

At a meeting of the EAST SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE, SUNDERLAND on TUESDAY, 25th JUNE, 2013 at 5.30p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Ball in the Chair

Councillors Emerson, Errington, Farr, Forbes, E. Gibson, Kay, Maddison, Marshall, McClennan, T. Martin, Mordey, Scanlan and Wood

Also Present:-

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| Andrew Carton | - East Locality Manager, Sunderland City Council |
| Hazel Clark | - East VCS Network Representative |
| Alan Duffy | - Head of Operations, Gentoo |
| Philip Foster | - Care and Support, Health Housing and Adult Services, Sunderland City Council |
| David Groark | - Area Response Manager, Sunderland City Council |
| Mick Hall | - Northumbria Police |
| Paula Hunt | - East VCS Network Representative |
| Matthew Jackson | - Governance Services Officer, Sunderland City Council |
| Kasia Kurowska | - Partnership Manager, Age UK Sunderland |
| Trish Lynn | - Operations and Performance Manager, SNCBC |
| Jen McKevitt | - East VCS Network Representative |
| Keith Moore | - Executive Director of Children's Services and Area Lead Executive, Sunderland City Council |
| Gillian Robinson | - Area Co-ordinator, Sunderland City Council |
| Nicky Rowland | - Area Response Manager, Sunderland City Council |
| Jamie Southwell | - Northumbria Police |
| Nicol Trueman | - Area Community Officer, Sunderland City Council |
| Claire Tully | - Community Relations Officer, Nexus |

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received on behalf of Councillor Price along with Joe Cummings and Chris Marshall.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 22nd April, 2013

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 22nd April, 2013 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Setting the Scene for 2013/14

The Chairman delivered a presentation which informed the Committee of the work that had been done over the last year and the work that was to be done over the coming year.

Councillor Wood queried what role the People Board would play in the consultation on the libraries. Councillor Emerson advised that an additional meeting of the board had been arranged to look at this consultation.

Councillor Forbes queried whether there were any restrictions on how the £20,000 of health funding could be spent. Nicol Trueman advised that an indication of how the funding could be spent would be provided and that the funding allocations would be approved by the Area Committee.

Councillor Mordey advised that there would be a breakdown of where Section 106 funding and Play and Urban Games Strategy funds had been spent sent to Members and that it would be discussed by the Place Board.

2. RESOLVED that the presentation be received and noted.

Partner Agency Reports – Report of the East VCS Area Network

The VCS Network submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with an update on the work the area network had delivered since April 2013.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Jen McKeivitt introduced the report and drew Members attention to the key areas of influence and achievements of the East VCS Area Network.

Paula Hunt added that there had been a series of meetings held with the representatives. Last week there had been a meeting held at Ryhope CA and the outcomes of this meeting would be circulated.

Councillor McClennan stated that it would be useful to know the number of organisations which had expressed an interest in supporting the Area Committee priorities. Ms Trueman agreed to provide this information.

3. RESOLVED that the report of the East VCS Area Network be noted.

Partner Agency Report – Northumbria Police

Neighbourhood Inspector Mick Hall presented an update on the crime statistics for the Sunderland Central area. He advised that across the entire force area this area had seen the biggest reduction in the number of crimes over the last year. In Millfield there had been 1000 fewer crimes.

Compared with this time last year there had been some increases. All crime in the area had increased by 38 additional crimes; there had been 35 additional vehicle crimes which had mostly been opportunist thefts from vehicles when people had left items on display. Burglaries had increased by 24 crimes; 13 of these had been burglaries of sheds and garages. There had been 33 additional thefts of bikes from the city centre which had partly been due to people leaving their bikes unlocked; the people responsible for 20 of these thefts had been imprisoned.

Anti social behaviour had decreased significantly with 300 fewer calls, a 36 percent reduction.

Inspector Jamie Southwell provided the figures for the Ryhope and St Michaels and Hendon area. He stated that it had been a challenge to maintain the reductions. There had been 48 fewer crimes across the area when all of the other force areas had shown an increase. Burglary was at the same level as last year; there had been work to target offenders. Theft from vehicles had increased by 6 crimes; this was mostly opportunist thefts from unlocked vehicles; there had also been an increase in thefts of car parts. Burglary other than dwellings had reduced by 12 percent and there had been 10 fewer cases of criminal damage. Metal thefts were not as much of a problem as they had been however over the last couple of weeks there had been an increase; two gangs who had been responsible for these have been caught and there had been an arrest made in connection with the headstone stolen from Sunderland Cemetery.

