

**At a meeting of the WASHINGTON AREA COMMITTEE held at THE MILLENNIUM CENTRE on TUESDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2013 at 6.00 p.m.**

**Present:-**

Councillor Scaplehorn in the Chair

Councillors Farthing, Fletcher, Kelly, F. Miller, D. Snowdon, D. E. Snowdon, Thompson, D. Trueman, H. Trueman, Walker and Williams.

Mike Poulter	-	City Services
Brian Hodgkinson	-	City Services
Karon Purvis	-	Chief Executives
Paul Wood	-	Commercial and Corporate Services
Sandra Mitchell	-	Children's Services
Jim Kennedy	-	Children's Services
Lorraine Hughes	-	Children's Services/Sunderland PCT
Neil Revely	-	Health, Housing and Adult Services
Jacqui Reeves	-	Washington Mind
John Rostron	-	VCS Representative
Colin McCartney	-	Gentoo
Steve Anderson	-	Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service
Karen Mallin	-	SNCBC

Members of the Washington Community.

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Lauchlan, G. Miller, and Padgett. James Third, Jane Eland, John Chapman and Surann Valentine.

**Declarations of Interest**

Item 04 – Financial Statement and Proposals for further allocation of Resources

Councillors Farthing, Thompson and Williams declared interests in the SIB application for Washington Young People's Forum as members of the Oxclose and District Young People's Project and left the room during consideration of the application.

## **Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2012**

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2012 (copy circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

## **Minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2012**

2. RESOLVED that the minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the Committee held on 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2012 (copy circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

### **Place Board – Progress Report**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to update the Committee on the progress of the Place Board in relation to the current years (2012/13) Work Plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor D. E. Snowdon presented the report and advised of the latest action taken by the Washington Area Place Board. Councillor Snowdon informed that in relation to the dumping of Shopping Trolleys, Trolley Wise was now providing additional staff to cover the weekends and there was a free phone number to arrange for the removal of abandoned shopping trolleys.

The Galleries Management were also looking to encourage the three remaining supermarkets to utilise the Trolley Wise scheme.

Brian Hodgkinson, Area Response Manager advised Members on the Priority rankings for dealing with shrub beds and plantations and it was agreed that Members would look to focus on those areas in the Priority 1 and 2 criteria.

In relation to the corporate approach on enforcement of environmental standards at private sector Industrial Estates Councillor Dianne Snowdon informed that a mapping exercise with Members would be undertaken and advice was needed on how they would like to consult on the issue.

Councillor Kelly commented that he agreed that the Industrial Estates were a mess but as we did not own any of them, he was confused as to what powers we had in dealing with the issue.

Councillor Dianne Snowdon commented that a meeting had taken place with Ash 10 who were willing to work with Mr Hodgkinson over land ownership issues and whilst Councillor Snowdon agreed there was not a great deal the Council could do, with the help of Ash 10, they could carry out enforcement.

The Chairman agreed with Councillor Kelly as there were so many private owners on the Industrial Estates that our options were limited, but we could advise, and Mr Hodgkinson could then enforce on matters of Litter/refuse, which the owners have a duty of care to manage. This was about trying to work with the private owners rather than against them.

Councillor H. Trueman commented that a similar mapping exercise had been carried out some years ago and unfortunately businesses are not interested in coming to the area as the estates are in awful condition. Councillor Trueman also believed that the change of use to fast food establishments should also have been looked at.

It was agreed that Members email Councillor Dianne Snowdon with details of known problems areas.

In relation to the priority on a well connected Washington the Chairman commented that this project hits all the targets and partners were queuing up to get on board so it was hoped this would be a massive project for Washington.

Councillor H. Trueman commented that the report was very good and wished the best of luck in trying to deal with the issue of abandoned shopping trolleys and it was nice to see attempts to tackle the problem.

Councillor H. Trueman also wished to highlight the immense work carried out on grounds maintenance by Mr Hodgkinson and his team, especially as they are taking on additional land, without extra budget.

Councillor Farthing referred to the condition of the Industrial Estates and suggested the work on Walkways/Cycleways could be interlinked as certain routes would include passing the Industrial Estates.

Councillor Farthing also suggested that the Voluntary Sector could become involved with the Green Spaces project as Washington has a large area of trees/shrubs to deal with, and they might be able to link in with the Britain in Bloom competitions for example.

Mr Hodgkinson advised that they have tried to get different neighbourhoods and communities involved as well as including schoolchildren in the project as we needed the community to take ownership as part of the criteria for the Britain in Bloom competition, all of which does fall within the Green Spaces Project.

