

At a meeting of the WASHINGTON AREA COMMITTEE held at SPRINGWELL VILLAGE COMMUNITY VENUE on TUESDAY, 6TH MARCH, 2012 at 6.00 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Scaplehorn in the Chair

Councillors Fletcher, Kelly, F. Miller, G. Miller, Snowdon, Thompson, D. Trueman, H. Trueman, Walker and Williams.

John Rostron	-	City Services
Brian Hodgkinson	-	City Services
Mike Poulter	-	City Services
Helen Green	-	City Services
Berni Whitaker	-	Chief Executives
Karen Alexander	-	Chief Executives
Karon Purvis	-	Chief Executives
Helen Wardropper	-	Chief Executives
Lorraine Hughes	-	Children's Services/Sunderland PCT
Neil Revely	-	Health, Housing and Adult Services
Marion Marshall	-	Commercial and Corporate Services
Paul Wood	-	Commercial and Corporate Services
James Third	-	Nexus
Sgt Alan Pitchford	-	Police
Sgt Lee Butler	-	Police

Members of the Washington Community.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Lauchlan, Padgett, I. Richardson and Wake. Colin McCartney, John Chapman, John Anderson, Surann Valentine, Jacqui Reeves and Phil McAloon.

Declarations of Interest

Item 03a – 3.3 – Education and Heritage Project Update

Councillor G. Miller declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the item as Managing Director of TWEBLO.

Councillor F. Miller declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the item as her husband was the Managing Director of TWEBLO.

Councillor Fletcher declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the item as her husband was the Education and Heritage Officer.

Item 03a – 7.2 – Washington Trust

Councillor Kelly declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the item as a Board Member of Washington Trust and left the room during consideration of the item.

Item 03b – Financial Statements and Proposals

Councillor Fletcher declared a personal interest in SIB Application No. 2 (Washington Oral History Project) as her husband was an Education Heritage Officer.

Councillor Fletcher declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the Community Chest application as a Trustee of the Washington Millennium Centre and left the room during consideration of the application.

Councillor Kelly declared personal and prejudicial interests in SIB Application No. 2 as a Member of Usworth Banner Group and SIB Application No. 4 as a Board Member of Washington Trust and left the room during the consideration of those applications.

Councillor F. Miller declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the Community Chest application as a Governor of Barmston Village Primary School and left the room during consideration of the item.

Councillor Snowdon declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the Community Chest application as her husband was the Secretary of Washington Millennium Centre and left the room during the consideration of the application.

Councillor Thompson declared personal interests in SIB Application No. 1 (St. Andrew's Church Hall Improvements) as Chair of a Scout Group that used the Church Hall and in SIB Application No. 3 (Washington Skate Park Festival) as a Local Authority Member on the Board of Oxclose and District Young People's Project.

Councillor Walker declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the Community Chest application as a Trustee of the Washington Millennium Centre and left the room during consideration of the item.

Councillor Williams declared a personal and prejudicial interest in SIB Application No. 3 (Washington Skate Park Festival) as a Trustee of the Oxclose and District Young People's Project and left the room during consideration of the item.

Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 2nd February, 2012

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 2nd February, 2012 (copy circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Community Action in Washington: Identifying New Issues and Agreeing Actions (2010/11 Work Plan)

Healthy City Investment Area Funding

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) informing the Committee that the Sunderland Teaching Primary Care Trust's Healthy City Delivery and Improvement Group were proposing to change the way in which the Healthy City Investment Fund was administered and were asking all 5 Area Committee's to consider allocating and administering the Fund as of March 2012.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Lorraine Hughes introduced herself as the Public Health representative for this.

2. RESOLVED that the Committee:-

- (i) agreed to take on the allocation and administration of £31,079 Healthy City Investment Fund per Area for 2012/13;
- (ii) agreed that the Area Officer develop and implement the approach for working with the Area VCS network to develop initiatives to address male cancer mortality, focusing on the two themes described in Section 3 of the report; and
- (iii) noted that each Area Committee's Public Health representative would be available to advise on the potential impact of any proposed projects to be funded.

