

Item 1d

At a meeting of the WEST SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held remotely on TUESDAY 22nd SEPTEMBER, 2020 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor P. Gibson in the Chair

Councillors, Atkinson, Blackett, Crosby, D. Dixon, Greener, Haswell, Mann, McDonough, Mullen, O'Brien, G. Smith, P. Smith, Tye, Waller, Watson and K. Wood.

Also Present:-

Fiona Brown	Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Sunderland City Council
Kevin Burns	Station Manager, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue
Alan Duffy	Head of Operations, Gentoo
Joanne Laverick	VCS Network Representative, Youth Almighty
Bill Leach	VCS Network Representative, Pennywell Com. Centre
David Noon	Principal Governance Services Officer, Sunderland City Council
Graham Scanlon	Assistant Director of Housing, Sunderland City Council
Gilly Stanley	Area Community Development Lead, Sunderland City Council

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Amy Wilson and Sam Rennison (Northumbria Police).

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 8th July, 2020 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

West Area Committee Delivery Plan 2020-2023

Councillor Watson, Chair of West Area Neighbourhoods and Community Board, presented the report (copy circulated) which:-

- i) Presented the West Area Committee Delivery Plan 2020-2023 and;
- ii) Provided an update of progress against the Area Priorities associated with the Delivery Plan as at September 2020.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

The Chairman thanked Councillor Watson for her report and there being no questions or comments, it was:-

2. RESOLVED that:-

- i) the progress and performance update with regard to West Area Committee Delivery Plan 2020/23 be noted, and
- ii) approval be given to the proposals for future delivery as contained within Annex 1 of the report.

Report of the West Area Voluntary and Community Sector Network

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

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Consideration was given to the report presented by William Leach which highlighted the following VCS Network activity undertaken since its last report to the Committee:-

- i) Although unable to meet due to Covid -19, the network had kept in regular contact sharing information and ideas. It was intended that the representatives would hold a virtual VCS network meeting in the Autumn.
- ii) Pallion Action Group and Youth Almighty Project had continued to work with the Council, CCG, Gentoo and volunteers to provide support for local residents in the West who were shielding.
- iii) Representatives from various VCS organisations had met remotely with Councillor John Kelly and Sandra Mitchell to discuss lessons learned from the Community Hub response to COVID-19 and to consider how this may influence future VCSE arrangements. Further discussions with the network were to take place over the coming months.
- iv) With organisations from across the network starting to re-open, activity programmes had been amended to ensure organisations were working within government guidelines to keep everyone safe by respecting social distancing and implementing rigorous hygiene procedures.
- v) 44 Organisations from the West Area had received support from the Sunderland City Council Local Support Scheme, totalling £114,500

There being no questions or comments for Mr Leach, the Chairman thanked him for his report, and it was:-

3. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Report of Gentoo

Alan Duffy, Head of Operations, Gentoo Group presented a report (copy circulated) which briefed the Committee on the impact of the Coronavirus on the delivery of Gentoo's services. In addition the Committee was advised of works on the first phase of Chester Gate which were due to recommence as soon as possible (subject to Gentoo board approval in September) and also the launch of a consultation on the provision of affordable homes for rent in South Hylton Green, together with associated rights of way.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Crosby, Mr Duffy confirmed that all evictions were currently suspended and had been since the beginning of the initial Coronavirus lockdown.

In response to enquiries from Councillor McDonough, Mr Duffy advised that the ability to undertake property maintenance had been hampered by the pandemic however the backlog had now been cleared and planned maintenance would continue. Similarly, staff shortages had prevented the grounds maintenance teams from tackling the issue of weeds on land Gentoo was responsible for, but this was now being addressed.

Councillor Watson referred to the new development at Claxheugh Rock and asked if there were plans to build an additional access road. Mr Duffy replied that the site would be accessed via Claxheugh Road and Birchwood Road.

There being no further questions or comments, the Chairman thanked Mr Duffy for his report and it was :-

4. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Report of the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service

A report of the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service (TWFRS) (copy circulated) was submitted which provided the Committee with an update on the Service's performance indicators for the period 1 June 2020 to 31st August 2020 with particular reference to the L133 Incidents (deliberate fires) broken down by property type.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Kevin Burns, Station Manager presented the report informing members that there had been no deaths recorded during the reporting period. There had been a total of 71 deliberate fires during the period, which represented a decrease of 26% on the previous year. This was due to a decrease in the number of loose refuse/rubbish incidents. Vehicle incidents however had increased.

