

At a meeting of the WASHINGTON AREA COMMITTEE held at BIDDICK SCHOOL SPORTS COLLEGE, BIDDICK LANE, WASHINGTON on WEDNESDAY, 2ND JULY, 2008 at 5.30 P.M.

Present:

Councillor Walker in the Chair

Councillors Chamberlin, Fletcher, Miller, I. Richardson, Scaplehorn, Snowdon, J. Stephenson, Timmins, Trueman and Whalen.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors A. Cuthbert, I. Cuthbert and Kelly.

Introductions

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited all Ward Councillors to introduce themselves.

Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on Wednesday, 9th April, 2008

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 9th April, 2008 (copy circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Declarations of Interest

Item 5 – Minutes of the Local Multi Agency Problem Solving Group.

Item 8 – Children and Young People's Participation Strategy.

The Chairman declared a personal interest in the items as an employee of Gentoo.

Item 14 – Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB): Regeneration Issues Report.

Councillor Miller declared a personal interest in the item as he was an associate of the applicant.

Presentation from Northumbria Police on Crime Rates Relating to the Washington Area

P.C. Martin Brace was in attendance and detailed actual crime numbers committed for the period ending May 2008 in comparison with May 2007.

P.C. Brace reported the following reductions/increases in crime rates:-

	May 08	May 07	% inc/dec
Criminal Damage	1,016	1,235	-17.7%
Violent Crime	916	890	+2.9%
Burglary – Dwellings	421	485	-13.2%
Vehicle Crime	410	560	-28.6%
Overall Crime Rate	3,952	4,315	-8.4%

The Chairman thanked P.C. Brace for his attendance.

2. RESOLVED that the contents of the presentation be received and noted.

Minutes of the Local Multi Agency Problem Solving Group

A copy of the minutes of the meetings of the Local Multi Agency Problem Solving Group held on 8th April, 2008 and 13th May, 2008 (copies circulated) were submitted.

(For copy reports – see original minutes).

3. RESOLVED that the minutes of the LMAPs held on 8th April, 2008 and 13th May, 2008 be received and noted.

Area Committee Representation on Local Multi Agency Problem Solving Groups

The Chief Executive (Acting) submitted a report (copy circulated) to nominate a representative to become a core member of the Local Multi Agency Problem Solving (LMAPS) Group for the Washington area, following the retirement of former Councillor Derek Sleightholme.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Miller nominated Councillor Snowdon as a representative and was duly seconded.

Councillor J. Stephenson enquired whether there was the possibility of nominating a substitute.

The Solicitor agreed to ascertain whether this was possible.

4. RESOLVED that:-

- i) Councillor D. Snowdon be the nominated representative to become a core member of the Washington LMAPS Group.
- ii) Clarification be sought as to whether a substitute could also be nominated to the LMAPs Group.

Integrated Youth Strategy – 2008-2011 Consultation Document

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report (copy circulated) to inform the Washington Area Committee of the Draft Sunderland Integrated Youth Strategy 2008-2011 and the associated consultation process.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Chairman welcomed Keith Moore, Assistant Director of Children's Services to the Committee and invited him to give his presentation.

Mr. Moore advised that the Vision of the Strategy was that "All young people in Sunderland enjoy life to the full, are safe, healthy and confident, make a positive contribution to their community, achieve their full potential and then make a successful transition into adulthood".

Mr. Moore outlined the key achievements and key challenges in relation to young people. Key features of the Strategy included:-

- Audit of youth provision across the City;
- Mapped against local patterns of need;
- Consulting young people, parents and community leaders;
- Clear progression routes for young people established;
- Targeting resources for those who need more support;
- Planning with partners;
- Pooling resources;
- Young people engaged in planning and testing suitability of policies and services;
- Flexible approaches to helping communities;
- Based on the principles of early intervention and prevention.

Councillor Trueman welcomed the strategy. He queried whether the Youth Parliament would be involved in the strategy. Mr. Moore advised that they would look to include Youth Parliament members in the consultation process.

Councillor Miller advised that he too supported the strategy, however, he stated that in order for young people to benefit from youth provision, they must be able to get to facilities. The strategy, therefore, must have a focus on accessible public transport and ensure that this is thoroughly considered.

Mr. Moore acknowledged that one of the key issues for people in Washington was transport provision and there was a definite need to improve public transport to enable young people to access youth provision in the city.

Councillor Stephenson referred to the Youth Capital Fund which provides discrete revenue and capital budgets for young people to control and decide how money should be spent on positive activities and youth facilities in their area and questioned whether new money was available for these initiatives. Andy Neal Youth Development Group Manager advised that Sunderland participated in the pilot initiative over a two year period which led to 36 new youth led projects. Sunderland were awarded £252,000 as one off capital and had to carry out an in depth audit and match funding against need.

