

At a meeting of the NORTH SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in BUNNY HILL CENTRE, HYLTON LANE, SUNDERLAND on MONDAY, 5th OCTOBER, 2015 at 5.30p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Foster in the Chair

Councillors Beck, Bell, Davison, Howe, Jackson, Leadbitter, MacKnight and Stewart

Also in Attendance:-

Insp. Tony Carty	-	Northumbria Police
Ms. Wendy Cook	-	Youth and Community Lead, SNCBC
Mr. Steve Graham	-	Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service
Ms. Louise Hill	-	Head of Improvement, Sunderland City Council
Ms. Vicki Medhurst	-	Cultural Heritage Manager, Sunderland City Council
Ms. Vivienne Metcalfe	-	Area Community Officer, Sunderland City Council
Ms. Ruth Oxley	-	Area Network Representative, SNYP
Ms. Allison Patterson	-	Area Coordinator, Sunderland City Council
Mr. Alan Scott	-	North Locality Manager, Sunderland City Council
Ms. Susan Stanhope	-	Area Lead Executive, Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development
Ms. Joanne Stewart	-	Principal Governance Services Officer, Sunderland City Council
Mr. Graham Wharton	-	Area Network Representative, Community Manager, Salvation Army

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting, inviting introductions from those in attendance.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Copeland, Curran, Elliott, Francis, D. Wilson and N. Wright

Declarations of Interest

Item 5 – Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) and Community Chest – Financial Statement and proposals for further allocation of resources

Councillor MacKnight made an open declaration in the application for SIB funding from Culture and Heritage, Sunderland City Council for the Hylton Castle Redevelopment Project, as a member of the Friends of Hylton Castle and Dene group.

Minutes of the last meeting held on 8th June, 2015

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 8th June, 2015 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Place Board Progress Report

The Chairman of the North Sunderland Area Place Board submitted a report (copy circulated) in respect of the above matter.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Foster presented the report which provided an update of progress against the current year's Place Board work plan, which included:-

- Marine Walk and the former Roker Paddling Pool site;
- Parking Issues at Ferryboat Lane;
- Hylton Castle Redevelopment Project; and
- Battle Re-enactment Event.

Councillor MacKnight asked for an update on the site of the Southwick Social Club and was advised that ward Members received regular reports from Officers on actions being undertaken with regards to the site. The latest update had advised that they were currently awaiting a response from the owner of the land before further action could be taken.

Councillor Davison referred to paragraph 3.1 of the report and asked how Members were able to 'influence decisions on services delivered at a local level' and was advised by Ms. Patterson that this was done via the Place Board and working with Responsive Local Services, the Locality Manager, CLAB, etc. Councillor Davison felt that there was very little involvement of Members in the work of the RLS teams and how they were organised and Ms. Patterson proposed that a discussion be held at a future Place Board meeting, where the issues she faced could be fed back to Mr. Old directly.

Councillor Stewart referred to 20mph zones and a project he had been aware of some time ago where they had been proposed to be rolled out across the North Sunderland area at key sites. He went on to advise he had been issued

that were to be carried out and that although he was aware that a large scale of the Marley Potts area had been concluded others in the Redhill, Town End and Seaburn had not been carried out. Cllr Stewart advised that he had contacted Officers but had unable to get a response as to whether the project was to continue as originally set out.

Ms. Patterson informed the Committee that Officers had advised her that works were looked at on an annual basis whereby those areas with the most problems were addressed. She referred Members to 1.12 within the work plan as set out in Annex 1, and advised that those three areas for the North Sunderland area that were priorities for 2015/16 were Clovelly Road, Northern Saints Primary School and Town End Farm. With regards to the information Councillor Stewart had, Ms. Patterson agreed to go back to Officers with the map in question and get a position statement as to what was happening with that project and if there were any changes to it, to get reasons for those that were chosen to be undertaken or withdrawn.

With regards to Enforcement, as set out in 1.4 of the work plan, Councillor Howe referred to an issue that had been ongoing for years with the encroachment of takeaways at the seafront onto public space. He commented that there had been no robust enforcement carried out and that the issue continued to be a problem. Ms. Patterson advised that the situation had been raised and was being monitored by Officers. With regard to traffic problems in the area Traffic Wardens were patrolling the area and it was hoped that through consistently being seen in the area it would alleviate the issue.