The Fire and Rescue Service were working with Northumbria Police concerning the vehicle fires and continued to report loose refuse to partners for removal.

Members were also advised of the Service's continuing educational role within the Community and also the preparations around the darker nights campaign. Mr Burns then addressed questions and comments from Members on his report.

Councillor Wood offered her congratulations and thanks to the Fire Service for their excellent work in tackling the Croft fire incident. Mr Burns advised that he would pass on the thanks to the crews concerned.

Councillor McDonough welcomed the decrease in recorded incidents and asked whether the prevalence of fires was greater in the summer or winter months and what plans would be put in place for bonfire night with a lockdown in place. Mr Burns advised that fires tended to peak at the start of the lighter nights, generally occurring between the end of the school day and 10pm. These fires were predominantly grass and refuse fires. The number of fires tended to drop during the winter months following bonfire night. Plans were being developed around this year's bonfire night and would form part of the darker nights campaign

In response to a further enquiry, Councillor Tye and Mr Burns confirmed that multi agency discussions regarding the darker nights campaign formed part of the Northumbria Police led LMAPS meetings.

There being no further questions or comments for Mr Burns, the Chairman thanked him for his report, and it was:-

5. RESOLVED the report be received and noted

Report of Northumbria Police

The Chair advised that in the absence of the presenting officer, the report (copy circulated) was submitted for information only. If members had any questions on the report they should be emailed to Ms Stanley who would ensure that they received a reply in writing.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

In response to an enquiry from Councillor O'Brien, Councillor Tye advised that he would be happy to provide feedback to members on the non-confidential items considered at each West Area LMAPS meeting, either by way of a post meeting email to all members or via a formal report back to the next available meeting of the Area Committee. He would be guided by the views of the Chairman and officers as to the best way to take the matter forward.

6. RESOLVED the report be received and noted

Unauthorised Encampments

The Assistant Director of Housing presented a report (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with an update on the Council's Unauthorised Encampments Policy and site activity in 2020 together with the associated financial and service impact

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Mr Scanlon briefed the Committee on the background to and development of the Unauthorised Encampment Policy. Members were informed that the report was city wide in nature and was being submitted to each Area Committee for consideration of the financial aspects in relation to its own area. In respect of this Committee however, it was submitted for information only, as the operation of the policy had not been required within the West Area to date.

On behalf of residents in the East Area, Councillor Blackett thanked Mr Scanlon for his Team's work in respect of the unauthorised encampment that appeared on the Vaux Site.

There being no further questions or comments for Mr Scanlon, the Chairman thanked him for his report, and it was:-

7. RESOLVED the report be received and noted

West Area Budget Report

The Assistant Director of Community Resilience submitted a report (copy circulated) in respect of the above matter.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Gilly Stanley Area Community Development Lead, presented the report highlighting the Committee's financial statement, details of 5 projects approved under delegated powers for support from the 2020/21 Community Chest budget, together with details of a proposal for the allocation of funds from the Neighbourhood Fund.

Councillor Smith praised the work of the Phoenix Project and welcomed the news that the project was now able to continue having been mainstreamed as part of the TWFRS Authority budget.

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

8. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the Area Committee's funding statement as detailed in paragraphs 2.1 and 3.1 of the report be received and noted;
- (ii) approval be given to the granting of £12,597 from the Neighbourhood Fund (previously aligned from the 2018/19 budget) to Pennywell Youth Project in

respect of the CLLD Community Champions project as detailed in paragraph 2.3 and Annex 1 of the report;

- (iii) approval be given to the granting of £13,613 from the Neighbourhood Fund to Sunderland North Community Business Centre in respect of the West Clean and Green project as detailed in paragraph 2.4 and Annex 1 of the report
- (iv) approval be given to the granting of £120,000 from the Neighbourhood Fund (previously aligned from the 2019/20 budget) to Sunderland City Council in respect of the West Play Area project as detailed in paragraph 2.5 and Annex 1 of the report;
- (v) the approval of the 5 Community Chest applications from the 2020/21 budget as detailed in Annex 2 of the report be noted.

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

(Signed) P. GIBSON,
Chairman.