Process for the Review of Local Area Plans and Priorities for 2012

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided a proposed approach and timeline for the Area Committee to review its Local Area Plans and Priorities for 2012.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Purvis presented the report and in response to an enquiry from a member of the public advised that the Policy Team would identify where the gaps were, through evidence gathering and would hopefully have this completed by the end of the month. The State of the Area debate would be the showcase where residents could feed into and be involved in the second stage. It would also be an opportunity for residents to engage in a Q & A session with stakeholders.

The Chairman proposed that for the interim, the Committee proceed with the current priorities until the new plans were formulated.

Councillor Kelly commented that he fully supported the proposal to proceed in the current format for the time being.

3. RESOLVED that the Committee:-
 - (i) received and noted the information provided;
 - (ii) agreed the proposed approach and timeline outlined in Section 4 of the report; and
 - (iii) continue to deliver actions against current work plans until approval of 2012 priorities.

Community Action in Washington – Progress Review – Progress Report on 2011/12 Work Plan

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide an update of progress against agreed actions in the current year's (2011/12) Work Plan (Annex 1).

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Employment Task and Finish Group

Councillor Kelly updated the Committee on the progress being made by the Employment Task and Finish Group with further opportunities for care and apprenticeship places being established. Plans for a second Business Breakfast to be held on 27th April were underway where Employers and Schools would be invited as well as all Councillors.

Washington Managed Workspace Project

Berni Whitaker, Enterprise Manager provided a further update on the Managed Workspace project advising that a company had now been awarded the contract to take the development forward at Turbine Business Park. Ms. Whitaker circulated maps and drawings of the proposals.

A member of the public enquired as to who the developers were and questioned the costings of the project.

Ms. Whitaker advised that the developers were a Joint Venture Company. The Chairman referred to the costings of the project and advised that this Committee could not discuss the points of procurement.

Councillor Kelly advised that it would be wrong for Councillors to comment on an ongoing procurement process and this should be taken up with the relevant department.

Councillor Walker requested that Members be included in receiving the relevant information.

Marian Marshall, Solicitor advised that the member of the public would need to request the information through a different forum and could submit a Freedom of Information request.

Operation Choice

Inspector Alan Pitchford advised that Operation Choice was performing well, with Anti-Social Behaviour down 26%. In terms of engagement and utilising the Youth Bus in Schools, 17 out of 19 Primary Schools were on board and they were looking to roll it out as soon as possible.

Inspector Pitchford advised that he was moving on to another position and wished to thank everyone for their help during his time working with the Committee. He then introduced his successor, Inspector Lee Butler, who advised that he looked forward to working with the Committee also.

The Chairman wished to thank Inspector Pitchford and the Neighbourhood Team for the excellent work they had carried out which was most appreciated by the Committee.

XL Youth Villages

Jane Eland advised that they would be presenting a new model for the Youth Villages, adapted to provide a better service and report back to the next meeting of the Area Committee.

Young People's Task and Finish Group

Councillor Miller updated the Committee on the work of the Young People's Task and Finish Group, advising that at their last meeting an issue was raised over funding which was due to cease. Councillor Miller informed the Committee that the Task Group was requesting Members to consider inviting the Partner organisations to submit an application for SIB to meet the short term gap and to help them to work together in their bid for sustainable funding.

In response to Councillor Kelly's enquiry, Ms. Purvis advised that a lead agent would oversee all of the funding.

Councillor Snowdon commented that she would support an application to come forward.

Attractive Neighbourhood

Brian Hodgkinson, Washington Area Response Manager advised that out of the 338 issues raised to date, only 5 remained outstanding with the main service requests including pruning, litter, graffiti, dumping of waste and dog fouling.

The Ward Walkabouts with Gentoo, Police and Partners would be concentrating on the Sulgrave area which was where the most complaints had been made.

The Love Where You Live campaign would be in Sulgrave on 15th March 2012 and would include Peel Retail Park.

