

**At a meeting of the WASHINGTON AREA COMMITTEE held at the USWORTH SIXTH FORM COLLEGE, STEPHENSON ROAD on THURSDAY, 10<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2009 at 6.00 P.M.**

**Present:**

Councillor Kelly in the Chair

Councillors Chamberlin, A. Cuthbert, I. Cuthbert, Fletcher, Miller, I. Richardson, Snowdon, Trueman, P. Walker and Whalen

Acting Inspector Alan Pitchford; Acting Sergeant Simon Dobson – Police; Joe Cummings – T & WFRS; John Anderson – COSC; John Chapman – Gentoo; Lee Ferry, Pauline T. Sentas – YDG; Sheila Davidson – BRIDGE; Amy Anderson, Liz Jarvis – Victim Support; Jacqui Reeves – Washington Mind; Phil McAloon – Oxclose Young Peoples Project and Ken Tears – SAFC Foundation.

Janet Newton	-	Children's Services
Julie Russell	-	Community & Cultural Services
Vicky Happer	-	Office of the Chief Executive
Victoria Glass	-	Office of the Chief Executive
Irene Allan	-	Office of the Chief Executive
Sue Bartlett	-	Office of the Chief Executive
Vince Taylor	-	Office of the Chief Executive

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Scaplehorn, Stephenson, Timmins, Wake and Nonnie Crawford.

**Minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2009**

Councillor Snowdon referred to the minute in relation to the Washington Wheeled Sports Park and informed the Committee that she had received a leaflet claiming that a particular party had fought for and achieved the location of the Wheeled Sports Park and not the Area Committee.

Councillor I. Cuthbert advised that the leaflet had been funded by the Conservative party and reflected his own views and beliefs, the agreement being that any Council funded literature would not be used for political gain.

Councillor Walker expressed his disappointment that such a leaflet had been produced, as the result of the Wheeled Sports Park had been a collective effort.

Councillor Miller also expressed his disappointment and commented that the Area Committee were supposed to be working as a team.

The Chairman commented that he felt the leaflet was a breach of what had been agreed and had stated previously that as Chairman, the Washington Area Committee would be non political for the good of the community.

Councillor I. Cuthbert referred to the minute in relation to Developing Community Communications to Support Area Committees 2009-10 and requested it be amended to read :-

Councillor I. Cuthbert gave his reserved support of Council produced literature.

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2009 (copy circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record subject to the following amendment.

Councillor I. Cuthbert gave his reserved support of Council produced literature.

### **Declarations of Interest**

#### Item 6 – Washington a Learning Area Summary

Councillor Fletcher declared a personal interest as a Washington Millennium Centre trustee.

Councillor Miller declared a personal interest through an associate having businesses interests in EBC.

Councillor Snowdon declared personal interests as Business Ambassador of EBC and also as a trustee of the Bridge Women's Project.

Councillor Trueman declared a personal interest as a trustee of the Oxclose and District Young People's Project.

Councillor Walker declared a personal interest as a Washington Millennium Centre trustee.

#### Item 7 – Washington Area Committee Work Plan – Feedback from Working Groups

Councillor Walker declared a personal interest as a Gentoo employee.

## Item 9 – Financial Statements and Funding Requests

Councillor Kelly declared a personal and prejudicial interest as a Committee member of Usworth Colliery Banner Group.

### **Questions to Area Committee**

There were no questions submitted to Area Committee.

### **Washington Road Safety Measures**

The Director of Development and Regeneration submitted a report (copy circulated) to inform the Washington Area Committee of progress to date on traffic issues in Washington.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Craig Wilkinson, Senior Project Engineer, presented the report and briefed Members on the additional traffic issues raised by Members as set out in Appendix 1.

i) In response to Councillor Chamberlin's query Mr. Wilkinson advised that the parking problems at Kestrel Close would be escalated to either Heads of Service or the Director of Development and Regeneration with the Committee's comments attached.

ii) In relation to the 20 mph speed limits in vicinity of schools, the Chairman advised that the issue was fully supported by Area Committee.

