

At a Meeting of the COALFIELD AREA COMMITTEE held at HOUGHTON HOUSING OFFICE, THE SKYLINE CENTRE, 88 NEWBOTTLE STREET, HOUGHTON-LE-SPRING, DH4 4AJ, on WEDNESDAY, 9TH APRIL, 2014 at 6.00 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Richardson in the Chair

Councillors Blackburn, Ellis, Heron, Lawson, Scott, D. Smith, Speding, Tate, Taylor and Wakefield

Also in Attendance:-

Ron Barrass	Member of the Public	
Susan Brown	Area VCS Representative	ELCAP
Charlotte Burnham	Area Lead Executive for the Coalfield Area Committee and Head of Scrutiny and Area Arrangements	Sunderland City Council
Melanie Caldwell	Head of Operations – Houghton/Hetton	Gentoo Ltd.
Nonnie Crawford	Director of Public Health	Sunderland City Council
Dave Ellison	Area Response Manager	Sunderland City Council
Sam Gallilee	Area VCS Representative	Herrington Burn YMCA
Debbie Hall	Area Response Manager	Sunderland City Council
Julianna Heron	Councillor	Hetton Town Council
Pauline Hopper	Area Community Officer, Coalfield	Sunderland City Council
Karen Makepeace	Programme Development Manager	Sunderland Live
Chris McCaul	Scrutiny and Area Support Officer	Sunderland City Council
Lisa Musgrove	Neighbourhood Inspector	Northumbria Police
Rachel Putz	Coalfields Locality Manager, Children's Services	Sunderland City Council
Jessica Regnart	Creative Development Manager	Sunderland Live
Tim Smith	Group Engineer, Streetscene	Sunderland City Council
Christine Tilley	Governance Services Team Leader	Sunderland City Council
William Turton	Member of the Public	
Gill Wake	Area Co-ordinator	Sunderland City Council
Jeff Wilkinson	Station Manager	Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service
Andy Wilson	Area Response Manager	Sunderland City Council

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Coalfield Area Committee meeting and invited all those present to introduce themselves.

The Chairman drew attention to the fact that this was Mr. Dave Ellison's last meeting as he was retiring from the Council.

On behalf of the Committee the Chairman thanked Mr. Ellison for the tremendous amount of work he had done to improve the Coalfields area which was much appreciated adding that he would be sadly missed.

The Chairman introduced Ms. Debbie Hall and Mr. Andy Wilson, Area Response Managers to the Committee.

Councillor Julianna Heron added the thanks of Hetton Town Council to Mr. Ellison.

Mr. Ellison thanked the Committee for their kind wishes.

Councillor Scott paid tribute to the Chairman, Councillor Richardson and Councillor Tate on behalf of the Committee who were attending their last meeting of the Area Committee as they were also retiring from the Council. He thanked them for their valuable contributions to the work of the Coalfield Area Committee and the work they had carried out as Councillors for the Coalfield area.

Councillor Tate paid tribute to Councillor Richardson for the role he had carried out in Charing meetings of the Area Committee over the years.

Councillor Richardson thanked the Members and Officers of the Committee for the work they had carried out and the support they had provided to him.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Anderson, together with John Chapman (Gentoo), Les Clark and Judith Stonebridge (Sunderland City Council).

Declarations of Interest

Item 2 – Sunderland Live Presentation

Councillor Richardson made an open declaration of interest in the report as a Member of the Board of Directors of Sunderland Live.

Item 8 – Financial Statement and Proposals for Further Allocations of Resources

Councillor Tate made an open declaration of interest in the report as a Council appointed Director of Easington Lane Community Access Point and left the room

during the consideration of the item taking no part in the consideration or decision thereon.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 22nd January, 2014 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Sunderland Live Presentation.

Ms Jessica Regnart, Creative Development Manager at Sunderland Live provided Members with a presentation (copy circulated) which detailed the background to the establishment of Sunderland Live, the maintenance and protection of the Core Events Programme, the increase in the provision of events in the City together with the outcomes of recent customer research.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Ellis enquired about the arrangements for the production of the Houghton Feast publicity booklet. She commented that she felt community groups were not informed or consulted by the Houghton Feast Steering Committee.

In response, Councillor Lawson advised that any voluntary groups who wanted to be involved, were welcome. If any groups felt they had been missed out and that they could contribute to the organisation of the event, all they needed to do was to contact the Houghton Feast Steering Committee of which she was Chair. She advised that there were representatives from voluntary groups on the Steering Committee.

