

**At a meeting of the EAST SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE, SUNDERLAND on MONDAY, 7<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2015 at 5.30p.m.**

**Present:-**

Councillor Ball in the Chair

Councillors M. Dixon, English, Farr, Forbes, E. Gibson, Marshall, Mordey, O'Neil, Price, Scanlan and Wood

**Also Present:-**

Jeff Boath	- Station Manager, Tyne & Wear Fire & Rescue Service
Alan Duffy	- Head of Operations, Gentoo
David Groark	- Area Response Manager, Sunderland City Council
Paula Hunt	- VCS Representative
Matthew Jackson	- Governance Services Officer, Sunderland City Council
Sarah Reed	- Assistant Chief Executive & Area Lead Executive, Sunderland City Council
Gillian Robinson	- Area Co-ordinator, Sunderland City Council
Jamie Southwell	- Neighbourhood Inspector, Northumbria Police
Nicol Trueman	- Area Community 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 Emerson, Kay and McClennan together with Hazel Clark, Chris Marshall and Jen McKeivitt

**Declarations of Interest**

Item 5 – Area Budgets Report

Councillor Marshall declared that she was a Council appointed Member of the Box Youth Project, she withdrew from the meeting during the consideration of the application for funding for the Box Youth Project.

Councillor Ball declared that she was a Council appointed Member of Ryhope Community Association, she withdrew from the meeting during the consideration of this application.

Councillor Scanlan declared that she was a Council appointed Member of St Mark's Community Association, she withdrew from the meeting during consideration of this application.

Councillors M. Dixon and Wood declared that they had attended meetings of the Friends of Backhouse Park and Friends of Barley Mow Park groups although they were not members of these groups.

### **Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2015**

Councillor Mordey referred to the seagull scheme in Mowbray Park; this was an important issue and he felt that there was a need for the feedback to be provided to the Committee. He acknowledged that the feedback had been considered by the Place Board however not all Members sat on the board. He asked that Marion Dixon be invited to the next meeting of the Committee to provide feedback on the matter.

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2015 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

### **VCS Area Network Progress Report**

Paula Hunt delivered a verbal update on the work done by the VCS Network since the last Area Committee meeting. She advised that there had been 3 meetings held and each of the meetings had received a number of presentations. There had been no issues raised other than the Youth Zones which would be considered by the People Board.

The Chairman thanked Ms Hunt for her report and it was:-

2. RESOLVED that the VCS Network progress report be noted.

### **Northumbria Police Update**

Inspector Jamie Southwell advised that he had contacted Durham Constabulary with regard to the Durham Coast Watch and had liaised with the officers and with Durham Heritage; there was a desire to expand the scheme to cover Sunderland and a meeting had been arranged to discuss this. He would be attending this meeting and would report back; he would find out where any funding required would come from.

Inspector Southwell then introduced the crime figures for the central area which covered the City Centre and Millfield. He advised that all crime had increased by 11 percent; this was the smallest increase in the force area and was in part due to changes in how crimes were recorded. It was due to these changes in recording that violent crime had increased by 49 percent.

Theft from motor vehicles had increased by 3 percent which was 4 additional crimes; there was still a problem with people not securing their vehicles or leaving valuables on display.

Burglaries from dwellings had reduced by 5 percent while there had been 40 fewer burglaries of properties other than dwellings; a reduction of 28 percent.

There had been 25 fewer shoplifting offences; all other areas within the force had seen an increase in shoplifting.

Antisocial behaviour had reduced by 227 incidents while there had been 72 fewer incidents of youth antisocial behaviour, a reduction of 23 percent.

He advised that the Frost Village had now opened and there had not been any issues; there had been a large crowd on opening night however it had been quiet the rest of the time due to the adverse weather conditions. The Christmas lights switch on had been a success; this was the second year in a row where there had not been any incidents.

For the East sector total crime had increased by 34 percent. Theft from motor vehicles had decreased by 25 percent which was 13 fewer crimes. Burglaries of dwellings had reduced by 2 percent; there had been a number of burglaries in the Long Streets area of Hendon however due to the amount of resources in the area at the moment there had not been any more burglaries. Burglaries of properties other than dwellings had reduced by 12 percent which was 8 fewer crimes.

Antisocial behaviour had reduced by 8 percent which was 48 fewer incidents; youth antisocial behaviour had reduced by 33 percent. There had been an increase in adult antisocial behaviour of 25 incidents.

The Chairman thanked Inspector Southwell for his presentation and it was:-

3. RESOLVED that the update from Northumbria Police be noted.

### **Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service Update**

Jeff Boath presented the update from Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service. He advised that there had not been any deaths in the area as a result of fires. Deliberate fires were still an issue with there being a 50 percent increase in deliberate fires; these were mainly rubbish fires. The neighbourhood policing team had now moved into the central fire station. The new fire station at Marley Park had now been opened; although this station was not within the East Area it did mean that there were now more resources near to the East Area.

Councillor Price referred to the major incidents which had occurred recently including the major fire in Newcastle and the severe weather; he asked

whether there was any feedback on how these were managed. Mr Boath advised that the incidents had been well managed and that all of the resources had been made available.