Councillor Kelly requested that the Road near Nissan be included in any connectivity/cycleways project as an individual had recently been killed on this road and it should be treated as one of the priorities.

The Chairman advised that it will be taken under advisement and that it could perhaps be looked at under a corporate project.

### 3. RESOLVED that the Committee

- (i) Considered the progress and performance update with regard to the Washington Place Board's Work Plan for 2012/13
- (ii) Agreed the recommendations of the Place Board for all Members to utilise the Service Directory for requests for services, agreed the winter

programme as detailed in the report, including the prioritisation of the shrub bed pruning, and to support the Place Board to identify suitable partnerships to deliver where appropriate.

## **People Board – Progress Report**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide the Committee with an update on the progress of the Washington Area People Board in relation to the current year's (2012/13) Work Plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Williams presented the report and requested Members approve the amended work plan attached as Annex 1 for the People Board to deliver on behalf of the Committee. Members agreed the work plan.

Councillor Williams introduced Karen Mallin, SNCBC who gave an update on the Youth Opportunities Project, advising that it was progressing really well and she would hopefully have a more comprehensive update at the next meeting.

Councillor Williams asked for Members input in relation to addressing housing conditions, particularly the issues occurring at the flats in Sulgrave.

Councillor Kelly commented that numerous work had been carried out and conversations have taken place with Alan Caddick. It was worth pointing out that there were some really nice people who lived in those flats who deserved to be protected.

Councillor Kelly commented that we had done as much as we could and it was now the engagement of the management team which needed to take place and we needed to give Mr Caddick and his team the time to carry out their work.

Councillor Dianne Snowdon advised that this was a regular item on LMAPS now.

Councillor Fletcher commented that communications between the Management Company and the Police needed to be resumed as the relationship had broken down.

Councillor Thompson commented that this was a complex issue that needed a suitable amount of time allocated to it to try and deal with. Councillor Thompson also informed that the Police did not have the right to enter a private property without permission unless there had been a breach of the peace.

Councillor H. Trueman commented that he was pleased to see efforts were being made in trying to tackle the issue.

Councillor Williams then introduced John Rostron, VCS Network Representative who advised that stage 2 of a Reaching Communities proposal had been submitted and was to be determined and it would be May before the Family Resilience programme

would happen if successful. They were also working on a bid to Tudor Trust for funding and could share information with Members outside of the meeting if required.

In relation to the Work Plan, Councillor Kelly enquired how the advertising of entrepreneurships would be carried out.

Karon Purvis, Area Officer advised that as there were limited funds and the scheme was oversubscribed, the plan was for referrals to go through existing organisations.

Councillor Kelly felt that he had to disagree with this approach as it should be opened up, giving everyone the opportunity to apply.

The Chairman commented that this was a good point and was something that could be noted and considered through the Board meetings.

Councillor H. Trueman wished to advise Members of the recent survey circulated by the Police Commissioner Vera Baird on what her priorities needed to be, and hoped that Members would complete this as it could affect their areas.

Councillor David Snowdon referred to the work carried out on tackling NEET's and advised that current due to Government cuts programmes had been scrapped, with Sunderland the second hardest place to find employment and he was proud of the work undertaken in the Washington Area to try and remedy this.

Councillor David Snowdon also commented that with the Welfare reforms, there was a need to concentrate on giving residents advice over the increased cost of living and to support constituents over issues such as the bedroom tax and such like.

Councillor Williams agreed and advised that she believed Gentoo were already working on this.

Colin McCartney, Gentoo advised that they have been proactive in trying to keep residents informed of the potential impact of changes.

Councillor H. Trueman informed the Committee that Alan Caddick was putting together a toolkit for Members to inform of the changes that were imminent.

Councillor Kelly enquired if a resident applied to move to a home with fewer bedrooms, would they receive any relief on the tax whilst they were waiting for a new home, due to the fact that there were no properties available for them to move into at present.

Mr McCartney advised that this was being looked at and consideration was given on the possibility of managed moves. They also try to utilise the mutual exchange system.

4. RESOLVED that the Committee

- (i) Approved the amended work plan attached as Annex 1 for the People Board to deliver on behalf of the Committee,
- (ii) Considered the progress and performance update with regard to the Washington People Board's Work Plan for 2012/13.

**Change in Order of Business**

The Chairman advised that Item 7 – Sunderland Health and Wellbeing Strategy would be considered next to allow the presenting officer to attend another engagement.

