

**At a Meeting of the NORTH SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held at
CASTLE VIEW SCHOOL, CARTWRIGHT ROAD, SUNDERLAND on
THURSDAY, 8TH JUNE, 2006 at 5.30 p.m.**

Present:-

Councillor Mann in the Chair

Councillors Ambrose, Bell, Bohill, Foster, G. Hall, J. Walton and L. Walton.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Charlton, Howe, Stewart and Symonds.

Minutes

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee (copy circulated) held on 8th March, 2006 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Declarations of Interest

The respective Councillors declared interests in the undermentioned items of business as follows:-

Item 6 - Positive Futures Update

Councillor Foster declared a personal interest as a member of the Positive Futures Management Committee.

Item 8 - Regeneration Issues Report : Feedback on Projects Previously Funded Through Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB)

Councillor G. Hall declared a personal interest in respect of the feedback report from St. Peter's Community Development Trust as Secretary of the Trust.

Councillor Mann declared a personal interest in respect of the feedback report from St. Peter's Community Development Trust as Chairman of Sunderland North Community Business Centre.

Item 10 - Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) : Regeneration Issues Report

The following Councillors declared personal and prejudicial interests in the following applications and withdrew from the meeting before the Committee gave consideration to the applications:-

Councillor Ambrose in respect of Southwick Primary School as a Governor at the school;

Councillor Foster in respect of Castletown Primary School as a Governor of the school; and

Councillor Bell in respect of Castle View School as a Governor at the school.

Item 10, Annex 2 - Projects Previously Approved Subject to Budget Approval for Financial Year 2006/09

Councillor G. Hall declared a personal and prejudicial interest in respect of North Community Support Project as Secretary of St. Peter's Development trust and withdrew from the meeting before the Committee gave consideration to the application.

Councillor Mann declared personal and prejudicial interests in respect of North Community Support Project as Chairman of Sunderland North Community Business Centre, in respect of Castle View School as a Governor at the school and in respect of the Construction Challenge Project as a Council appointed Board Member of North Sunderland Housing Company and withdrew from the meeting before the Committee gave consideration to these applications. Councillor Foster took the Chair for the application in respect of Castle View School and Councillor Bell took the Chair in respect of Sunderland Housing Group's Construction Challenge and North Community Support Project.

Councillor Foster declared a personal and prejudicial interest in respect of the application from Castletown Primary School as a Governor at the school and withdrew from the meeting before the Committee gave consideration to the application.

Presentation from Northumbria Police on Crime Rates Relating to the North Sunderland Area

Inspector Patterson presented a statistics document illustrating crime rates in the North Sunderland Area.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Inspector Patterson reported an overall reduction in crime of 14% and was pleased to be able to report year on year reductions. Inspector Patterson updated the Committee with crime rates relating to each ward.

Southwick	-	overall 7% reduction
St. Peter's	-	overall 21% reduction
Redhill	-	overall 13% reduction
Fulwell	-	overall 26% reduction
Castle	-	overall 5% reduction

Efforts were being particularly focused on Castle Ward and it was hoped that if the bid for Police Community Supports Officer was successful, they could be deployed in the ward.

Boarded up houses and the ongoing building works in the Castletown area were often drawing the attention of young people and could in part explain the overall increase in crime.

The Chairman having thanked Inspector Patterson for his report and welcomed the overall reduction in crime, it was:-

2. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Skate Park Presentation

The Chairman introduced a group of young people from Redby Primary and Fulwell Junior Schools who were pursuing the possibility of a Skate Park being developed in the Seaburn area.

The young people explained that they had met with their Councillor who had suggested they start a petition. Over 100 people signed the petition and between twenty five and thirty young people came together at the Seaburn Centre where they met with Councillor Mel Speding, Portfolio Holder for Culture and Leisure.

The young people were often told by neighbours not to skate near their homes, but the nearest skate part in South Shields was too far away. The site at the back of Morrisons had been identified as a possibility. A funding application had been submitted to Barclays for £50,000 and the outcome of this would be known in July. The total cost of the project would be £80,000.

Councillor Bohill supported the young people but expressed concern regarding safety. He requested copies of the plans and funding requirements. Su Yip, Project Development Manager, advised that work was being undertaken with the Police to minimise problems and it was hoped that as the proposed site was close to Morrisons, this would help. Parents had

expressed their willingness to supervise their children as they were currently transporting them to South Shields and other parts of Sunderland.