Youth Anti Social Behaviour had reduced by 14 percent while all Anti Social Behaviour had reduced by 23 percent.

Councillor Mordey referred to the homophobic attack reported in the Sunderland Echo; he asked whether there was a problem with hate crimes in the area. Inspector Southwell advised that it was an unusual incident and it was being investigated. An arrest had been made in connection with the incident.

In response to a query from Councillor Scanlan inspector Hall stated that a lot the violence in the city was related to alcohol. Out of 812 crimes only 14 had been racially motivated incidents. Inspector Southwell added that in his area the majority of violent crimes had occurred within the home with the offender being known to the victim.

4. RESOLVED that the update from Northumbria Police be noted.

Partner Agency Report – Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service Update

The Chairman advised that as there was not a representative of the Fire and Rescue Service in attendance that the item would be deferred to a future meeting of the Committee.

Place Board Progress Report

The Chair of the Place Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update on the progress against the Place Board's Work Plan for 2013/14.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Scanlan, Chair of the People Board, presented the report and advised the Committee of the membership of the board; the boards were open to all Members to attend however only core Members needed to attend as the information would be fed back to the other Members by the core Members.

Nicky Rowland then provided an update on the dog fouling issue in the area; she advised that it was a bigger issue than the statistics suggested. Resources had been targeted in areas where there were the biggest problems and work had been done with the enforcement officers from other areas. Within Ryhope there had been a number of warnings issued and two fixed penalty notices.

Councillor Scanlan then referred to the Millfield Gateway project. She advised that this was the only project not to have started and this was due to consultation still being carried out with residents; the project would be considered by a future meeting of the board.

Councillor Wood referred to the works at Grangetown shops. There was an urgent need for work to be done to improve this shopping centre which served the residents of three wards. He also asked what the savings on Ryhope Road had been. Nicky Rowland advised that there had been £20,000 allocated to the works on Ryhope Road, there had been £6,000 spent on trees with a further £2,000 spent on labour costs. There had been a request to

spend some of this remaining funding on extending the scheme to B & Q at Grangetown.

Councillor Kay referred to the visits which had been undertaken as part of the gateway project. He advised that all of the shopping centres in the area were different however all of them were in need of improvement. He felt that there was a need to get residents and businesses involved; at Hylton Road there had been engagement with residents and businesses on other issues and there had been a good level of dialogue achieved.

5. RESOLVED that:-
 - a. The membership of the Place Board, as set out in paragraph 3.1 be agreed.
 - b. The report, work plan and forward plan be noted.
 - c. The proposed shopping centres to be included in the Gateway Programme 2 be agreed.

People Board Progress Report

The Chair of the People Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Members with an update on the progress made against the People Board's work plan for 2013/14 and sought approval of the membership of the board.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Emerson, Chair of the People Board, introduced the report and advised the Committee that the proposed Membership of the board was detailed at paragraph 3.1 of the report. For members information he also advised that Councillors Forbes and T. Martin would continue to be the LMAPS representatives for the area.

Andrew Carton referred to the work that had been done around NEETs; he advised that there had been a meeting held with organisations who provided support to NEETs and as a result of this the focus of the work had been expanded. There had been a spreadsheet developed which showed the NEET young people in the area and also detailed what services they were engaged with.

Councillor T. Martin stated that there was a need for schools to sell the benefits of apprenticeships to pupils. There were a number of companies in the area which provided apprenticeships.

Councillor McClennan asked for further information on the events for young people which were to be held; she wanted to know whether there would be one event or several local events. Local events were preferable as young people might find it difficult to get to centralised events. She also advised that there was a job fair being held at Chance in July and suggested that the event for Hendon could be tied in with this job fair. Mr Carton advised that originally

there would have been one event for the area however there was now to be 5 local events across the area. There was an event at Hendon Young People's Project arranged however he agreed to work with the job fair at Chance to provide additional support.

Councillor Kay stated that the £500 for the events was very good value for money. He queried how many people would be targeted by the events. Nicol Trueman advised that work would be done with the Connexions advisors so that the right people were targeted. Keith Moore advised that there was an event being held at the Stadium of Light to link businesses with schools.