It was to be noted that Councillor Fletcher had requested the Gladstone Terrace footway and not Councillor Chamberlin.

iii) At the request of Councillor Walker, Mr. Wilkinson advised that he would look into providing an update on how the Gladstone Terrace issue was progressing and also provide a more accurate and full response on the Emerson Road speeding traffic issue.

iv) Mr. Wilkinson gave a detailed breakdown of public responses for bus links at Brandy Lane, Parsons and Dunelm, which would be presented to the October meeting of the Cabinet for implementation.

v) In relation to the accident cluster sites, Mr. Wilkinson advised that there were 13 schemes, three of which were funded from the Local Transport Plan (LTP) and the remaining 10 sites to be developed with consultants.

Councillor P. Walker expressed concern that the Heworth Road traffic calming scheme had been planned some time ago and hoped it was not expected to come out of the current SIB budget.

Mr. Wilkinson advised that the scheme would be funded through the LTP and that the SIP funding was for a three year period, which gave the directorate the next financial year to deliver on the schemes.

Councillor Walker enquired if consultation was undertaken with parents, as well as the schools, on the schemes.

Mr. Wilkinson advised that consultation is made within the residential geometry of the proposed schemes and also with the schools with the belief that they would then consult with the students' parents.

Councillor I. Cuthbert enquired as to what had caused the delays in implementing the schemes.

Mr. Wilkinson commented that there had been delays, but hoped the Committee could appreciate that the directorate were still on course.

The Chairman advised that the directorate had experienced unforeseen staffing problems which had resulted in the delays and that Mr. Wilkinson would now be the designated officer for the Washington area.

vi) The Chairman requested that consideration be given for road safety measures in areas such as Sulgrave and so on, with joint funding through SIP a possibility.

vii) Councillor I. Cuthbert enquired as to when the Committee would receive an update on the citywide speed review.

Mr. Wilkinson informed the Committee that the 40 mph speed review had been undertaken with the 60 mph review currently being considered. The study was with the consultants and hoped to have the data imminently.

It was agreed that Members liaise with Nicol Trueman, Area Officer, in relation to the traffic issues.

2. RESOLVED that:-

- i) the report be received and noted;
- ii) the Committee approved the implementation of monthly meetings between the Area Officer and the Traffic and Road Safety Section Manager to provide regular updates on traffic issues raised by Washington Members.

## **Washington a Learning Area Summary**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) for the Committee to consider and discuss the priority of learning, as agreed in the Work Plan for the 2009/10 municipal year.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Trueman presented the report and advised the Committee that following an extensive programme of consultation, the agreed priorities for the learning theme were:-

- Improve and increase the variety of youth services available across Washington;
- Deliver holistic campaigns around healthier lifestyle choices delivered at schools/college, businesses, public venues;
- Plan training around jobs;
- Target people EET and young people who are NEET into education and employment.

In relation to the Youth Villages, Councillor Walker commented that he believed the Washington area was in the process of receiving a Youth Village and had heard good and bad reports, mainly weather related.

Councillor Walker believed the Area Committee should monitor how successful the current Youth Village is, before they submit further funding.

Lee Ferry, A690 Project Co-ordinator, advised that the Washington Youth Village would be up and running in October, and the application before the Committee was for Weekend Play.

The Chairman advised that if the Committee were to accept the report, it would only be to consider at a later date, no allocation of funding would be granted at this stage.

Councillor Miller expressed concern that the Area Committees' budgets may be used by directorates to make up their shortfall and believed the Committee needed to carefully manage their budget.

Councillor Trueman informed the Committee that he had visited a Youth Village and believed them to be a tremendous service and looked forward to seeing them introduced in Washington.

In relation to extending the Oxclose and District Youth Inclusion Project, Councillor I. Cuthbert enquired how well attended it was from outside of Oxclose.

The Chairman advised that the project covered the whole of Washington and was used by the Barmston and Concord areas for example.

The Chairman also advised that there was a report on the youth provision as a whole due next year, which the Committee needed to consider before it committed money.

