

At a meeting of the EAST SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE, SUNDERLAND on TUESDAY, 26th JUNE, 2012 at 5.30p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Ball in the Chair

Councillors Emerson, Forbes, E. Gibson, Kay, Marshall, McClennan, T. Martin, Price and Scanlan

Also Present:-

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| Charlotte Burnham | - Head of Scrutiny and Area Arrangements, Sunderland City Council |
| Graham Burt | - Community Development Manager, Sunderland City Council |
| Hazel Clark | - East VCS Network Representative |
| Paula Hunt | - East VCS Network Representative |
| Matthew Jackson | - Governance Services Officer, Sunderland City Council |
| Chris Maskell | - Head of Operations, Gentoo |
| Keith Moore | - Area Lead Executive and Executive Director of Children's Services, Sunderland City Council |
| Trina Murphy | - Heritage and Resorts Manager, Sunderland City Council |
| Nicol Trueman | - Area Officer, Sunderland City Council |

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received on behalf of Councillors Errington, Maddison, Mordey and Wood along with Inspector Hall, Ian Warne and Jeremy Wicking.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Emerson declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the Community Chest application for Ryhope Infants School as a governor of the

school. He withdrew from the meeting and took no part in the consideration of this application.

Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 23rd April, 2012

Councillor T. Martin stated that his involvement in the Phoenix Project had been during his time as Mayor. He also stated that on the Local Development Framework item he had referred to sites adjacent to the city which were owned by other authorities rather than sites within the city as was recorded.

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 23rd April, 2012 be confirmed and signed as a correct record subject to the inclusion of the above amendment.

Setting the Scene – Strengthening the Area Governance Arrangements

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which outlined the changes to the Council's area governance arrangements and supporting practices as agreed at Annual Council on 16th May, 2012.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

The Chairman presented the report and advised that the Committee now had two Area Boards underneath it. These Area Boards would look at People and Place and would support the Committee in the delivery of the agreed priorities. The boards would be chaired by one of the two Vice-Chairs of the Committee and would not make decisions but develop recommendations which would then be presented to the Area Committee for approval.

The proposed Membership of the boards was detailed in paragraph 3.3 and Members were asked to agree this membership. The boards would be open to any Member to attend if they wished.

The place board would allow Members to have a more influential role in the delivery of services through Responsive Local Services.

The role of the people boards was still being developed and the meetings would be commencing in September.

The governance of the Strategic Initiatives Budget and Community Chest were unchanged although there was not the ability for citywide SIB applications to be submitted; instead applications must impact on no more than 2 areas. The Community Chest was now restricted to applications not being able to impact on more than 6 wards.

In response to a query from Councillor Forbes regarding Community Chest Nicol Trueman, Area Officer, advised that as long as 2 of the 3 Ward

Councillors agreed to the application then it would be able to be approved; the Chair was able to cast a casting vote if necessary.

Councillor McClennan expressed concerns that there were groups such as Age Concern which relied on SIB funding to deliver citywide projects which may not be able to carry out their work if they were unable to apply for SIB of Community Chest funding.

Councillor Kay stated that there were a lot of organisations based in Hendon, Millfield and St. Michaels as there was a large number of city centre based organisations; he hoped that they would not be disadvantaged by this change to SIB.

Charlotte Burnham, Head of Scrutiny and Area Arrangements, advised that other funding routes would be looked into. All applications would be considered on their own merits.

Ms Trueman added that citywide organisations would not be prevented from putting forward applications.

Councillor T. Martin stated that instead of submitting citywide bids, organisations should direct their operations and funding bids to the areas where there would be the biggest impact.

Councillor McClennan then referred to the fact that there were often applications for Community Chest funding from groups providing shopping trips for disabled and elderly residents and also applications for events such as those for Remembrance Day. She asked how these would be affected.

Ms Trueman advised that City Services were looking at different levels of events and only events which were identified as being local would be funded by the Area Committee in the future. Ms Burnham added that there would be consultation with Members on this matter by the end of July.

2. RESOLVED that the report be noted and the membership of the Place and People Boards be agreed.

Determining the Area Committee's Priorities for 2012-2013

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which requested Members to determine the key priorities for the year ahead, which would form the basis of the Committee's Local Area Plan for 2012-13.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Nicol Trueman, Area Officer, presented the report and advised that there had been a workshop held in May 2012 where Members had been given the opportunity to discuss the needs of their communities in order to identify which issues were areas of priority and how the Committee could influence

how services were provided on an area level. The emerging priorities which were identified by this workshop were then shared with residents at the State of the Area Debate and also with VCS representatives through the VCS network.