Councillor Howe spoke with regard to the Chairman discussing tree felling in the city and raised concerns over mature trees having been removed from an area in Fulwell. Councillor Foster advised that there was a meeting of the Place Board Chairman to take place the following day where he intended to raise the issue of tree felling and that he would get progress on the current policy.

Members having no further comment or questions, it was:-

2. RESOLVED that the progress and performance update with regards to the North Sunderland Area Place Board Work Plan for 2015/16 be received and noted.

People Board Progress Report

The Chairman of the North Sunderland Area People Board submitted a report (copy circulated) in respect of the above matter.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Metcalfe presented the report drawing Members attention to the priorities associated with People and referred to the North Sunderland Area People

Board and the action to date on those priorities as set out in the work plan for 2015/16, including the following:-

- Downhill Wheeled Sports Park;
- Summer Holiday Activities;
- Holiday Hunger Project;
- Life Live Well Service;
- Leisure Partnership;
- All Age Friendly City; and
- North Sunderland Children Centres.

Councillor MacKnight spoke of the Holiday Hunger Project and advised that she had spoken with a number of schools in the North Sunderland Area who had received no information about the project. She was also aware that families who had taken up the scheme had simply received a £5 supermarket voucher. She asked for further details on how families were made aware of the scheme and how successful it had been deemed.

Ms. Patterson advised that the scheme had been ran as a pilot project with a targeted approach, whereby some families would have received a letter advising them of the project. A full evaluation of the project was being undertaken and it was hoped that the findings from this would be reported to the November meeting of the North Sunderland Area People Board.

Members having fully considered the report, it was:-

3. RESOLVED that the progress and performance update with regards to the North Sunderland Area People Board Work Plan for 2015/16 be received and noted.

Partner Agency Reports – North Sunderland Area Voluntary and Community Sector Network

The Voluntary and Community Sector Network submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update with regard to the Network.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Oxley, Area Network Representative, took the Committee through the report providing an update on the work being undertaken by the North Sunderland Area VCS Network.

Ms. Oxley advised that following the agreed Terms of Reference for the Network the longest serving VCS representative had stepped down on 31st March, 2015. A nomination process had been carried out to appoint a new representative and to date no new nominations had been received although she was hopeful that a nomination would be made soon as the process was carried out again.

In response to a question from Councillor Bell regarding how the service was doing securing funding, Ms. Oxley advised that this was one of the main issues that organisations were having as they struggled to secure monies from funding streams and were finding that it was putting particular extra pressure upon them.

Members having fully considered the report, it was:-

4. RESOLVED that the content of the report and the opportunities and issues raised by the North Sunderland Area Voluntary and Community Sector Network be received and noted.

Partner Agency Reports – Northumbria Police

Neighbourhood Inspector Tony Carty of Northumbria Police gave an update to the Committee on the current position with regards to crime and anti-social behaviour data and of any on-going issues in the North Sunderland area.

Members were circulated crime figures in relation to the North Sunderland Area for the period 1st April, 2015 – 5th October, 2015 and their comparison to the same period in 2014, with particular reference to:-

- Overall Crime	-	+117 (8% increase)
- Burglary	-	Exactly the Same
- Burglary Other than Dwelling	-	- 46 (30% reduction)
- Theft from Motor Vehicle	-	- 42 (28% reduction)
- Shoplifting	-	- 44 (23% reduction)
- Other Theft	-	+ 80 (43% increase)
- Violence	-	+ 91 (31% increase)
- Youth ASB	-	- 200 (28% reduction)

Inspector Carty advised that the Sunderland Illuminations were on at the seafront at the moment which was attracting large crowds but to date there had been no crime or incidents of anti social behaviour reported and the event was going well. Officers would continue to patrol in the area.

Councillor MacKnight referred to the peddlers trading at the Illuminations and was advised by Inspector Carty that the legislation covering peddler activity was difficult as it allows the seller to sell items as long as they continue to move around the site. He advised that Officers were checking to ensure sellers all had the relevant certificates allowing them to trade in the area but expressed that it could be difficult to prosecute them as you would often find that they were not from the local area. He advised that if the seller was deemed not to be a peddler, i.e standing in the same position and trading then this would be an issue for the Council and Trading Standards Department to prosecute.

Ms. Stanhope advised that the Council were undertaking some work and looking at other authorities, such as Blackpool and Bournemouth, who had similar issues, as it was a particular issue over the airshow weekend.