Ms. Pauline Hopper Area Community Officer, Coalfield advised that last year there had been two publications promoting Houghton Feast, one produced by the Council and one by the Steering Committee. The feeling was that this had resulted in duplication and so this year only one was to be produced and this would be by the Steering Committee.

The Chairman suggested that Councillors Ellis and Lawson speak further on the issue outside of the meeting if this was needed.

In response to Members questions, Ms Jessica Regnart advised that Sunderland Live were looking at opportunities to raise income for the events and thereby to reduce the Council's contribution. One way of doing this was to develop sponsorship packages which could be offered to businesses. Work was being carried out to develop this aspect with officers talking to companies to give them a better understanding of the events in the calendar, discussing which ones they may be interested in sponsoring depending on the level of budget they have available.

The Mayor, Councillor Heron commented that the Sunderland International Airshow had been very well organised and he had felt that the new location for the

marquees on the cliff top had worked well. Councillor Heron thanked Sunderland Live for all the help and support they had provided to him during his mayoral year.

The Chairman having thanked the officers from Sunderland Live for the presentation and their attendance at the meeting, it was

2. RESOLVED that the information in the presentation provided by Sunderland Live be received and noted.

Annual Report 2013 – 2014

The Chairman submitted a report (copy circulated) which sought approval for the inclusion of the Coalfield Area Committee's Annual Report 2013 – 2014 in the combined Area Committees' report to be presented to full Council.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Chairman having asked Members to support the report, it was;-

3. RESOLVED that the Coalfield Area Committee's Annual Report 2013 – 2014 be approved accordingly for inclusion in the combined Area Committees' Annual Report to Council.

Maximising the Use Made of Green and Other Space in Areas to Improve Health and Happiness

The Director of Public Health submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided background information to support members in considering the future use of funding released by the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to support improvement to mental and physical wellness through a combination of approaches aimed at facilitating local people's access to, and use of local green space.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Nonnie Crawford, Director of Public Health presented the report inviting the Area Committee to consider ways in which to use the available funding. She advised that it would be up to the Area Committee to develop ideas and agree where the funding would be best used.

Members commented that the Area People and Place Boards were ideally placed to give consideration to how they might enhance and facilitate local people engaging in the five ways to wellbeing and to look at action around greenspace accessibility, availability and amenity utilisation.

Members welcomed the £20k share of the total £100k allocated by the CCG to the five Area Committees for the above purposes and commented that they might wish to supplement it with SIB funding. It was highlighted that input into the

process by the VCS and community organisations was important in order to make best use of the funding allocation and the area's community assets in order to achieve the intended goals.

4. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted and the Area Boards give consideration to allocating the above funding accordingly.

Partner Agency Reports – Coalfield Area Voluntary and Community Sector Network

Ms. Susan Brown, Ms. Sam Gallilee and Ms. Ann Owen, Area Network Representatives submitted a report (copy circulated), providing an update with regard to the Coalfield Area Voluntary and Community Sector Network.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Brown advised the Committee of her appointment as the newly elected VCS Network representative. She highlighted the issues raised at the Coalfield VCSN meetings held in February and March and in particular the Health Trainers Programme; a team of 12 Health Trainers in the City who will support any resident over 16 years of age with regards to issues such as healthy eating, smoking cessation, exercise and wellbeing.

Ms. Brown also highlighted the work going on in relation to the WW1 commemoration and the Information Fair which VCS Network members were planning to hold to advertise and showcase the services and activities available in the area.

Councillor Speding commented on the financial challenges the Council was facing, the difficulties it was experiencing in trying to fulfil the voluntary sector ethos and the difficulty the Area Committee had in trying to make funding available given the constraints and the number of voluntary groups.

Ms. Charlotte Burnham, Area Lead Executive for the Coalfield Area Committee and Head of Scrutiny and Area Arrangements briefed the Committee on the work which had been done to date looking at the Council's changing relationship with the VCS, how the Council would look to support the sector in the future to respond to what communities needed and to deliver this as well as the future arrangements for the allocation of European Social Funding.

Councillor Ellis commented that the vast majority of groups were small community groups who did not need a large sum of money but wanted help and support from the Council in other ways.

Member of the Committee thanked the VCS representatives for the work they carried out in the community to support the delivery of the Area Committee's priorities.