The emerging priorities for the area were set out in annex 1 to the report and categorised the priorities as relating to People, Place or Economy. The definitions for People and Place were detailed in paragraph 3.2 of the report.

There were some priorities from 2011/12 which it was proposed would not be continued; these were detailed in paragraph 3.3 of the report and included 'Employment and Enterprise', 'Youth and Teenagers' and 'Public Transport'.

There had been extensive consultation and the outcomes of the consultation was detailed in Section 4 of the report.

At annex 2 there was an update on the provision of public rescue equipment at Hendon Beach; it was proposed that this be discussed in detail at a workshop.

Councillor T. Martin stated that ETEC had previously provided training courses for young people in the area; disappointingly young people were now directed to organisations in the North Area. He welcomed the work around Hendon Beach; he felt that there needed to be work to ensure that there were no more tragic deaths at the beach. He also commented that some schools had recently opened facilities for public use. He congratulated everyone who had been involved in the Walk and Talk programme and thanked the officers and residents who had attended them.

Councillor McClennan expressed concerns that facilities might be lost if they were transferred to outside agencies as was proposed by the Council. She also stated that at the State of the Area debate she had suggested History and Heritage as a priority and there was no mention of this priority in the report.

Councillor Kay stated that the Area Boards were a completely new idea and asked how they would be operated. He felt that they would be most effective when being responsive to issues in the area rather than working to a list of priorities. The Boards needed to be able to tackle problems which might not be known about yet. There were new issues emerging such as housing; the changes to housing benefit meant that single people would only be able to afford the cheapest properties which traditionally would have been student accommodation; this would then lead to problems for students coming to the city who might not be able to find accommodation. This would also change what services needed to be delivered and also where they needed to be delivered.

Charlotte Burnham, Head of Scrutiny and Area Arrangements, agreed that there was a need for the boards to be responsive. She also advised that the boards would have priorities for areas of work set by the Area Committee.

There would also be intelligence from Members and partners used to ensure proactive and responsive work would be done. Only once the Boards were operating would it be possible to know which was most important out of delivering actions against the priorities or responsive working.

Councillor Emerson also agreed that the Boards needed to be flexible.

Keith Moore, Area Lead Executive, stated that it would be a challenge to ensure that there was a suitable balance of the business of the boards to ensure that both the area priorities and any responsive work could be done. He also stated that there was a need for Members and officers to bring local intelligence to the meetings to ensure that work was done on a local level.

Ms Trueman advised that History and Heritage would be given consideration and would be fed into the informal workshop for Members which was provisionally booked to be held on 3rd July, 2012; this workshop would allow Members to look at the proposed priorities in detail. There would be a report back to the Committee on welfare reform.

Hazel Clark queried whether members of the VCS Network would be invited to the workshop; they were very active contributors to the work of the Committee. The Chairman advised that they were welcome to attend if they wished. Ms Burnham added that the workshop had originally been intended just for Members however if the VCS representatives felt that they would be able to contribute to the workshop then they were welcome to attend.

3. RESOLVED that:-
 - a. The issues raised by residents at the State of the Area debate and the VCS Network be given consideration and the priorities for 2012/13 be agreed
 - b. A workshop be held to determine the detailed East Sunderland Area Committee LAP Work Plan for 2012/13.

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

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which requested Members to give consideration to proposals for the allocation of SIB and Community Chest funding to support initiatives that would deliver activity against priorities for 2012-13.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Nicol Trueman, Area Officer, presented the report and advised that there were 22 proposals for support from the 2012/13 Community Chest totalling £13,620 which were recommended for approval and there was one application recommended to be deferred.

There were no applications for SIB funding and Members were asked to note that the Committee had been allocated a total of £316,935 of SIB funding to allocate against area priorities outlined in the work plan for 2012/13.

4. RESOLVED that:-
 - a. The financial statements set out in paragraphs 2.1 and 3.1 of the report be noted.
 - b. The 22 proposals for Community Chest funding totalling £13,620 be approved.
 - c. The application for Community Chest from Sunderland Thai Boxing Club be deferred.

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

(Signed) E. BALL,
Chairman.