Councillor Scanlan then asked where the rubbish fires were most likely to occur. Mr Boath advised that the issue was predominantly within Millfield; it was disappointing that there was still such an issue. The targeted response vehicles were doing proactive work and reporting dumped rubbish so that it could be removed.

The Chairman thanked Mr Boath for his report and it was:-

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

### **East Sunderland Area Place Board Progress Report**

The Chair of the East Sunderland Area Place Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update on the work of the Place Board against the priorities set out in the work plan for 2015/16.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor E. Gibson, Chair of the Place Board, introduced the report and advised that the work done by the board was summarised in paragraph 2.1 with the work plan included at annex 1. Maps of the cycle ways in the area would be circulated to Members. Councillor Mordey stated that the Cabinet would be receiving a report on cycle ways in the city centre which would look at improvements to the infrastructure and the installation of cycle racks. He thought that it would be good for the board to look at how cycle ways in the East Area could link into the facilities within the city centre.

5. RESOLVED that:-
  - a. The Place Board work plan set out at Annex 1 be noted
  - b. The development of an East Sunderland Cycle Way Strategic Plan be supported and endorsed
  - c. Members support and promote the Make Waste Useful campaign within their communities
  - d. The progress against the Highways Maintenance Programme 2016/17 be noted and a recommended list from the Place Board be brought to the March 2016 Area Committee meeting
  - e. The progress against the work plan as set out in annex 2 be noted

## **East Sunderland Area People Board Progress Report**

The Chairman of the East Sunderland Area People Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with an update on the work of the People Board against the priorities set out in the work plan for 2015/16.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Marshall, Chair of the People Board, introduced the report and advised that the work undertaken to date was set out in the work plan at annex 1 and also in the table set out in paragraph 2.1 of the report.

Councillor Mordey referred to the Holiday Hunger programme and stated that it did not look like the scheme had been successful when looking at the figures as only 90 children had been helped; the reality was that the scheme had been a success as these 90 children who had been helped were in real need; there was a need to look at how to market the scheme and target more families who are in need to ensure that there was a larger response next year. It was important to consider that people did not want to be seen to be taking hand-outs as this was damaging to their pride. He then referred to the self-harm figures which he felt were a real concern; it was important for people to be aware of the signs of self-harm to ensure that those who were self-harming were able to be identified and supported. There had been a lot of work done by Barclays Skills for Life and he felt that it would be beneficial to work alongside them.

Councillor English stated that a lot of options had been put to officers in relation to the Holiday Hunger programme by the Place Board and these would be incorporated into any future programme.

Paula Hunt advised that Washington Mind had been doing work on the Life Worth Living Toolkit, she felt that it was important to consider this toolkit as part of the work around understanding self-harm.

### **6. RESOLVED that:-**

- a. The East Sunderland Area People Board Work Plan, as set out in annex 1, be noted
- b. The findings from the Holiday Hunger scheme and initial report on understanding self-harm be noted and further reports be received
- c. The progress against the Work Plan as set out at annex 2 be noted.

## Area Budgets Report

The Head of Scrutiny and Area Arrangements submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Members with the financial statement which detailed the current position on progress in relation to allocations of SIB and Community Chest funding and which sought Members approval of proposals for funding.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Nicol Trueman presented the report and advised Members of the financial statements which were set out at paragraphs 2.1 and 3.1. There had been funds totalling £76,237 returned to the SIB budget and as such there was now £394,732 SIB funding remaining to be allocated. There were 14 requests for SIB funding totalling £162,156, as set out in section 2 of the report and at annex 1; should all of these requests be approved then there would be £232,576 remaining to be allocated.

Councillor Mordey commented that the Camping Exchange was a good scheme however he expressed concerns that the setup of the scheme was overly complex. Ms Trueman advised that the scheme would be managed by Reynolds outdoors store which would be maintaining all of the equipment as well as providing training in how to use the equipment. The voucher scheme was to allow one off access to schools which may not have participated otherwise; it was expected that the voucher scheme would help to increase participation levels.

Councillor M. Dixon referred to the improving housing standards for vulnerable people funding request and advised that the Health Housing and Adult Services Scrutiny Panel on which he sat was carrying out work on this matter; he felt that it would be useful for the Area Board to liaise with the scrutiny panel. Councillor Mordey added that a lot of people who lived in hostels found it difficult to access GP services. Ms Trueman advised that the project would help to improve links between tenants and GPs and would help to remove the barriers to accessing services.

Ms Trueman also advised the Committee of the 12 previously approved Community Chest applications which were set out in Annex 2 to the report. There was a remaining balance of £25,594.46 remaining to be allocated across the 5 wards.

Members then discussed the applications and it was:-

### 7. RESOLVED that:-

- a. The financial statements set out in sections 2 and 3 be noted.
- b. The 14 SIB funding requests totalling £162,156 as set out in Annex 1 be approved.
- c. The 12 Community Chest approvals from the 2015/16 budget as set out in Annex 2 be noted.

## **Planning Applications – For Information Only**

Current Planning Applications relating to the East Sunderland Area for the period 1<sup>st</sup> October to 19<sup>th</sup> November 2015 were submitted for Members information only (copy circulated).

(For copy report – see original minutes)

8. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

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

(Signed) E. BALL,  
Chairman.