

**At a meeting of the WEST SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE, SUNDERLAND on WEDNESDAY 9<sup>th</sup> APRIL, 2014 at 5.30 p.m.**

**Present:-**

Councillor P. Gibson in the Chair

Councillors, Dixon, Gofton, Oliver, Porthouse, P.Smith, Turton, Tye, Waller, S. Watson A. Wilson and T. Wright.

**Also Present:-**

Zoe Channing	Head of Event Development	Sunderland Live
Simone Common	West Locality Ops Manager	Sunderland City Council
Gillian Gibson	Consultant in Public Health	Sunderland City Council
Bill Leach	Representative	VCS Area Network
Julie Lynn	Area Community Officer	Sunderland City Council
Chris Marshall	Head of Operations	Gentoo
David Noon	Principal Governance Services Officer	Sunderland City Council
Helen Peverley	Area Co-ordinator	Sunderland City Council
Dave Pickett	Inspector	Northumbria Police
Edna Rochester	Representative	VCS Area Network
Sue Stanhope	Area Lead Executive	Sunderland City Council

**Chairman's Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting especially those attending their first meeting of the West Sunderland Area Committee. The Chairman then invited those present to introduce themselves.

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillor P Watson and also from Jeff Wilkinson of the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service.

**Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest made.

**Minutes of the Last Meeting**

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last ordinary meeting of the Committee held on 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2014 be confirmed and signed as a correct record subject to the inclusion of Councillor T. Wright in the list of those present.

## **Sunderland Live Presentation.**

Zoe Channing, Head of Event Development 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)

The Chairman referred to the number of events being held in the city and asked if there was a reason why none were being held in the West Area. Ms Channing replied that the Company had inherited a pre existing budget and core events programme. There was no reason however why events could not be held in the West in the future and she agreed that Barnes Park would provide a perfect venue.

Councillor S. Watson stated that the Council had 3 representatives on the Management Committee of Sunderland Live however none were from the West Area of the City. She suggested that perhaps that contributed to the lack of events in that part of Sunderland. Ms Channing replied that the governance arrangements for Sunderland Live rested with the City Council. She was aware that one of the Board Members was intending to step down and that perhaps this would provide the opportunity for the Council to appoint a member from the West Area if it wished.

Councillor Gofton advised that discussions had begun and would continue, as to what constituted a 'City Wide' event and how the Areas would contribute to funding them. She suggested that perhaps with regard to its heritage Sunderland was doing its self a disservice with its lack of Blue Plaques to famous buildings and people. Helen Peverley, Area Coordinator, advised that the Place Board had identified heritage as one of its priorities for the new municipal year and that this could include the identification of heritage trails and associated sites for blue plaques.

Councillor P. Smith stated that the Silksworth Sports Complex often hosted national events but that the publicity around them was usually poor. She believed that the facility was not used to its potential and that there were so many things provided there that schools could become involved in.

There being no further questions for Ms Channing the Chairman thanked her for her presentation 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 West Sunderland 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)

Councillor Peter Gibson presented the Annual Report and highlighted the key achievements delivered with regard to the Committee's agreed local priorities of activities for young people; job prospects; health and wellbeing and environmental and street scene improvements. He advised that the results should be seen as a collaborative effort and paid tribute to everyone who had contributed to the work of the Committee and its Place and People Boards over the course of the year

3. RESOLVED that the West Sunderland Area Committee's Annual Report 2013 – 2014 be approved 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)

Gillian Gibson, Consultant in Public Health presented the report and in particular highlighted the 'Five Ways to Wellbeing' message which was positive in nature, promoting beneficial behaviours. This was a change from the more traditional public health messages which tended to be negative (eg stop smoking / drinking).