Councillor Trueman queried whether youth provision in Sunderland was due for revision. Mr. Neal advised that an audit of provision in the City had just been carried out, however changes were happening regularly. The "LetsgoSunderland" website enabled people to browse youth activities and projects across the City and provided a location map.

Councillor Wake requested a list of youth provision facilities for the City.

Councillor Stephenson requested that an update presentation be brought to a future meeting of the Committee.

5. RESOLVED that the Committee receive and note the presentation and support the Integrated Youth Strategy.

Children and Young People's Participation Strategy 2008-2013

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report (copy circulated) to present the draft of Children and Young People's Participation Strategy to give feedback from the consultation process on the Participation Strategy and to receive any comment from the Area Committee on the Strategy.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Norah Stevens, Participation Officer, outlined the report and advised that the change for Children Strategy says that by 2009 the Children's Services will:-

- Fully implement the Children and Young People's Democratic Engagement Strategy;
- Feedback to children and young people the impact of their involvement in the review of CYPP;

- Use existing events in the Children’s Services calendar to consult with children, young people and their parents/carers;
- Embed “Hear By Rights” standards or their equivalents across all services for children and young people;
- Establish a mechanism by which all services doing participation work with children and young people feed key messages into central, strategic planning forums;
- Actively engage children and young people who may experience inequality or social exclusion and their families in consultation and participation activity, and ensure participation activity is made accessible for them;
- Act upon what children and young people are telling us and work with them to achieve this.

Ms. Stevens also outlined the key consultation questions.

Councillor Miller advised that the consultation process should include adults. He also queried how it would be decided, who would be consulted, when and where. Ms. Stevens advised that a commissioning process was being set up to deliver “on the ground”. It was important that all young people were aware and had sight of the strategy.

The Chairman having thanked Ms. Stevens for her presentation, it was:-

6. RESOLVED that the report and draft strategy be received and noted.

Residents’ Survey – Future of Adult Social Care

There being no one in attendance to present the report, it was agreed that the item be deferred until the next meeting of the Committee.

7. RESOLVED that the item be deferred until the next meeting of the Committee.

Proposed Programme for Heritage Open Days

The Director of Community and Cultural Services submitted a report to update Members on Heritage Open Days 2008.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Chairman commented that he was pleased with the events that had taken place in Washington last year and hoped for even greater success this year.

8. RESOLVED that the contents of the report be received and noted.

World Book Day

The Director of Community and Cultural Services submitted a report to inform Members of World Book Day (WBD) which took place on Thursday, 6th March, 2008.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Miller advised that such events were important to encourage more people to use the library.

9. RESOLVED that the contents of the report be received and noted.

Festivals and Events in Sunderland

The Director of Community and Cultural Services submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide members with an update regarding events activity that took place within the City for the period 1st September, 2007 – 31st March, 2008.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Trueman commented that he would have liked the information contained in the report to have been focused on Washington, there was no mention of the Kite Festival within the report.

10. RESOLVED that the contents of the report be received and noted.

Regeneration Issues Report: Feedback on Projects Previously Funded through Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB)

The Chief Executive (Acting) submitted a report to provide information to the Area Committee on expenditure from Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) on projects it has previously funded.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Sheila Davidson, Chief Executive, Bridge Project was present on behalf of the organisation to address any comments and questions from Members.

The Chairman thanked Ms. Boyd for attending the meeting.

11. RESOLVED that the feedback report be received and noted.

Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB): Regeneration Issues Report

The Chief Executive (Acting) submitted a report (copy circulated) on the proposed allocation of SIB funding to support the following initiatives of benefit to the area:-

- (i) Washington Victim Support Project;
- (ii) Tumble Track Project;
- (iii) Multi Area Bid Mature Moves;
- (iv) Green Start Project;
- (v) North Washington YIP Parenting;
- (vi) Washington Town Library Youth Liaison Officer;
- (vii) Multi Area Project Dance for Children WHL Mobility Issues;
- (viii) Community Hall at Holy Trinity.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Nicol Trueman, Area Regeneration Officer presented the report and introduced each application in turn.

Kevin Rigg, Branch Manager, Victim Support – Sunderland Branch was in attendance and outlined his application.

Councillor Stephenson asked for clarification that a current outreach worker would be redeployed in the Washington area once their contract term expired elsewhere. Mr. Rigg advised that the Sunderland Branch of Victim Support currently operated with two outreach workers funded by Back on the Map (in the East of the City) and one funded by SIB in the North area.

Councillor Miller referred to the breakdown of costs and stated that he was not overly happy with the salary expenditure. It seemed apparent that funding was being sought for a job that was already in place.

Councillor Miller referred to the consultation that had taken place regarding the need for the project and queried who had requested the scheme for the Washington area.

