

At a meeting of the EAST SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE, SUNDERLAND on MONDAY, 21st JANUARY, 2013 at 5.30p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Ball in the Chair

Councillors Emerson, Errington, Forbes, E. Gibson, Maddison, Marshall, T. Martin, Mordey, Price, Scanlan and Wood

Also Present:-

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| Stephen Armstrong | - Area Manager, Groundwork |
| Charlotte Burnham | - Head of Scrutiny and Area Arrangements, Sunderland City Council |
| Hazel Clark | - VCS Network Representative |
| Joe Cummings | - Station Manager, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service |
| Alan Duffy | - Head of Operations, Gentoo Sunderland |
| Mick Hall | - Neighbourhood Policing Team Inspector |
| Matthew Jackson | - Governance Services Officer, Sunderland City Council |
| Lisa Laverick | - Neighbourhood Policing Team Sergeant |
| Jen McKeivitt | - VCS Network Representative |
| Keith Moore | - Area Lead Executive and Executive Director of Children's Services, Sunderland City Council |
| Helen Peverley | - Area Response Manager, Sunderland City Council |
| Neil Revely | - Executive Director of Health Housing and Adult Services, Sunderland City Council |
| Nicky Rowland | - Area Response Manager, Sunderland City Council |
| Jamie Southwell | - Neighbourhood Policing Team Inspector |
| Councillor Tate | |
| 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 Farr, Kay and McClennan along with Nonnie Crawford, Paula Hunt and Jeremy Wicking.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 17th September, 2012 and the Extraordinary Meeting held on 17th October, 2012

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 17th September, 2012 and the extraordinary meeting on 17th October, 2012 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Place Board Progress Report

The Chair of the Place Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update on the progress against the Place Board's Work Plan for 2012/13.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Scanlan, Chair of the Place Board, presented the report and informed the Committee of the work that had been carried out by the Board. The key areas of work were summarised in the table at paragraph 3.1 of the report.

The main area of work had been the gateway programme which was designed to improve the appearance of main roads leading into the city centre. There had been proposals developed and there was a cost attached to these proposals which would be funded from SIB should members agree. There were time constraints as the bulbs would need to be planted within the next week. A tour of the area had been undertaken and the sites had all been investigated. The detail of the proposals was included in the Powerpoint presentation.

Nicky Rowland presented the proposals for Doxford Park Way, she advised that the proposals covered the two roundabouts shown on the plan and the embankment along the roadside between the roundabouts. A mix of spring and summer flowering bulbs would be planted and on the larger roundabout the planting would be in a spiral pattern to give the impression of the planting being deeper.

Councillor E. Gibson expressed her support for the proposal; she had spoken to residents in the area who were supportive of the proposals which would help to visually improve the area.

Ms Rowland then presented the proposals for the junction of Villette Road and Ryhope Road. This site was part of the Britain In Bloom planting and as such mainstream funding would be used to provide the improvements. There had been several proposals discussed including using flowers to spell out Hendon. It had been felt that the most appropriate action would be to include some medium height shrubs to increase the visibility of the site while still ensuring that maintenance would be able to be carried out easily.

Councillor T. Martin stated that he thought some form of signage would be a good idea considering that this was the entrance to Villette Road shopping area.

Stephen Armstrong then introduced the proposal for Holly Court and Hylton Road. He advised that this was an opportunity to involve the community to create an attractive area which would provide seating and a green, open community space.

Councillor Scanlan added that residents had requested that trees be planted on the area of grass opposite Holly Court.

Councillor Price commented that he was very pleased with the proposal. These grassed areas were very sparse and the proposals would brighten the area.

Mr Armstrong then informed the Committee of the proposal for the Southern Radial Route; there would be planting of fruit trees and shrubs to provide colour along the verges. There would be artwork installed on the roundabouts to add visual interest without the need for ongoing maintenance.

Councillor Mordey suggested that the university could be contacted to get students involved in the design of the artwork. Ms Trueman stated that should the Committee approve the project then she would contact the university to discuss getting students involved with the project.

Ms Rowland then introduced the proposal for Ryhope Road, originally it had been proposed to plant daffodils on the central reservation however there would be a significant amount of maintenance required so instead it was proposed to install planters on the footpaths on either side of the road with the central reservation having additional trees planted. Councillor Mordey queried whether the planters would be installed permanently and was informed that they would be there all of the time the plants were in bloom.