There being no questions for Mrs Gibson, the Chairman thanked her for her report and it was:-

4. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

### **Report of the West Area Voluntary and Community Sector Network (AVCSN)**

The AVCS Network submitted a progress report (copy circulated) which briefed the Committee on issues pertinent to the Voluntary and Community Sector.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Julie Lynn, Area Community Officer presented the report highlighting:-

- i) the continued support from the network in relation to health partnership working. In this regard the Network had received a presentation from the NHS Training Service on the services they provided and how they could be delivered in local venues facilitated by the VCSN,
- ii) the attendance of the Council's Public Protection and Regulatory Service at a Network meeting to offer advice on how the VCSN could work in partnership with the Service to address local issues,

- iii) the support from the Network in delivering the Committee's priorities in relation to Job prospects, Activities for Older and Younger Persons, Street Scene and Environmental Improvements together with Health and Wellbeing,
- iv) the opportunities available to the network to assist in addressing the issues of funding and resources,
- v) Joint working with the Library Service to expand the new offer across the west area of the city.

In addition to the report, Ms Lynn also advised of the West's success at the High Sheriff of Tyne and Wear Youth Awards 2014 in which the top award from the fund had gone to the Box Youth Project. The Committee were also informed of Councillor Tye's success in winning the Richard Spoor Unsung Hero Award.

Councillor Gofton praised the report which exemplified how far the Network had come in such a short time and paid tribute to all concerned in the joint working initiatives.

Bill Leach and Edna Rochester having praised the success of the community library work and the Health Training initiative, the Chairman thanked them for their report, and it was:-

5. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

### **Report of the Northumbria Police – Sunderland West**

Dave Pickett of Northumbria Police presented a report (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with an update on the Force's most recent performance indicators showing actual crimes for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2013 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014 and the percentage increase / decrease against the previous two annual reporting periods. Particular reference was paid to crime levels in relation to violent crime, vehicle crime, burglary from dwelling, burglary other than dwelling, criminal damage, theft and handling, shoplifting, youth ASB and Non Youth ASB. In addition members were informed of the particular crime patterns in respect of the Barnes, Pallion, St. Anne's, Sandhill, Silksworth and St Chad's wards.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor P. Smith referred to the number of shopping lifting offences in the Silksworth Ward (amounting to 101 out of the 435 figure for total crime). She believed this was no surprise given the proximity of the co op store to a large estate and the pressure placed on people by changes to the benefits system. Inspector Pickett stated that it could not be ruled out as a factor but the sheer volume of theft was down simply to poor security, amounting to the store being identified as a soft touch. The police had provided a considerable amount of advice to the store regarding ways to improve security and subsequently the number of shoplifting offences had 'fallen through the floor'.

Councillor P. Smith referred to the all pervasive nature of drugs and the problems they caused. She asked if details could be provided in future reports. She stated that she wasn't looking for detailed figures just an overview of the current situation and an indication of the development of any significant trends. Inspector Pickett advised that he could do so and that the figures were also detailed on the Northumbria Police web site.

Julie Lynn informed Councillor Smith that she would circulate the information on a monthly basis.

Councillor Dixon referred to the discussion at the last meeting regarding Northumbria Police's pilot of body worn video cameras and asked how the pilot had progressed. Inspector Pickett advised the pilot had only just finished. The initial feedback had been positive and pilot would now be fully evaluated.

Councillor A. Wilson asked whether there was a specific link between violent crime and drugs. Inspector Pickett replied that this was true in some cases but the vast majority of violent crimes in Sunderland involved alcohol, consumed either in the home or on the street.

The Chairman having thanked Inspector Pickett for his attendance it was:-

6. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

### **Report of the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service**

Julie Lynn, Area Community Officer having advised that Jeff Wilkinson of the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service (TWFRS) was unable to attend the meeting presented his report (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with an update on the Service's performance indicators for the period 1<sup>st</sup> January to 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2014 with particular reference to:-

- i) the number of deaths from accidental / all dwelling fires (there were none),
- ii) the number of injuries from accidental / all dwelling fires (there were two),
- iii) accidental fires in domestic properties (6),
- iv) deliberate property fires (2),
- v) deliberate vehicle fires (1) and
- vi) the number of Malicious False Alarm calls attended (4)

(For copy report – see original minutes)

The Chairman having thanked Ms Lynn for the report, it was:-

7. RESOLVED the report be received and noted.

### **Place Board Progress Report.**

The Chairman of the West Sunderland Area Place Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update of progress against the current year's Place Board Work Plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor P. Gibson presented the report drawing Members' attention to the initiation of action towards achieving key priorities as detailed in Appendix 3 of the report together with a summary of key areas of influence and achievements of the Place Board in relation to Responsive Local Services, Highways Capital Maintenance, Shopping Centres, Public Protection and Regulatory Services and Environment and Street Scene Improvements as at 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2014.