In relation to Operations Ongoing, Mr. Hodgkinson advised that they were now concentrating on litter in the main, however they did intend to commence grass cutting in the next few weeks, weather permitting, as well as the normal cleansing duties.

Councillor Fletcher wished to congratulate Mr. Hodgkinson on the excellent job he was doing, especially in the Sulgrave area.

A member of the public wished to comment on the issue he had raised at the last meeting of the Committee in relation to waste falling from Transfer Vans in transit and whilst he commended Mr. Hodgkinson and his team for the work they were doing, the problem was still occurring and enquired if the Police could carry out an exercise to tackle the issue.

Councillor Kelly commented that technically the lorries were still compliant with the law as they were within their weight limit and also sheeted.

The Chairman enquired if Sergeant Butler could offer any help on the matter, who advised that the Police may be able to pursue them through the vehicles having an unsecure load but this was not a speciality of the Neighbourhood Team so he would pass the details over to the Motor Patrols.

Sergeant Butler also advised that they were planning an all day operation on vehicles and scrap metal dealers so could incorporate this issue into the operation.

The member of the public commented that he did not expect the Police to cover the whole area as he appreciated resources were limited but if they could target the Teal Farm/Monument Park area specifically as this was the main point of concern.

Councillor Kelly advised that he was due to attend a meeting with the Environment Agency and would take on board the concerns raised.

In response to the Chairman's suggestion of the Police visiting the Waste Transfer sites to highlight the problem, Sgt Butler advised that he would look into the matter.

Washington Trust

Councillor Miller informed the Committee of the need to find a better mechanism of engaging with the Voluntary Community Sector to identify the resources/funding they require and requested Members support for an application to come forward for SIB funding from the 2012/13 budget (subject to budget approval).

Councillor Snowdon commented that she was happy to second the proposal and to help support the Voluntary Sector.

4. RESOLVED that Members:-

- (i) noted the report, progress updates and actions as detailed in the report and in the Work Plan attached as Annex 1;
- (ii) agreed to further updates from Youth Opportunities;
- (iii) agreed to receive further information and influence the XL Village model of delivery for 2012/13 in Washington;
- (iv) noted the report from the Young People's Task and Finish Group and agreed to inviting partners delivering services for young people to submit a full application for SIB funding from the 2012/13 budget (subject to budget approval) to meet the short term gap and to support those partner organisations to work collaboratively to bid for sustainable funding; and
- (v) noted the report with regard to the proposed Washington Trust as detailed above and agreed to invite the Washington Trust to submit a detailed SIB funding application for funding from the 2012/13 budget (subject to budget approval).

Financial Statement and Proposals for Further Allocation of Resources

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to request the Committee's consideration of proposals for the allocation of the Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) and Community Chest to support initiatives that would benefit the area.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

5. RESOLVED that the Committee:-

- (i) noted the Financial Statement set out in Section 2.1 of the report;
- (ii) agreed the recommendations set out in Annex 1 with reference to the SIB applications;
- (iii) approved £6,000 as a contribution from the 2011/12 SIB budget for the St. Andrew's Church Hall project;

- (iv) approved £6,000 as a contribution from the 2011/12 SIB budget for the Oral History Washington project;
- (v) approved £6,210 as a contribution from the 2011/12 SIB budget for the Skate Park Festival project;
- (vi) approved £3,000 as a contribution from the 2011/12 SIB budget for the Washington Trust project;
- (vii) approved the 8 proposals for support from 2011/12 Community Chest as detailed in Annex 2; and
- (viii) noted the Community Chest reclaimed and returned amounts as detailed in Annex 3.

Councillor H. Trueman wished to inform the Committee of the excellent news that Nissan was to build their new model car at the Washington plant, which he believed, was down to the quality of the product and the fantastic workforce employed.

Councillor H. Trueman also advised of the great news in relation to funding being approved for a new Leisure Centre in Washington.

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

(Signed) B. SCAPLEHORN,
Chairman.