Full discussion having taken place on the report it was:-

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5. RESOLVED that the update from the Area Voluntary and Community Sector be received and noted.

Partner Agency Reports – Northumbria Police

Neighbourhood Inspector Lisa Musgrove provided the Committee with verbal update on crime in the Coalfield Area. She advised that there had been a 5.1% increase overall which equated to 108 crimes. There had been an increase in criminal damage and low level crime.

In comparison to the above there was good news as there was a 21% reduction in Burglary to Dwellings and a reduction of 24.5% in the number of reports of youth anti social behaviour incidents with 324 fewer reports in 2013/14 than the previous year across the Coalfields. There was however one priority, Hetton Lyons Country Park and Rough Dene which had been the subject of a special LMAPS meeting and Neighbourhood Inspector Musgrove briefed the Committee on operations in place to deal with the situation.

Ms. Pauline Hopper, Area Community Officer, Coalfield briefed the Committee on the discussions taking place with organisations in the locality to provide activities in the area to occupy young people. Ms. Hopper advised that she would keep Members informed of any developments in this respect.

Neighbourhood Inspector Musgrove also informed Members of the recent spate of break ins to sheds in the Grasswell area where motorbikes and mobility scooters had been targeted.

In response to Members, Neighbourhood Inspector Musgrove advised that she felt that the new legislation in the licensing of scrap dealers was having an impact and she there was a definite decrease in the number of vehicles operating in the Coalfield area.

6. RESOLVED that the update from Neighbourhood Inspector Musgrove be received and noted.

Partner Agency Reports – Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service

Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service submitted a report (copy circulated) providing Performance Monitoring details in relation to the Local Indicators for the Coalfield Area Committee area from 1.01.2014 to 17.03.2014.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Mr. Jeff Wilkinson, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service briefed the Committee on the report highlighting that there had been no deaths recorded during the time frame of the report. There had however been injuries from accidental fires in dwelling houses and there had been two deliberate property fires.

Mr Wilkinson advised that there had been 60 deliberate secondary fires during the period compared to 27 over the same period last year. Actions from the special LMAPS meeting were being taken forward to address the issue.

Members discussed the issue of the increased number of furniture fires and the Chairman advised that officers were looking at whether there was any correlation with the introduction of the Council's charge for the collection of bulky waste items.

Ms. Melanie Caldwell, Head of Operations – Houghton/Hetton, Gentoo Ltd advised of the community organisations operating in the locality which were able to collect furniture items people no longer needed.

Members having asked questions in respect of the individual fires in their wards, it was:-

7. RESOLVED that the contents of the report be received and noted.

Place Board Progress Report

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

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Scott, Chair of the Place Board, introduced the update on the progress made by the Place Board on the priorities identified. He highlighted the discussion and identification of areas requiring capital maintenance works across the Coalfield.

Councillor Scott pointed out the influencing role the Board was undertaking with regards to the Public Protection and Regulatory Service by raising concerns about the increased volume of scrap and waste transfer vehicles in the area, advising that a further meeting would be held to keep Members updated on related issues.

The Chair drew attention to the point that the West Area Committee was consulting with the Coalfield Place Board drawing on the success and experience of the Neglected Land project to develop a similar project in that area.

Councillor Scott referred to the Love Where You Live project and advised the Committee that three of the work placement clients previously supporting the project had been successful in gaining an apprenticeship with the Council.

Mr. Dave Ellison, Area Response Manager commented that the Neglected Land project had made a massive improvement to the area for the people who lived in the neighbouring areas. He briefed the Committee on the progress with regards to the individual allotment sites included in the project and how the process of letting and managing allotments was now being carried out.

Councillor Lawson commented that she was seeing a marked difference in the Shiney Row Shopping Centre as a result of the Local Shopping Centres project.

Full consideration having been given to the report it was:-

8. RESOLVED that:-

- a. the progress and performance update with regards to the Place Board work plan for 2013/14 be noted; and
- b. the recommendations from the Place Board regarding SIB allocations for place based projects be noted and supported.

People Board Progress Report

The Chair of the People Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with an update on the progress made against the 2013/14 People Board Work Plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Chair of the People Board, Councillor Lawson, presented the report which detailed the work that had been done by the Board up to March 2014.

Councillor Lawson highlighted the high level of NEET (not in education, employment or training) young people in the area and pointed out that the People Board had considered this issue as part of its priority setting.