3. RESOLVED that:-

- i) the Committee note the actions identified in Annex 1 of the report;
- ii) comments by Members to be received on the allocation of SIB/SIP (Youth Development Group) to be discussed further with the applicant, via the Area Regeneration Officer;
- iii) Review – Investigate and feedback to Area Committee on the feasibility of amending the procurement process to make the commissioning of youth services process more accessible;
- iv)
  - Escalate to Scrutiny or LSP – Strategic links to be made between the Business Investment Team, who can identify potential and current employers and Sunderland Learning Partnership, who can co-ordinate training and educational courses to address the needs of employers, if tailored appropriately it can be used to attract investors to Washington and the City (ALE).
  - Investigate how we engage with employers and encourage them to employ local people (ALE).
- v) the report be received and noted.

### **Washington Area Committee Work Plan – Feedback from Working Groups**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to update Members on the key actions from the Safe theme, which was discussed at the Area Committee meeting in July 2009.

The report also included a number of proposals to be developed/reviewed for the Committee to agree upon, as identified in Annex 2/2a.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Station Manager Joe Cummings of the Sunderland West Community Fire Station gave a Powerpoint presentation in relation to the Phoenix Project proposal and was on hand to answer Members' queries.

Councillor Trueman enquired that as the proposal was a Citywide project, could it still go ahead in Washington, if approval were not to be given by the other Area Committees.

Mr. Cummings advised that he would look into the matter and report back to Committee.

Councillor Miller enquired if there was the possibility to show the success of the project in the way of reducing crimes etc.

Mr. Cummings advised that he prepared quarterly and end of year performance reports which were published on the internet. The information could also be supplied at the station.

Mr. Cummings also commented that there had been a massive reduction in the figures and he believed the introduction of the Phoenix project had been a main factor.

Councillor Walker congratulated the Fire Authority on the project and commented that it was alarming to see the percentage of young people in Washington enrolled on the project, and hoped the percentage would drop in the future.

Phil McAloon, Oxclose and District Young People's Project, advised that the service was used more by people in Washington as organisations had good effective links with the Fire Authority and not all young people enrolled had committed an offence.

The scheme was very positive for young people and helped a great deal with their self esteem.

The Chairman advised that the percentage of costs were higher for Washington as the area had used the project more in the past. This application was for future funding and therefore it could occur where the Washington Area funds the most amount but sees lower attendances in the future.

The Chairman also commented that if the other areas did not approve funding of the project, he would like to see the scheme implemented specifically to Washington.

In relation to the Positive Futures Proposal, Julie Russell, Sport and Leisure Partnership Manager, was on hand to answer Members' queries.

The Chairman commented that there was a desperate need for activities catered for girls in the Washington area as most are male focussed.

Ms. Russell advised that they were targeting schemes which need extra support.

Councillor Miller commented that the directorate needed to investigate and consult on the provision of a Positive Futures social inclusion programme for Washington and then give Members a variety of options for consideration.

The Chairman commented that he would also like to see partners and organisations to feed in to the project as it would benefit them also.

In respect of the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme proposal, Acting Inspector Alan Pitchford was in attendance to answer Members' queries.

Councillor Miller commented that as a Co-ordinator for the Teal Farm Scheme, it would be useful to receive more leaflets and better advertising would also be helpful.

Councillor Chamberlin enquired if the event to be held at The Galleries would include Neighbourhood Watch meetings.

Acting Inspector Pitchford advised that the event would help in collecting people's details to enable them to get together in particular areas and assist in setting up/organising meetings.

Acting Inspector Pitchford advised that he would speak to Councillor I. Richardson outside of the meeting to discuss a recent Neighbourhood Watch Scheme that had ceased through lack of support.

Councillor Trueman commented that he was happy to see that the Police were showing commitment to the scheme as many had lost faith through the departure of the Neighbourhood Co-ordinator and he was delighted to see that confidence was to be restored with residents.

Acting Inspector Pitchford informed the Committee that they have spoken to the previous Neighbourhood Co-ordinator for advice.

Acting Inspector Pitchford also informed the Committee of changes that were occurring to the Neighbourhood Team and advised that all officers had been asked to provide their contact details via posters, leaflets etc, which would be circulated to Members.

Councillor Walker wished to thank Acting Inspector Pitchford and his colleagues for their support in relation to the Banner people traffic management.