Councillor Emerson then referred to the Football Association National Game Strategy and advised that the list of recommended locations had now been narrowed down to a shortlist of three sites which were Backhouse Park, Hendon Grange and Tunstall Hill.

Councillor Errington asked for clarification of which ward the goalposts at Tunstall Hill would be in. Nicky Rowland advised that the site was within Doxford Ward.

Councillor Mordey queried what size the goal posts would be and also expressed concerns that the Hendon Grange site might not be big enough for a full size pitch. Ms Rowland advised that there had been the option of full size or five-a-side goals and it had been agreed that full size goals be installed. There would not be pitches marked out. Ms Trueman added that the sites would be more of a kick about area than formal football pitches and if the sites were not used it would be possible to move the goalposts to another site.

Councillor Forbes referred to the proposal to install goalposts in Backhouse Park; most of the land was sloping and would not be suitable, she queried where in the park the goalposts would be installed and also asked whether the Friends of Backhouse Park group had been consulted. Ms Rowland advised that the goalposts would be installed on an area of hard standing at the top of the park where young people currently played.

The Chair agreed that the friends group should be consulted prior to any work being undertaken.

Councillor Kay expressed concerns over the proposed locations; Hendon Grange and Backhouse Park were very close together and Tunstall Hill was inaccessible and not all of the young people in the area would be within an accessible distance of the facilities. He felt that there needed to be investigation into whether there were any other locations available. He also stated that Galleys Gill was not an appropriate location and it was good to see that this had not been shortlisted.

Jen McKeivitt stated that there were a lack of facilities in Middle Hendon; she suggested that the land at Salem Street could be used for play facilities. Ms Trueman advised that this would be looked at a part of the Play and Urban

Games Project which was a much larger project than the FA National Game Strategy.

Councillor Scanlan queried why only 3 locations had been chosen and asked whether the Area Committee could fund any additional goal posts. Ms Trueman stated that the funding provided had been shared evenly across the five areas of the city and this had resulted in there being 3 goal posts available for each area; to fund additional goal posts there would be a need to look at what the ongoing maintenance costs would be.

6. RESOLVED that:-
 - a. The report, work plan, forward plan and youth commissioning update be noted.
 - b. The membership of the People Board and east LMAPS as detailed in paragraph 3 be approved.
 - c. The area based local authority governors to investigate and feedback what level of impartial career guidance was being delivered by local secondary schools by September 2013.
 - d. A SIB project proposal on encouraging local business to enrol a young apprentice be presented to a future meeting for consideration.
 - e. The 3 goal post locations be agreed as Backhouse Park, Hendon Grange and Tunstall Hill.

Community Chest and Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) – Financial Statement and Proposals for Further Allocation of Resources

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Members with the financial statement for the allocation of Community Chest and SIB and requested the Committee to give consideration to the allocation of SIB funding.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Nicol Trueman presented the report and advised Members of the financial statements which were set out in paragraphs 2.1 and 3.1. She also drew Members attention to the previously approved Community Chest applications which were detailed at Annex 1. Members were also asked to agree to align £2,500 of SIB funding to the NEET Roadshow Project to cover the costs of hosting the road shows across the area targeting young people; this was the result of work done by the People Board and should Members agree to align the funds to the project there would still be £370,178 of SIB available to be allocated.

Councillor Mordey referred to the proposal to align funding to the NEET roadshows; he stated that it seemed like a very small amount of money and was concerned that it would lead to the events being run on a shoestring. He felt that if further funding was required that the Chairman be approached to agree additional funding.

Andrew Carton advised that the funding was only to cover certain costs associated with the roadshows and that he was willing to approach the providers to see whether they felt additional funding would be required. Ms Trueman added that there had been discussions on this matter and it had been agreed that £500 each was sufficient to allow the operation of the roadshows.

Councillor Mordey then asked whether there had been any new allocations of funding for the Walk and Talks; he also stated that he felt that there should be a walk and talk budget for the city centre. Ms Trueman advised that there had not been any new allocation yet as the budget from last year had not been fully spent yet.

7. RESOLVED that:-
 - a. The financial statements set out in paragraphs 2.1 and 3.1 be noted.
 - b. The 18 approved Community Chest applications detailed in Annex 1 be noted.
 - c. £2,500 be aligned to the NEET roadshow project as set out in section 3.2 and should further funding be required for the project the Chairman be given the authority to agree the funds on behalf of the Committee.

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

(Signed) E. BALL,
Chairman.