**Sunderland Health & Wellbeing Strategy**

The Executive Director of Health Housing and Adult Services and Head of Strategy, Policy and Performance submitted a report and powerpoint presentation (copy circulated) to update the Area Committees on the development of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

(for copy report and presentation – see original minutes)

5. RESOLVED that the Committee:-

- (i) Approved the headline strategy as attached in Appendix 1
- (ii) Noted the approval process and timescales.

**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) and to note the Community Chest initiatives that would benefit the area.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

In relation to the Community Health and Green Space Improvement Project, Councillor Farthing suggested that once the routes and connections had been determined that a clearer map should be produced, something which may be funded by sponsorship from local businesses.

Councillor Dianne Snowdon agreed that a simplified map of the cycleways/walking routes was needed.

Councillor F. Miller referred to the implementation of the Olympic and Paralympic legacy programme and enquired if any work would be done to include the disabled.

The Chairman advised that this was something that would be included.

Councillor Kelly advised that there were a raft of activities in place for people with disabilities.

6. RESOLVED that the Committee:-

- i) Noted the financial statement set out in the report
- ii) Approved £13,000 as a contribution from the 2012/13 SIB budget for the North East Aircraft Museum Access Road project;
- iii) Approved £26,000 as a contribution from the 2012/13 SIB budget for the Washington Heritage Festival 2013;
- iv) Approved £8,500 as a contribution from the 2012/13 SIB budget for the Washington Young People's Forum;
- v) Approved £7,997 as a contribution from the 2012/13 SIB budget for the Washington Illumination 2013
- vi) Approved the ring fencing of £50,000 for the Community Health and Green Spaces Project as detailed in Annex 2 of the report; and
- vii) Noted the 10 approvals supported from 2012/2013 Community Chest as set out in Annex 3 of the report.

### **Tyne and Wear Fire Service Update**

The Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service Submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide the Committee with Performance Monitoring details in relation to the Local Indicators for the Washington area.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Steve Anderson presented the report and was on hand to answer Members queries.

Councillor Thompson enquired if the 35% reduction in incidents had anything to do with the bad weather we had experienced. Mr Anderson advised that there can be a correlation between the two but also that the Fire Service had become more pro active as well

In response to Councillor Dianne Snowdon's query, Mr Anderson advised that they use a mosaic system to work out which areas to tackle pro actively.

7. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

## **Area Community Voluntary Sector Network**

John Rostron provided a verbal presentation to the Committee and requested Members consideration as to how the Network and Area Committee wish to continue working together as the Area Arrangements evolve.

Mr Rostron advised that Washington had already lost one major organisation in the voluntary sector and the last refresh of priorities was to incorporate the VCS priorities. Not a great deal of work had been done on this and it was asked if this was still something the Area Committee wished to do.

There was a requirement to understand the Area Committees needs to see what the Voluntary Sector could help with and vice versa.

There was also the need to be aware that there may be gaps in provision which needed to be recognised at Council level.

Mr Rostron also cautioned that Washington Area Committee could be held back as the other Areas try to catch up in trying to build relationships with their Voluntary Sectors as this Committee has done previously. If this VCS doesn't have the capacity then it can't meet the Committees needs and they did not want to lose momentum.

Mr Rostron also enquired if Members wished for a regular VCS Network Item to be included on the agenda for future Committees.

The Chairman commented that in his role as chair of the VCS Network and chair of this Committee he would support the VCS and make sure their importance was recognized.

Councillor H. Trueman commented that we were very fortunate to have the Voluntary Sector and the people such as Mr Rostron and others in the organisation. The VCS was very important and felt there needed to be a written report included from them on future agendas for Members to be able to comment on and Councillor Trueman wished to thank them for all the work they do.

Councillor F. Miller commented that if it were not for the Voluntary Sector, a great deal of people would not have jobs and they were key to our needs therefore they should be supported.

The Chairman commented that he was sure Members of this Committee would strive to support the VCS, especially as our dependence on them would only increase, due to the financial cuts we faced.

Councillor Dianne Snowdon enquired if Mr Rostron would be happy to produce a written report for future meetings of this Committee.

Mr Rostron advised that the representatives of the voluntary sector would collectively produce a report for future meetings.

8. RESOLVED that an agenda item be dedicated to the Voluntary Community Sector to provide a written report at future meetings of the Area Committee.

The Chairman wished to advise the Committee that the Washington State of the Area Debate would be held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April, 6pm at Biddick Sports College.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting

(Signed) B. SCAPLEHORN,  
Chairman.