Acting Inspector Pitchford also briefed the Committee on the anti social behaviour initiative, operation Heat, which provided patrols through hotspot areas over four weekends in August/September 2008.

As a result of the initiative there had been roughly 20% reduction in incidents.

Areas identified as hotspots would continue to be patrolled with discussions ongoing to introduce flash cams.



Councillor Miller commented that the flash cams had been utilised in Washington South with huge success and enquired how many there were.

Acting Inspector Pitchford advised that the figures indicated at present that there were five spare flash cams and that they ran at a cost of £4,000 but would confirm that amount.

Acting Inspector Pitchford also advised that he would look into and confirm the cost of installing the flash cams purely in the Washington Area as enquired by Councillor I. Cuthbert.

4. RESOLVED that the Committee agree:-
- i) to all of the actions identified in Annex 1 of the report;
  - ii) the proposals identified in Annex 2/2a be developed for the allocation of SIB/SIP in relation to the Phoenix Project and the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme;
  - iii) for a review to investigate and consult on the provision of a positive futures social inclusion programme for Washington, identifying delivery partners, venues, costs and for a report to be brought back to a future meeting of this Committee.

### **Washington Wheeled Sports Park**

The Director of Community and Cultural Services submitted a report (copy circulated) to outline the progress on the development of the Washington Wheeled Sports Park.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Julie Russell presented the report and requested Members' consent to proceed once the planning permission had been granted.

A representative from the group 'Friends of Princess Anne Park', requested that investigations be made into the surrounding area of the Wheeled Sports Park to be used as a dedicated sports area for youngsters, as Washington did not have a running track and the area would be ideal for field events.

The Chairman requested that Ms. Russell look into the issue and enquired if the Council had yet received a response from Prudential as the biggest land owner.

Ms. Russell advised that 17 sites for equipped play provision were being delivered through Play Pathfinder.

There was a number of covenants and issues with the surrounding land of the sports park and needed due consideration. In relation to the athletics track, the village green area was not allowed anything permanent.

Ms. Russell also advised that Prudential had been pursued and that she would follow up on the issue.

Councillor Snowdon commented that there had been a sports track at Princess Anne Park previously and advised of a leaflet detailing the footprint of the track. Councillor Snowdon commented that it would be nice to look at reinventing the site.

Mike Poulter, Head of Project and Service Development, advised that the Council were looking to meet with Prudential on the progress of reinstating facilities.

John Anderson, Usworth Sixth Form, advised that he was due to attend a meeting to discuss the use of the surrounding land around the College and would update Members' accordingly.

5. RESOLVED that:-

- i) the Committee agreed for progression of the Washington Wheeled Sports Park once planning permission had been granted;
- ii) investigations be made into utilising the surrounding area and that the Committee be updated at a future meeting on the outcomes of meetings with Prudential and the college.

### **Appointment of Chairman**

The Chairman having declared a personal and prejudicial interest in relation to the Community Chest, it was necessary to appoint a Chairman, it was:-

6. RESOLVED that Councillor Miller be appointed Chairman for the following application.

### **Financial Statements and Funding Requests**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) outlining current expenditure from the Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB), Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) and Community Chest and applications for funding from these budgets in order to support new initiatives, which would benefit the area and the delivery of the Local Area Plans.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Committee was requested to approve:-

- 46 proposals for support from the 2009/10 Community Chest (as detailed in Annex 1);
- One proposal from the 2009/10 SIP totalling £15,000;
- the new emergency protocols for assessing SIB and SIP funding.

Having approved the 46 proposals for support from the 2009/10 Community Chest, Councillor Kelly wished to comment that consideration needed to be given on funding applications on a 'year to year' basis as many applications funded over several years had not provided results.

7. RESOLVED that the Committee:-

- i) approve the 46 proposals for support from the 2009/10 Community Chest as detailed in Annex 1;
- ii) approve £15,000 as a contribution from the 2009/10 budget for the development of Wheeled Sports Park at Princess Anne Park; and
- iii) agree the new emergency protocols for accessing SIB and SIP funding subject to the amendment in paragraph 7.4: The Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with Chair and Vice Chair will then action the decision in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

### **Developing an Economic Masterplan for Sunderland**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which updated Members on the progress that had been made on developing an Economic Masterplan for Sunderland and sought the views of the Members on the economic vision that is emerging.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Mr. Vince Taylor, Head of Strategic Economic Development, gave a presentation (copy circulated) which set out the options and preferred direction for Sunderland as well as the key propositions and next steps in developing the Economic Masterplan.