Councillor Wood commented that each side of the road was within a different ward; he queried how many planters would be installed and whether there would be the same number on each side. Ms Rowland advised that consultation would be carried out with residents; there was a need to be careful when positioning the planters as the paths needed to be wide enough to allow pushchair and wheelchair users to get past the planters.

Helen Peverley presented the proposals for the land at the end of Argyle and Alice Streets; previously there had been shrubs however they had been a litter trap which had then attracted vermin. The shrubs had been removed and the land was now grassed. It was proposed to plant a mix of bulbs to cover the area in colour; it was possible that some shrubs could be planted as well however these would need to be taller to prevent litter from being trapped and would also need to be able to withstand vandalism.

Councillor T. Martin expressed his support for this proposal; this site was visible from a major road into the city and was also adjacent to Park Lane Interchange so would be visible to a large number of visitors to the city.

Councillor Price queried what could be done to ensure that the shrubs and trees were not vandalised. Ms Rowland advised that mature trees would be planted which were stronger and more able to withstand any attempted vandalism. There were also iron grills which could be placed around smaller trees to protect them.

2. RESOLVED that the report and work plan be noted.

Change in the order of business

It was agreed that Item 4 – Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB), Healthy City Investment Fund and Community Chest – Financial Statements and Proposals for further allocation of resources be considered at this time.

Community Chest, Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) and Healthy City Investment Fund (HCIF) – 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 Strategic Initiative Budget (SIB) funding and Healthy City Investment Fund (HCIF) to support initiatives that would benefit the area.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Nicol Trueman presented the report and advised that following the work on the Gateways project there had been an application for £90,300 of SIB funding to enable the works to be undertaken. Details of the project were outlined in Annex 1 of the report and Members were asked to approve the application.

There had been 12 community chest applications approved which were detailed in Annex 2 for the Committees information.

3. RESOLVED that:-

- a. The financial statements set out in paragraphs 2.1, 3.1 and 4.1 be noted
- b. The £90,300 requested from SIB for the Gateway Programme be approved
- c. The 12 approved Community Chest applications be noted.

People Board Progress Report

The Chair of the People Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which updated Members on the progress against the People Board work plan for 2012/13.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Emerson, Chair of the People Board, presented the report and informed the committee of the work done by the board against the Area Committees priorities and also the work that had been done around the Early Intervention Locality Services. He advised that he sat on the Children's Centres Board and the board was looking at what services people wanted to be provided with. There were some gaps in the services provided by the Children's Centres and this was something that needed to be investigated.

Councillor Mordey expressed concerns that the administration of the Children's Centre at Hudson Road Primary School was done by the schools administration staff and took up a lot of their time. Keith Moore advised that there were some areas which were a real challenge; there was a commitment to keeping all of the centres open with 5 key centres. There was a need to investigate how the services could work together and be integrated. Young people in the city had just achieved their highest ever exam grades at all key stages; it was thought that this would be related to the first cohort of children who had attended the Children's Centres reaching exam age.

Councillor Emerson then advised that work on the Youth Contracts was still ongoing and the deadline for the submission of tenders was in February with the projects due to start in March. He then introduced the tackling crime priority and the Neighbourhood Policing Officers who were in attendance to provide updates on crime in the area.

Inspector Mick Hall presented the statistics for the central area which included Millfield, St Michael's and the City Centre. All crime had reduced by 24 percent and there had been reductions for all major forms of crime including burglary, car crime and robbery. Antisocial behaviour had reduced by 10 percent while youth antisocial behaviour had reduced by 16 percent. Sunderland was the best performing area in the whole of the Northumbria force area. Operation Cracken had been operating over the Christmas period which had seen a significant reduction in the number of thefts from shops.

Inspector Jamie Southwell then presented the statistics for the Hendon Doxford and Ryhope area; he advised that all crime had reduced by 24

percent and that as in the central area there had been a reduction in all types of crime. Youth antisocial behaviour had reduced by 18 percent.

Councillor E. Gibson stated that it would be good to see ward based figures. Inspector Hall stated that it would be difficult to do as there had been a reduction in administration staff resources; he would see what could be done to provide this information.

Joe Cummings then presented the update from Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service and advised that antisocial behaviour fires had reduced by 35 percent. There had been 17 deliberate secondary fires compared with 57 last year; it was possible that the adverse weather over the last year could be a factor in this reduction. Primary fires had increased by 23 percent however this was only 5 extra fires although it was worrying that there was an increasing trend. He also stated that he did not feel that wheelie bin fires should be included in the figures for property fires.

Councillor T. Martin commented that residents needed to ensure that bins were not left out any longer than necessary. There had been improvements following education and enforcement campaigns by the council.