Inspector Carty was asked if there were any evidence based statistics on the rise of the trafficking of young women in the area, as it was on the increase nationally, and advised that there were a number of historic cases being reported by victims now. He explained that it was not thought that the number of incidents were increasing just that more victims were coming forward and reporting them.

When asked by Councillor Davison if the force had future concerns over the possible reduction in funding, Inspector Carty commented that the budget would not be announced until November but if it was as expected then the force could be set to lose approximately 500 further police officers by 2018. He informed the Committee that Northumbria Police Force had more cuts as a percentage than any other force in the country.

Mr. Wharton commended the work of Northumbria Police for their activities they had carried out on internet safety which had been invaluable to some parents to have their support.

Councillor Foster having thanked Inspector Carty for his report and continued excellent work in the North Sunderland Area, it was:-

5. RESOLVED that the update from the Northumbria Police be received and noted.

Partner Agency Reports – Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Services

Mr. Steven Graham, Station Manager, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Services provided a verbal update to the Committee, on performance in relation to the local indicators for the North Sunderland Area Committee area.

Members were advised of the second quarter figures in relation to the North Sunderland Area for the period of July – September, 2015, with particular reference to:-

- i) the number of deaths from accidental / all dwelling fires – none;
- ii) the number of injuries from accidental / all dwelling fires – none;
- iii) accidental fires in domestic properties – 6;
- iv) deliberate property fires – 6;
- v) deliberate vehicle fires – 4; and
- vi) secondary fires not involving property or road vehicles – 64.

He advised that the main focus of the service was to look at the current statistics to identify and target hot spot areas; which in the North Sunderland area were the wards of Southwick and Redhill presently. He explained that the service were working with SNYP, volunteer adults and children to carry

out litter picks and clean up areas, a project that they had undertaken the previous year which had seemed to help.

Mr. Graham informed the Committee that the service had acquired five targeted response vehicles, which were smaller in size and used to hit smaller incidents. Since their introduction in May, 2015 they had attended over 600 small incidents over the Tyne and Wear area, leaving the larger appliances available for any bigger incidents.

The new station, Marley Park, was officially opening on 23rd October, 2015 and Members would be receiving an invitation. With regards to Fulwell Fire Station, it had been boarded and painted and a decision was being awaited by the Fire Authority on the future of the building and associated land.

The Chairman having thanked Mr. Graham for his report, it was:-

6. RESOLVED that the update from the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service be received and noted.

Financial Statement and Proposals for Further Allocation of Resources

The Head of Scrutiny and Area Arrangements submitted a report (copy circulated) which requested Members to give consideration to a financial statement as an up to date position in relation to the allocation of Strategic Initiatives Budget and Community Chest and presented proposals for further funding requests.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Metcalfe, Area Community Officer presented the report drawing attention to the recommendations detailed within the report.

Having fully discussed the application and those in attendance having answered Members questions; it was:-

7. RESOLVED that:-
 - (i) the financial statements as set out in paragraphs 2.1 and 3.1 of the report be noted;
 - (ii) approval be given to the allocation of £35,000 from the SIB budget for 2015/16 to support the Downhill Wheeled Sports Park;
 - (iii) approval be given to the allocation of £23,620 from the SIB budget for 2015/16 and the allocation of £15,500 of Green Space Funding to support the Former Roker Paddling Pool Project;
 - (iv) approval be given to the allocation of £10,000 from the SIB budget for 2015/16 to support the self supporting Community

- Associations (£2,500 each) Castletown, Redby, Southwick and Thompson Park – Delivery of Services and Activities;
- (v) approval be given to the allocation of £40,000 from the SIB budget for 2015/16 to support the Hylton Castle Redevelopment Project;
 - (vi) approval be given to the allocation of £10,000 from the SIB budget for 2015/16 to support the change of project to two days to the Battle Re-enactment Project;
 - (vii) approval be given to the allocation of £8,000 from the SIB budget for 2015/16 to support the Ferryboat Lane Parking Management Scheme;
 - (viii) approval be given to the alignment of £40,000 from the SIB budget for 2015/16 to support the relocation of the Redhill Play Area Project;
 - (ix) approval be given to the alignment of £40,000 from the SIB budget for 2015/16 for the development of a Call for Projects to deliver School Holiday Activities in Easter and Summer 2016; and
 - (x) the ten approvals for Community Chest supported from the 2015/16 budget as set out in Annex 2 to the report be noted.

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

(Signed) S. FOSTER,
Chairman.