Councillor Porthouse referred to the Highways maintenance programme and stressed the importance of members being kept up to date with any changes to the schedule of works. For example the resurfacing works to Archer road had not been carried out as planned which meant members had had to field questions from residents who had expected the work to be completed. Julie Lynn advised that updates were provided via the ward bulletin service and the Chairman added that this was something that could be raised with highways officers at the Place Board.

Consideration having been given to the report it was:-

8. RESOLVED that :-

- i) the progress and performance update with regard to the West Place Board Work Plan for 2013/2014, attached at Annex 3 to the report be received and noted
- ii) approval be given to the recommendations of the Place Board regarding the Highways Capital Maintenance programmes for the West Sunderland Area for 2014/2015, as detailed in Annex 4 to the report.
- iii) approval be given to the revised plan for the Bishopwearmouth Baby Cemetery as detailed in Annex 5 of the report, subject to agreement from the Friends Group.
- iv) approval be given to the alignment and utilisation of Family and Adult Community Learning to support the delivery of local area priorities and environmental improvements in the West.
- v) approval be given to the alignment of the Integrated Wellness Review and the local area priority of Environmental Improvements in the West, to support Health and Wellbeing outcomes in the West.

### **People Board Progress Report.**

The Chairman of the West Sunderland Area People Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update on progress against the current year's People Board Work Plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor P. Gibson presented the report drawing Members' attention to the initiation of action towards achieving the key priorities as detailed in Annex 6 of the report of the report, together with a summary of key areas of influence and achievements of the People Board in relation to Family and Adult Community Learning, the Community

Directory, Sexual Health Services, The Health Plan on a Page, Job Prospects, Integrated Wellness Review and Libraries as at 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2014.

Councillor Tye referred to item 3 on Annex 6 regarding the recommissioning of services in Children's Centres and asked when it was likely that the matter would be reviewed by the People Board? Simone Common, West Opps Locality Manager replied that this was likely to be reported to the Board in June or July.

Consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

9. RESOLVED that :-

- i) the progress and performance update with regard to the West People Board Work Plan for 2013/14 be received and noted
- ii) approval be given to the development and alignment of FACL learning, where appropriate, to support the Area Committee's local area priorities
- iii) approval be given the West Health Plan on a page (including those issues as identified as part of the sexual health review)
- iv) approval be given to the recommendation to support VCS capacity and sustainability to support the integrated wellness review
- v) approval be given to the proposed visit to the Goldthorpe Community Shop and attempts to influence plans for a national rollout to include Sunderland
- vi) approval be given to the alignment of the integrated wellness review and the local area priority of environmental improvements in the West to support health and wellbeing.

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

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) in respect of the above matter.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Julie Lynn, Area Community Officer, presented the report highlighting the financial statement, details of 9 projects approved for support from the 2013/14 Community Chest budget as outlined in Annex 11 of the report together with details of one further funding request.

Attention was drawn to paragraphs 2.4, 2.5 and 4.2 of the report with members being advised that the reference to £10,500 SIB funding should be amended to read £8,500. Consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

10. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the Area Committee's funding statement as detailed in paragraphs 2.1, and 3.1, of the report (as amended) be received and noted, and
- (ii) approval be given to the recommendation of the People Board to the allocation of £8,500 SIB funding from the 2014/15 budget, towards the

diagnosis of support required by existing businesses in the West  
Sunderland Area as detailed in Annex10 of the report,

- (iii) the approval of the 9 Community Chest applications as detailed in Annex  
11 of the report be noted.

The Chairman then closed the meeting having thanked everyone for their attendance  
and contributions to the meeting.

(Signed) P. GIBSON,  
Chairman.