Councillor Emerson then introduced the Opening up School Facilities for the Wider Community priority. Mr Moore advised the Committee that there was a termly meeting with head teachers and they had been informed of this work at this meeting. Ms Trueman added that the deadline for schools to respond was 28th January.

Councillor Price queried whether schools becoming academies would cause problems for this project. Mr Moore advised that the level of influence on the school would not change as the attitude of the head teacher and governing body towards community use of the schools facilities played a bigger part than the type of school. There was a range of both primary and secondary local authority schools and academies which had facilities open for community use.

Councillor Mordey queried whether any schools had indicated an intention to sell off their playing fields. Mr Moore stated that he was not aware of any schools considering this; he agreed to investigate and report back to the committee.

Councillor Mordey also referred to the potential play sites report and expressed concerns that there were no proposed sites for Hendon. Ms Trueman advised that there were plans for goal posts to be installed on the town moor. Jen McKeivitt added that there was the potential for one of the former Garth sites or the site of Amberley and Harrogate Streets to be used to provide play provision.

4. RESOLVED that:-
 - a. The report and work plan be noted.
 - b. The play sites identified as part of the opening school facilities priority be referred to the Cabinet Policy Lead Member for

consideration and inclusion in the next review of the play and urban games strategy

- c. The Local Authority appointed school governors support the linkage between schools and the Area Committee by sharing information with the governing bodies to contribute to delivering the priorities in the work plan.

Sunderland Health and Wellbeing Strategy

The Executive Director of Health, Housing and Adult Services and the Head of Strategy, Policy and Performance submitted a report (copy circulated) which updated Members on the development of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Neil Revely, Director of Health, Housing & Adult Services, presented the report and delivered a Powerpoint presentation. He advised that responsibility for public health was being transferred to local authorities and that the authority would be responsible for the following 5 key areas:-

- To establish a Health and Wellbeing Board
- To complete a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
- To produce a Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- To set up al local Health Watch
- To transition public health responsibilities.

There had been a number of events held to promote the changes. The proposals were intended to improve health both by improving treatment and also by taking preventative steps such as early interventions and improving the environment. Sunderland was an early adopter of the new strategy and had already set up an Early Implementer Health and Wellbeing Board.

Charlotte Burnham stated that the Committee were being asked to refer the strategy to the People Board so that work could be undertaken on developing the strategy.

Councillor Mordey stated that there was a need to be cautious to ensure that the voluntary sector did not have too much responsibility placed on it. While he supported the work around supporting people to have a good death he felt that the wording needed to be changed. Mr Revely responded that the strategy was not just about using the voluntary sector to support services; it was about ensuring that all of the available resources were used in the most efficient way. The majority of people died in hospital at the moment however most people did not want to die in hospital. In the past most people had died at home supported by their family and community.

Jen McKevitt advised that there had been a lot of changes for Voluntary and Community Sector organisations recently. Due to the problems with the economy the amount of funding available had reduced however people's expectations of the VCS were increasing.

Keith Moore invited Members to give consideration to the health needs of young people and their families. There were a number of health indicators which did not paint a positive image of the city.

Councillor T. Martin stated that there needed to be genuine care provided to people who were dying to ensure that they were as comfortable as possible. Programmes such as the Liverpool Pathway did not provide for a good death. He also stated that there needed to be more work done in schools to improve the health of young people.

Councillor E. Gibson stated that providing facilities for people to be looked after in their own homes was becoming a challenge due to the cuts in budgets and services.

Councillor Forbes expressed concerns that there were no references to drugs or alcohol misuse. She thought that it was important that drugs and alcohol misuse was included as it lead to health problems as well as affecting children's lives and having an impact on crime. Mr Revely advised that this was a high level strategy and as such did not include detail of all areas; there was currently consultation being undertaken on the provision of drug and alcohol services. Early intervention was important as it was better to prevent people from becoming involved in drugs in the first place rather than work to get users to stop taking drugs.

Councillor Forbes then referred to mental health and asked where this fit into the strategy. Mr Revely advised that this was an area where early intervention was important and would be addressed during the commissioning of services under the strategy.

Charlotte Burnham then advised the Committee of the next steps that would be taken. The People Board would be considering the strategy over a number of meetings with an emphasis being placed on the development of adult social care. The People Board would bring a set of recommendations back to the Area Committee once the work was completed.

5. RESOLVED that:-
 - a. The approval process and timescales be noted
 - b. The Committee's comments be included in the consultation response.

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

(Signed) E. BALL,
Chairman.