

At a meeting of the NORTH SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in the BUNNY HILL CENTRE, HYLTON LANE, SUNDERLAND on MONDAY, 19th SEPTEMBER, 2011 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Bell in the Chair

Councillors Bonallie, Charlton, Copeland, Curran, S. Foster, T. Foster, Francis, Howe, MacKnight, Shattock, Stewart and Wiper

Also in Attendance:-

Insp. Tony Carty	- Northumbria Police
Mr. Les Clark	- Head of Streetscene, Sunderland City Council
Ms. Ruth Coyne	- Network Representative, Oblivion
Ms. Jane Eland	- Quality Assurance Manager, Sunderland City Council
Mr. Bill Forster	- Tyne and Wear Fire Service
Mr. Mike Foster	- Deputy Executive Director Children's Services
Ms. Gillian Gibson	- Consultant in Public Health, Teaching Primary Care Trust
Ms.Elizabeth Goodchild	- Strategy Development Coordinator, Sunderland City Council
Ms. Nicola Hawyes	- Community Delivery Support Officer, Sunderland City Council
Ms. Julie Lynn	- Area Officer (North), Sunderland City Council
Insp. Lisa Musgrove	- Northumbria Police
Mr. Ron Odunaiya	- Executive Director City Services, ALE (Area Lead Executive), Sunderland City Council
Ms. Andrea Seymour	- Solicitor, Sunderland City Council
Ms. Joanne Stewart	- Principal Governance Services Officer, Sunderland City Council
Mr. Ken Tearrs	- Strategic Development Director, SAFC Foundation

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman invited introductions around the room and opened the meeting. He also advised that this would be Inspector Musgrove's last meeting and thanked her for her hard work in supporting the Committee and wished her good luck in her new position. He welcomed Inspector Carty to the meeting who would be her replacement.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Walton and N. Wright and also from Mr. Graham Wharton, Salvation Army.

Declarations of Interest

Ms. Andrea Seymour, Solicitor, gave the Committee a presentation on declarations of interest and answered Members questions.

Item 2f – Community Chest, Strategic Initiative Budget and Strategic Investment Plan

Councillors MacKnight and Stewart declared personal and prejudicial interest in the application from Ear 4 U as members of the board of Impact and withdrew from the meeting whilst it was considered.

Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 11th July, 2011

Councillor T. Foster referred to page 5 of the minutes and asked that the minute be changed as Cornthwaite Park was located in Whitburn and not at the University as stated.

Councillor Copeland raised a query regarding motorcycle disturbances and was advised that this matter was dealt with under another item further on the agenda.

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 11th July, 2011 (copy circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to the statement regarding Cornthwaite Park being amended to read that it was located in Whitburn.

Community Action in the North – Progress Review

Activities for Young People

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which informed Members of the work that had been undertaken in relation to the activities for young people priority.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Jane Eland, Quality Assurance Manager, presented the report, thanking the Area Committee on behalf of the youth project providers and young people for the funding towards holiday provision during the summer months and advised that 5 projects had been undertaken, at which 355 young people had attended with a third of them taking part in three or more of the activities. She advised that an evaluation was underway and findings from this would be circulated to Members in due course.

She also advised Members that between November, 2011 and March, 2012 the service were planning a more targeted responsive approach to providing youth services. The responsive youth service would be a mobile team that would track and respond to peaks and hotspots of youth disorder and anti social behaviour across the North area using different methods of engaging with young people. Feedback would be circulated to Members in due course as to how this service had performed.

2. RESOLVED that:-

- i) the contents of the report be received and noted;
- ii) the SIB funding of £27,000 for the provision of holiday activities for young people as described in annex 4 be agreed;
- iii) the completion of a full audit of community use of schools within the North Sunderland Area be agreed;
- iv) the development of targeted activities for young people and hard to reach groups be agreed; and
- v) the development of a responsive youth service in the North Sunderland Area be given additional funding be agreed.

Attractive and Cared for Environment

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update on progress against agreed actions in the current years work plan with regards to the Attractive and Cared for Environment Priority.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Lynn advised that as the priorities for the group had extended beyond the Greening of the North it had been felt that it was the right time to review the membership of the group and proposed that individuals were invited to join the group from Groundwork, CEED, Gentoo, the Business Investment Team, Property Services, the Empty Property Assistant for the North Area and the Planning Service, with the Committees agreement.

She went on to update Members on the Responsive Local Services and the customer service requests they had received for 2010-2011, shopping centres and establishing what the current and future plans of owners of vacant or rundown properties were and neglected land and the work that had been undertaken to establish any areas, who owned it and action taken with landowners to improve those areas. Ms. Lynn also informed Members that an audit of statutory allotments was underway with a report expected in 2-3 weeks time which would provide information on each site and plot in the North Sunderland Area.

Councillor Copeland referred to issues at the back of Southwick Lane and Inspector Musgrove advised that this was an ongoing issue on the LMAPS agenda which would continue to be monitored and work undertaken to rectify issues and improve the area.

Councillor T. Foster referred to paragraph 3.3 of the report regarding empty properties and advised that Mr. Alan Caddick, Head of Housing, had recently given a presentation to the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee on this issue and had advised that a survey was to be undertaken. He commented that Members comments and views may be included as this piece of work if submitted to Mr. Caddick.