Mr. Rigg advised that it had been demonstrated that Sunderland in general needed such a project. Victim Support were currently supporting 6 people in the Washington Area who had been bereaved by manslaughter or murder. The Neighbourhood Police Team and the victims themselves had requested the project.

Councillor Miller asked for more information regarding proposed consultation through a local steering group. Mr. Rigg advised that this would be more of a working group involving the police, anti-social behaviour unit and tenants. It was crucial that the services available to victims of crime were publicised.

Councillor Stephenson advised that the project was asking for just under £30,000 and expressed fears that it was not sustainable.

Mr. Rigg advised that he was looking for mainstream funding and that organisations such as Gentoo were very keen to see the project be instigated.

Councillor I. Richardson questioned what the implications would be if the project did not go ahead.

Mr. Rigg advised that if funding wasn't available, services would still be in place, however, they would not be able to reach all people who needed help. Connectivity and partnership working would be marred.

Councillor Wake asked whether the office space offered by Gentoo was time limited. Mr. Rigg advised that the offer was very much open ended as Gentoo were keen to enhance services.

Councillor Trueman questioned what would happen to service delivery in the North if the outreach worker would be transferring to the Washington area. Mr. Rigg advised that because work in the north was more longstanding, people in the north were more aware of the services available to them and how to access them.

In response to a question from Councillor Trueman regarding whether any more funding had been sought from the North Area Committee, Mr. Rigg advised that the project currently received funding from the North.

Councillor Stephenson advised that she would be minded to support the application if a caveat was included to ensure that support was for 1 year only and that any further SIB bids for the staff salary could not be submitted after this time.

Councillor Miller felt that more information was required around the queries Members had raised in order to support the project and he proposed that the application be deferred pending this information.

Councillor Stephenson seconded the proposal.

Mrs. Lynn Hope, Head Coach, Biddick Sports College Community Gymnastics Club was present and outlined the application.

Members welcomed the application.

Lynn Summerside, Director Sit 'n' Fit was present on behalf of the organisation and outlined the application.

Members welcomed the application.

Sam Palombella, Operations Manager for Groundwork East Durham was present and outlined his application.

Members welcomed the application.

Gareth Johnson, Project Manager, North Washington Youth Inclusion Project was present and outlined his application.

Councillor Miller advised that he was not happy about the lack of detail regarding how the £20,000 would be spent. He also queried what other funding alternatives would be considered and questioned the sustainability of the project.

Mr. Johnson advised that the project would look to apply for Big Lottery funding. The £20,000 would be used to employ a parent co-ordinator.

Allison Clarke, Principal Librarian, Sunderland Public Libraries Culture and Tourism Section, Sunderland Council was in attendance and outlined project.

Councillor Miller stated that he felt sure the costs being requested from SIB for the project should have been factored into the costs arising from the new library build.

Councillors Wake and I. Richardson agreed that Children's Services Directorate should be responsible for such funding.

Members voted unanimously to reject the application.

Deloris Martin, Director of Sunderland Dance Community Interest Company was in attendance and gave an overview of the project and answered Members' questions in relation to the project.

Members welcomed the application.

Gloria Pattison, Publicity Officer, Holy Trinity Church Hall was in attendance and outlined the application and answered Members' questions thereon.

12. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) £29,865 as a contribution from the 2008/9 budget for Washington Victim Support Project be deferred pending further information;
- (ii) £14,000 as a contribution from the 2008/9 budget for the Tumble Track Project be approved;
- (iii) £5,000 as a contribution from the 2008/9 budget for the multi-area bid Mature Moves be approved;
- (iv) £4,500 as a contribution from the 2008/9 budget for the Green Start project be approved;

- (v) £20,000 as a contribution from the 2008/9 budget for the North Washington YIP Parenting Pilot be approved;
- (vi) £9,500 as a contribution from the 2008/9 budget for a Washington Town Library Youth Liaison Officer be refused;
- (vii) £7,810 as a contribution from the 2008/9 budget for the multi-area project Dance for Children with Mobility issues be approved;
- (viii) £9,082 as a contribution from the 2008/9 budget for structural repairs to the community hall at Holy Trinity be approved subject to satisfactory consultation.

Strategic Initiatives Budget Live Projects Report

The Chief Executive (Acting) submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide Members with an update on live projects for which the Area Committee had previously approved funding through its Strategic Initiatives Budget.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Nicol Trueman, Area Regeneration Officer, introduced the report and advised the Members that an update on all the projects still operating was attached as appendix 1 to the report.

13. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Strategic Initiatives Budget: 2008/09 Ward Based Community Chest

The Chief Executive (Acting) submitted a report (copy circulated) to bring forward 23 recommendations relating to 2008/2009 Community Chest Scheme.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

14. RESOLVED that approval be given to the 19 projects recommended for support from the 2007/08 budget as detailed in Annex 1 and Annex 1A to the report.

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

(Signed) P. WALKER,
Chairman.