

**At a meeting of the WASHINGTON AREA COMMITTEE held in THE MILLENNIUM CENTRE, THE OVAL, CONCORD, WASHINGTON, on THURSDAY, 21<sup>st</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2023 at 6.00p.m.**

**Present:-**

Councillor Warne in the Chair

Councillors Chapman, Fletcher, Guy, F. Miller, D. Trueman, H. Trueman, M. Walker, P. Walker, and Williams

**Also in Attendance:-**

Pauline Hopper	-	Partnership and Community Resilience Manager (Coalfield), SCC
Sandra Stephenson	-	Partnership and Community Resilience Manager (Washington), SCC
Paul Wood	-	Principal Governance Services Officer, Sunderland City Council
Marc Morley	-	, SCC
Sylvia Copley	-	Area Network Representative
Bethan Wilkie	-	Gentoo
Inspector Phil Baker	-	Northumbria Police

And Members of the Press and Public

**Apologies for Absence**

There were apologies for absence from Councillors Laws and D. E. Snowdon.

**Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of Interest.

**Minutes of the last meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2023 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

## **Washington Area Committee Delivery Plan 2023 - 2026**

The Assistant Director of Housing and Communities submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update on the progress against the Area Committee's Area Plan priorities, which would be the focus for the Washington Area Committee during 2023-2024.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Sandra Stephenson, Partnership and Community Resilience Manager (Washington), presented the report and was on hand to answer any queries raised by Members.

Referring to the feasibility study that was in development at Fatfield Riverside, Councillor Chapman commented that these could be costly and enquired if residents opinions had been sought. Ms Stephenson advised that the preliminary work had been done and this was due to be discussed at the next Board meeting.

Councillor F. Miller referred to Page 20 of the agenda and the Warm Spaces-developing Community Hubs Project, informing the Committee she was due to have discussions with Graham Scanlon and a professor about a specialist service where users would only have to speak to one person and suggested this may be worth Area Committee consideration to try and provide a tailor-made service. Ms Stephenson advised that they were potentially looking at creating task and finish groups on these.

In response to Councillor Fletcher advising that Mickeys Place was not mentioned as part of the Food Bank Support Project on page 23, Ms Stephenson advised that they should have been and assured that they would be included in the future reports.

Councillor Williams highlighted that the Bread and Butter Project was also not included. Ms Stephenson commented that this was within a different service area which Officers hadn't received the information on yet but they would keep an eye on this project also.

### **2. RESOLVED that the Committee**

- i) Considered the progress and performance update with regard to Washington Area Committee Area Plan 2023-2026; and
- ii) Considered the progress update with regard to Sunderland City Council Service Plans – Area Priorities, for information purposes only.

## **Partner Agency Reports**

### **a) Northumbria Police**

Northumbria Police submitted a report which provided data on crime and disorder in the Washington area comparing 'Year to date' figures with the preceding year.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Inspector Phil Baker was in attendance and ran through the figures in relation to the Washington area for the 8 week period of 29<sup>th</sup> June – 30<sup>th</sup> August 2023 and advised that whilst the figures for ASB were still low they had seen a significant spike of incidents at the Galleries Shopping Centre. They had met with the Centre Management and Go North East Management over Bus Centre issues and extra resource was being allocated to help around this area.

Councillor Williams commented that it was nice to see some successes but added that ASB was a hard issue to crack and she was seeing instances where residents had stopped reporting incidents therefore she was not sure how this could be dealt with, and suggested that a campaign of some sort was needed to tackle the lack of trust within the community and get something positive to move forwards.

Inspector Baker advised of a similar discussion at the Coalfield Area Committee and the Police were to link in with the VCS and partners to use their social media and he was due to attend their next VCS meeting.

Councillor Williams suggested a leaflet drop to those areas most affected advising of what was being done and to request that residents report any incidents.

Ms Pauline Hopper, Partnership and Community Resilience Manager (Coalfield) advised that they were to use the Communities to get the message out via either leaflets or electronic communications and they would discuss this and bring their ideas forward to share.

Councillor Fletcher informed of ASB in Sulgrave with vehicles being driven down paths and would pass on further details if further reports received and requested the Inspector be kept abreast of this.

Full consideration having been given to the report, the Chairman thanked Inspector Baker for his attendance and it was:-

3. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted

**b) TWFRS**

The Tyne and Wear Fire Service submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided performance-monitoring details in relation to the Local Indicators for the Washington Area Committee from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023, compared with the same period in 2022

(for copy report – see original minutes)

As there was no representation from the Fire Authority at this meeting, it was agreed to consider a full report at the next meeting.

4. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

**c) Washington Area Community Voluntary Sector Network**

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

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms Sylvia Copley, VCS Representative presented the report on behalf of the Network and advised that they were in the process of recruiting a third VCS Representative and work overall was progressing well so wished to thank Ms Stephenson for her support.

Ms Copley also advised that local people were currently identifying their priorities via the Big Breakfast events.

The Chairman thanked Ms Copley for her report, and it was:-

5. RESOLVED that the content of the report and the opportunities and issues raised by the Washington Area Voluntary and Community Sector Network be received and noted.

**d) Gentoo**

Gentoo provided a report to the Committee on current Gentoo developments, projects and priorities for the period June 2023 to September 2023.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Mrs Bethan Wilkie, Gentoo presented the report advising that all Members were included in the Invitation from Louise Bassett, CEO of Gentoo Group and the Estate Walks arranged, referred to in paragraphs 3.1 and 3.2 of the report.

In relation to Paragraph 3.4 and the intention to recruit 6 Gentoo customers to

the Tenant Committee, Councillor Fletcher enquired if these positions would be from the Washington area or across the City. Ms Wilkie advised that they would be from across the City and it would depend on who applies as to if they were from Washington.

Councillor Fletcher commented that there needed to be a balance across the Committee and it would not be fair if there was no representation from Washington.

Councillor Williams agreed and suggested that there was a need for this discussion at the meeting with Louise Bassett. In relation to the report Councillor Williams commented that there was a lot going on and she looked forward to how Gentoo moved forward in the future.

Councillor G. Miller supported the point made by Councillor Fletcher commenting that the biggest strength Gentoo had, had been their Tenant Boards which were no longer operational and this creation of one singular Tenant Committee was a partial solution but they must have representation that covers all parts of the City and he hoped in future that the number of Committees would increase.

Councillor G. Miller also commented that in terms of interviewing for these posts that he hoped it wouldn't be a corporate exercise as they may miss out on some genuine candidates/residents who could give real insight to the Committee. Ms Wilkie advised that she would feed back the Committees comments and suggestions.

The Chairman thanked Ms Wilkie for the report

6. RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted.

### **Washington Area Budget Report**

The Assistant Director of Community Resilience submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided a financial statement as an update position on progress in relation to allocating Area Committee Funds, Neighbourhood Investment Capital Programme and Community Chest as well as presenting proposals for further funding requests.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Ms Stephenson presented the report, drawing the Committee's attention to the current financial position of the Area Committee Neighbourhood Fund 2023/2024 as set out in paragraph 2.1 and 3.2, and the Community Chest approvals in Annex 4.

Councillor M. Walker referred to the Washington Events 23/24 application and requested that there be specific terms for when the applicant put out marketing as previously the publicity put out was really late with a lot of

resident feedback stating that they didn't find out about events until late and requested that this be fed back to the applicant.

Ms Stephenson advised that she would feed this back when she met with the applicant and this could be written into the terms for future. The Chairman supported Councillor M. Walkers comments and suggested that he would like to be part of the discussions with Community Opportunities and would bring back details of these for info.

In relation to Application 1 – Washington 60 Design Challenge, Councillor Williams commented that she was really excited to see this project progress and enquired as to when this would be sent out to Schools. Ms Stephenson advised that the emails were being drafted as they spoke so would be imminent.

Full consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

7. RESOLVED that the Committee:-

- i) Noted the financial statements set out in Section 2.1 and 3.2 of the report;
- ii) Approved £30,000 of the Neighbourhood Fund for the Washington 60 Design Challenge, as set out in (Application 1) Item 4 Annex 1 of the report;
- iii) Approved £70,000 of the Neighbourhood Fund for the Washington Events 23/24, as set out in (Application 2) Item 4 Annex 1 of the report; and
- iv) Noted the Community Chest approvals supported from 2023/2024 as detailed in Item 4 Annex 2 of the report

### **Planning Applications – For Information Only**

Current Planning Applications relating to the Washington Area for the period 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2023 to 23<sup>rd</sup> August, 2023 were submitted for Members information only (copy circulated).

(For copy report – see original minutes)

8. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting

(Signed) J. WARNE,  
Chairman.