Councillor Lawson drew attention to the fact that an update on the new Library service had not been back to the Board.

Councillor Lawson highlighted the discussions held at the Board meetings on the Family and Adult Community Learning Service concerning the current procurement and delivery of the service. She pointed out that the Sexual Health review had highlighted issues with access to services locally in the Hetton and Cophill wards and the high rate of teenage pregnancy in the Hetton ward and that how services were being delivered would be considered further by the Board.

Councillor Lawson highlighted and recommended the Dementia Awareness Workshops being delivered which provided a free half day training course available to anyone living, volunteering or working in the Coalfields Area.

Councillor Lawson drew the Committee's attention to the People based projects which the Board was recommending for support detailed at item 8 on the agenda which included support for the Houghton Centre for the Blind.

Councillor Blackburn thanked the appropriate officers involved in progressing the work in respect of the Houghton Centre for the Blind.

Full consideration having been given to the report it was:-

9. RESOLVED that:-

- a. the progress and performance update with regards to the People Board work plan for 2013/14 be noted; and
- b. the recommendations from the People Board regarding SIB allocations for people based projects be noted and supported.

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

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) providing a financial statement as an update position on progress in relation to allocating Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) and Community Chest and presenting proposals for further funding requests to support initiatives that will benefit the area.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Pauline Hopper presented the report highlighting the four applications for SIB funding detailed at paragraph 2.2 pointing out that the recommendation included a condition to be placed on the 3 year projects for a performance review to be undertaken at the end each year to ensure they were achieving the required targets. Ms. Hopper drew the Committee's attention to those projects recommended for approval by the Place Board following a Call for Projects in relation to Environmental Improvements and Education via the VCS detailed at paragraph 2.3.

In response to Members comments, Ms Susan Brown, Area VCS Representative, ELCAP advised in relation to the Community Transport project that whilst the Community Transport Shopper bus did encourage people to shop in the local shopping centres, it was a case of asking people where they wanted to go and this sometimes meant they wanted to go to other shopping centres outside of the Coalfield Area. The project also played a vital role in addressing social isolation.

Ms. Hopper drew the Committee's attention to paragraph 2.4 concerning the Call for Projects (Celebrating Success) via the VCS Network made by the Place Board and the project which had been recommended from this process 'Welcome to the Coalfield' – Herrington Burn YMCA and the Community Chest approvals made by the Panels detailed in paragraph 3 of the report.

Full consideration having been given to the report it was:-

10. RESOLVED that:-

- a. the financial statements set out in sections 2.1 and 3.1 of the report be noted;
- b. the four SIB project applications set out in section 2.2 and detailed in Annex 1 be approved as follows subject to a condition being placed on the 3 year projects that a review is carried out at the end of each year:-

Advice Volunteer Co-ordinator	ShARP	£30,000
Community Transport	ELCAP	£60,000
Social Club	Houghton Centre For the Blind	£4,000
Baulkham Hills Footpath	Sunderland City Council	£4,289

- c. approval be given to the following projects resulting from a Call for Projects (Environmental Improvements) as set out in paragraph 2.3 and a Call for Projects (Celebrating Success) by the Place Board via the VCS Network, as set out in paragraph 2.4 and detailed in annexes 2 and 3 respectively, totalling £28,388; the balance of £1,612 up to the £30,000 which was allocated to return to the main SIB budget:-

Environmental Improvements and Education

Improving Our Community, Herrington Burn YMCA	£4,371
A Clean Sweep, Easington Lane Community Access Point	£5,000
Looking Good in the Coalfield, Sunderland North Community Business Centre	£4,988
Flatts Allotment, Sunderland North Community Business Centre	£2,285
Naturally in your Neighbourhood, Hetton Greenwatch	£2,500
Spring into Action, Groundwork North East	£4,352
Poo Watch, Groundwork North East	£4,892

Celebrating Success

Welcome to the Coalfield – Herrington Burn YMCA	£1,964
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- d. the information detailed in paragraph 2.5 of the report concerning the closure of a project to provide additional holiday activities for young people be noted and approval be given to the balance of £1,513 remaining from the project to be returned to the main SIB budget; and
- e. the 16 Community Chest approvals supported from the 2013/14 budget as set out in Annex 4 be noted.

The Chairman wished everyone well for the future, thanked them for their attendance and closed the meeting.

(Signed) D. RICHARDSON,
Chairman.