Mr. Taylor explained the three scenarios developed and advised that these were not designed as options where one should be picked, but more so they were designed to set out possible parameters for the City's development.

Councillor Walker commented that the vision looked very good and would accept any of the scenarios but felt the major issue to enable them to succeed is transport. Until the right rail network/infrastructure was in place, Washington would always suffer and requested that the issue be looked at.

Councillor Trueman also commented on the need for the Metro at Washington and for the unused trading estates to be cleaned out to maximise the business potential.

Mr. Taylor advised that the reopening of the Leamside line for freight was included in the scenarios. A marker needed to be put down as the Metro should go to Washington.

The revamping of the unused trading estates was being considered but Mr. Taylor admitted it was not easy.

Councillor Miller commented that we were lucky to have the University but questioned whether they could deliver on everything the report suggested in relation to driving the economy.

Mr. Taylor advised that the capability of the University needed to be tested, but had worked in other areas.

Councillor Miller also commented that the lack of a transport infrastructure would not help in attracting local business investment and added that he was not convinced the models put forward were the best ones as they did not deal with the business needs of Washington and the City.

Councillor I. Cuthbert agreed with Councillor Miller, that he welcomed the model, but the details needed to be looked at further.

Councillor I. Cuthbert also commented on the importance of receiving the Metro in Washington and that the reopening of the Leamside line for freight was a step forward, but needed to be available for passengers also.

Councillor I. Richardson commented that it was cheaper to travel to Newcastle on the bus, than it was to Sunderland.

The Chairman commented that there was a great deal of pride in Washington but found it difficult to be associated with Sunderland even though it contributed some of the largest amounts of business rates and Council Tax, etc.

There was not a great deal that connected Washington to Sunderland and there had been a number of good developments in the City Centre, which the Chairman would like to see in Washington.

The Chairman also advised that issues of the Metro/Leamside line and bus rates needed to be addressed before Washington could feed into the report.

In relation to the transport issues, Mr. Taylor believed it was possible to enhance. If the base was correct but needed to prove success in order to justify investment.

8. RESOLVED that the report be received and Members' comments be noted.

### **Update on Community Communications to support Area Committees 2009-10**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to update the Committee on the development of the Community Communications action plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Victoria Glass, Corporate Communications Officer, presented the report and advised that newsletters would be piloted in October and November for each of the areas, with input needed from Members.

Councillor Walker enquired as to who would decide what went in to the newsletters.

Ms. Glass advised that the editorial decision would be made amongst the Corporate Communications Team.

Councillor Walker commented that the Area Committee should have an element of control over the input in the area newsletters.

The Chairman advised of a meeting he had attended where it was discussed if the newsletter would be split into wards rather than Washington wide.

Councillor I. Cuthbert expressed his concerns over Washington wide newsletters and would request that the Ward Councillors write the content.

Councillor Miller commented that he wished to see approval from Ward Councillors on content.

The Chairman advised that the newsletter would not be politicised and was for the benefit of the public to show what was happening in the area specific to them. If the publications were Washington wide, with only a small part focussing on the wards, then the point of the newsletter would be lost.

The Chairman also commented that the newsletter was for the partners to contribute to also.

Councillor Chamberlin commented that the publication needed to focus on the wards so that the public could read about the areas they were interested in.

Councillor Snowdon commented that having fold out maps of the area was an excellent idea.

Ms. Glass requested Members' input on locations for photographs to be included in future publications.

The Chairman requested that Members email Ms. Glass with their suggestions.

Ms. Glass also informed the Committee in relation to posters, which would be specific to Washington and that she would provide feedback on the suggestion of T-shirts at a later date.

9. RESOLVED that:-

- i) the current plan of work be noted;
- ii) Members' comments be fed into the Community Action Plan and that;
- iii) further consideration be given on the Washington Area newsletter.

(Signed) J. KELLY,  
Chairman.