through SIB and SIP had been used during April to September, 2011 and how successful it had been in achieving its original objectives and how the projects will continue to perform.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Julie Lynn, Area Officer (North), presented the report and invited representatives from the Impact Family Services to share their experiences and views of how SIB funding had helped them to provide the Ear 4 U project.

Members having noted the verbal presentation, it was:-

9. RESOLVED that the performance information contained within the report be received and noted.

North Area Committee 2011/12 Work Plan

Julie Lynn, Area Officer, presented the work plan which was set out at Annex 1 to the progress report. She advised that if Members had any queries they could either raise them at the meeting or get in contact with her outside of the meeting, and it was:-

10. RESOLVED that the Work Plan for 2011/12 be 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) which requested Members to give consideration to requests for funding from Strategic Initiatives Budget, Strategic Investment Plan and Community Chest to support initiatives which would benefit the area.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Lynn presented the report and advised Members of the applications for funding which were set out at Annex 4 and 5 to the report and also answered questions from Members, and it was:-

11. RESOLVED that:-

- i) the financial statement as set out in paragraph 2.1 of the report be noted;
- ii) approval be given to the allocation of SIB funding from the 2011/12 budget of £2,000 as a contribution towards the North Big Band;
- iii) approval be given to the allocation of SIB funding from the 2011/12 budget of £5,000 as a contribution towards the Witherwack Improvement Works;
- iv) approval be given to the 20 proposals for support from the 2011/12 Community Chest as set out in Annex 5 to the report.

Influencing Practice, Policy and Strategy

Sunderland in 2012

The Executive Director of City Services submitted a report (copy circulated) to engage the Committee in relation to the proposed Sunderland in 2012 programme.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Victoria French, Assistant Head of Community Services, presented the report and showed a DVD to Members on the proposals for the Sunderland in 2012 programme. She advised that Members of the Committee were invited to inform and shape the content of the programme to ensure opportunities and activities were relevant to the communities within the area at a workshop to be held on 30th November, 2011. It was highlighted that this date was the proposed day for strike action and Ms. French agreed to rearrange the workshop and advise Members accordingly.

Councillors were keen to embrace the celebration of the Olympic Games, along with the Queen's Jubilee celebrations and discussed the possibility of using bunting and decorations around their wards and the city to commemorate the occasions. Ms. French advised that the Olympic Committee had provided specific detail to the Council of the forms of decorations that could be ordered and used.

12. RESOLVED that:-

- i) Members contribute to the development of the Sunderland in 2012 programme;
- ii) Approve the financial contribution of SIB funding of £10,000 to support the delivery of the Sunderland in 2012 programme, subject to a full application, consultation and approval; and
- iii) Members be invited to inform the Sunderland in 2012 programme through task and finish workshops when rearranged.

City Village Concept

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which offered Members an opportunity to be consulted on plans and strategies relevant to the area.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Members were advised that the Sunderland Economic Masterplan identified the promotion of City Villages as a fundamental part of Sunderland's economic development. The City Village concept had also been recognised and referenced in the recent Environment and Attractive City Scrutiny Committee's Policy Review into Sunderland 'The Place'.

They were advised that a piece of work was currently underway to develop a place shaping and place shielding methodology based upon the City's concept of the City Village.

13. RESOLVED that:-

- i) the information within the report be received and noted; and
- ii) the future engagement and consultation with regard to the development of the City Village pilot areas and the benefits it could bring to area arrangements be agreed.

(Signed) R. BELL,
Chairman.