Councillor G. Hall enquired about the proposed site for the skate park. Ms. Yip advised that the Council owned the land that contained a disused football pavilion that was to be demolished. The covenant on the land stipulated that the land must be used for recreational purposes. Property Services had agreed to fund the demolition of the pavilion if funding is secured for the development of a skate park.

The Chairman having thanked the young people for their presentation, it was:-

3. RESOLVED that the presentation be noted.

Positive Futures Update

The Director of Community and Cultural Services submitted a report (copy circulated) to update the Area Committee with regards to the Positive Futures Programme in Sunderland.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

In response to a question from the Chairman, Su Yip, Development Manager, advised that the Positive Futures Programme was operating in the North of the City.

Councillor Foster commented that similar organisations were operating in other parts of the City. Positive Futures was not about rewarding bad behaviour and had proved to be a hugely successful scheme.

Councillor G. Hall commented that he was aware of some young people who were outside the age range for the football. Ms. Yip advised that Sunderland Football Club was looking to provide more activities.

4. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Housing and Council Tax Benefit Progress Report

The City Treasurer submitted a report (copy circulated) to inform Members of the performance of the Benefits Section in the processing of new claims (BVPI 78a) Best Value Performance Indicator for Housing and Council Tax Benefit. The report covered the period 1st April, 2005 – 31st March, 2006.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Steve Atkinson, Benefits Manager, advised that the current year could prove more problematic due to an upgrade of computer systems that would lead to a period of 'downtime', but that publicity would follow at the appropriate time so customers were kept informed of developments.

5. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

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

The Director of Development and Regeneration submitted a report (copy circulated) providing information to the Area Committee on expenditure from the Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) on the following projects it had previously funded:

- St. Peter's Community Development Trust; and
- Development of Hydrotherapy Pool – Fulwell Day Centre

The Chairman introduced Estelle Brown from Sunderland North Community Business Centre and Ged Donkin, Assistant Manager at Fulwell Day Centre.

The representatives having answered Members' questions, it was:-

6. RESOLVED that the presentation of feedback reports be received and noted.

Strategic Initiatives Budget Update

The Director of Development and Regeneration 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 Budget.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Members having given full consideration to the report, it was: -

7. RESOLVED that the report be noted.

Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) : Regeneration Issue Report

The Director of Development and Regeneration submitted a report (copy circulated) on proposed allocation of Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) funding to the following initiatives to benefit the area:-

- (i) Barnes Park Café and Craft Workshop;
- (ii) Hylton Park;
- (iii) Sit n b Fit – Independent Living of Sunderland's elderly people;
- (iv) Southwick Primary School;
- (v) Castletown Primary School;
- (vi) Marley Potts Play Barn;
- (vii) Extensions of funding for Friends of Hylton Dene Project;
- (viii) Formally endorse the approval of projects, previously considered subject to Budget approval, from the 2006/07 budget.

Pamela Marshall presented the application in respect of Barnes Park Café; Ken Rutherford in respect of Hylton Park; Lynn Summerside in respect of Sit n b Fit; and Rob Hennessey in respect of Castletown Primary.

8. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) approval be given to the allocations of Strategic Initiatives Budget funding of:-
 - (i) £2,500 from the 2006/07 budget as a contribution to developing the Barnes Park Café and Craft Workshop;
 - (ii) £10,000 from the 2006/07 budget as a contribution to providing play equipment in Hylton Park;
 - (iii) £3,120 from the 2006/07 budget as a contribution to improving the health and independent living of Sunderland's elderly people;
 - (iv) £3,235 from the 2006/07 budget for the provision of an air conditioning unit at the Community IT Facility at Castletown Primary School;
- (ii) approval be given to extending funding for the Friends of Hylton Dene project for 6 months;
- (iii) approval be given to projects previously considered from the 2006/07 budget; and
- (iv) the applications in respect of Southwick Primary School and Marley Potts Play Barn be deferred until the next meeting of the Committee as representatives from the organisations were not present.

Strategic Initiatives Budget : 2006/07 Ward Based Community Chest

The Director of Development and Regeneration submitted a report and an addendum (copies circulated) to bring forward fifteen proposals relating to the 2006/07 Community Chest scheme.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

9. RESOLVED that approval be given to the fifteen projects recommended for support from the 2006/07 Community Chest with a total value of £9,548 as detailed in Annexes 1 and 1A.

Signed) L. MANN,
Chairman.

T. FOSTER,
Chairman.