Councillor Stewart referred to the previous Greening of the North Task and Finish Group, and in particular the Quarry site and the removal of trees, and asked if a report could be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee on this topic. Ms. Lynn advised that they had engaged CEED and Groundworks to look at planting indigenous trees at the Quarry site and improving the area as a whole including walkways, etc. but that she would prepare a report for the next meeting offering more detail.

Councillors advised that they had received a number of complaints and concerns over garages in the North Sunderland Area parking vehicles on the grass verges at the sides of roads and using them as advertisements. Members also raised concerns over areas which were housing ark, Head of Street Scene, advised that this was an issue affecting areas across the city and that work was currently being undertaken to establish what penalties, if any, could be enforced by the Council. He explained there was a review of the policy being carried out which would provide a set of guidelines and rules as to how and when enforcements could be taken.

Mr. Odunaiya, Area Lead Executive, commented that data was being collected across the city around this issue and the Council needed to be clear as to what enforcements they could take and how best to approach the issue. City Services in line with the Planning Service needed to look at a pragmatic way to deal with concerns in the short term to start to see improvements being made.

Councillor Shattock referred to a fairground that had been situated in the North Area recently and asked if the Council were aware if they had had the relevant permissions. Inspector Musgrove advised that they had been aware of the site but the owners of the fairground had had the agreement of the landowner who had taken all Health and Safety responsibilities and therefore there was little the Police could do.

3. RESOLVED that:-

- i) the content of the report be received and noted;
- ii) the proposals for membership of the Task and Finish Group as set out be agreed; and
- iii) the actions proposed in paragraphs two to five of the report agree to be taken forward.

Anti Social Behaviour

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update on progress against agreed actions in the current years work plan with regards to the Anti Social Behaviour Priority.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Lynn presented the report advising that the task and finish group had met twice since the last meeting of the Committee to progress the Anti Social Behaviour priority. She advised Members of Operations that had taken place with the police to tackle Seafront Anti Social Behaviour and also informed Members of an event which had been held on 3rd and 4th September to combat motorcycle disorder at the Fulwell Quarry site, Sunderland North Community Sports Complex and the land that joined the two sites. She also updated Members on the current situation regarding the Castletown Warden Scheme, in proposing that it be developed to provide support area wide and be responsive to needs.

Councillor Howe asked what input Gentoo Anti Social Behaviour Teams had, if any, and was advised by Inspector Musgrove that the police worked quite closely with Gentoo as when offenders were residents in their properties one of their ASB team would visit with the police to help with enforcement.

Councillor Howe then referred to the operations that had been undertaken at the Seafront and commented that it relieved the issue for a time but young people would return once the operation was finished and police presence was not as great and also commented on young people gathering in Mere Knolls Cemetery, Cutthroat Dene and the Fulwell Quarry sites.

Inspector Musgrove advised that they had undertaken a planned operation targeting the seafront and statistics over the years had indicated that the young people were residents from all over the city and not just the North Sunderland Area and that it was particularly worse during the summer months. She advised that they continued to have a presence at the seafront and did visit the areas outlined by the Councillor but predominately Officers would cover the more populated areas of the Seaburn Centre and Skate Park.

Councillor MacKnight referred to the 118 stops completed as part of the operation and asked how many of them attended local schools. Inspector Musgrove advised that they were following up on the information they had gathered as part of the operation and this information would be provided as part of that ongoing work.

In response to a further comment from Councillor MacKnight regarding the possible surge of fires at Hylton Castle around Bonfire Night, Inspector Musgrove informed her that she had been advised that a 3g camera was to be installed back at the area and she would check this after the meeting to ensure it was in place.

The Chairman having thanked Officers for their report and Members queries having been answered, it was:-

4. RESOLVED that:-

- i) the content of the report be received and noted;
- ii) the actions to be taken forward from the lessons learned in the Seafront Anti Social Behaviour Operation as set out in paragraph 3.5 of the report be agreed;
- iii) the actions to be implemented following the motorcycle operation as set out in paragraph 4.3 of the report be agreed;
- iv) the proposal to develop the Community Warden Scheme on a North Sunderland area wide basis be agreed; and
- v) the allocation of £70,000 SIB funding to the extended warden scheme for the area, pending full detail, application, consultation and appraisal be agreed.

Heritage

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Members with information on the progress against the actions which had been agreed as part of the Heritage Priority.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Lynn presented the report advising that the Task and Finish Group had met, discussed and agreed the draft action plan as was set out in the appendix to the report, and it was:-

5. RESOLVED that:-

- i) the content of the report be received and noted; and
- ii) the Heritage Action Plan for progressions by the Community Heritage Worker be agreed.

North Area Committee 2011/12 Work Plan

Julie Lynn, Area Officer, presented the work plan which was set out at Annex 1 to the progress report. She advised that if Members had any queries they could either raise them at the meeting or get in contact with her outside of the meeting, and it was:-

6. RESOLVED that the Work Plan for 2011/12 be noted.

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

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which requested Members to give consideration to requests for funding from Strategic Initiatives Budget, Strategic Investment Plan and Community Chest to support initiatives which would benefit the area.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Lynn presented the report and advised Members of the applications for funding which were set out at Annex 4 and 5 to the report and also answered questions from Members, and it was:-

7. RESOLVED that:-

- i) the financial statement as set out in paragraph 2.1 of the report be noted;
- ii) approval be given to the allocation of SIB funding from the 2011/12 budget of £27,000 as a contribution towards Activities for Young People; and
- iii) approval be given to the 21 proposals for support from the 2011/12 Community Chest as set out in Annex 5 to the report.

(Signed) R. BELL,
Chairman.