

**At a meeting of the WEST SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in the TRAINING ROOM, SAINSBURYS, SILKSWORTH, SUNDERLAND on WEDNESDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER, 2014 at 5.30 p.m.**

**Present:-**

Councillor P. Gibson in the Chair

Councillors, Allan, Atkinson, Dixon, Essl, Gofton, P. Smith, Tye, Waller, S. Watson and A. Wilson.

**Also Present:-**

Phil Barker	Sergeant	Northumbria Police
Bill Blackett	West Area Response Manager	Sunderland City Council
Alan Duffy	Head of Operations	Gentoo
Janet Johnson	Area Lead Executive	Sunderland City Council
Lisa Laverick	Inspector	Northumbria Police
Bill Leach	Partnership Co-ordinator	Pennywell Com. Centre
Karen Mallin	Employment Initiatives Officer	Sunderland North
		Community Business Ctr
Sandra Mitchell	Head of Community and Family Wellbeing	Sunderland City Council
David Noon	Principal Governance Services Officer	Sunderland City Council
Julie Parker Walton	Public Health Lead	Sunderland City Council
Helen Peverley	Area Co-ordinator	Sunderland City Council
Edna Rochester	Treasurer, Secretary	Tansy Centre and
		Pennywell Com. Centre
Gilly Stanley	Scrutiny and Area Support Coordinator	Sunderland City Council

**Chairman's Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting especially those attending their first meeting of the West Sunderland Area Committee. The Chairman then invited those present to introduce themselves.

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Galbraith, Porthouse, M. Turton, P. Watson and Waller.

## **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest made.

## **Minutes of the Last Meeting**

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last ordinary meeting of the Committee held on 8<sup>th</sup> October, 2014 be confirmed and signed as a correct record subject to the inclusion of Councillor D. Dixon in the list of attendees and the submission of apologies on behalf of Councillor Waller .

## **Place Board Progress Report.**

The Chairman of the West Sunderland Area Place Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update on progress against the current year's Place Board Work Plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Tye, presented the report drawing Members' attention to the initiation of action towards achieving key priorities as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report together with a summary of key areas of influence and achievements of the Place Board in relation to Responsive Local Services, Public Protection and Regulatory Services, Highways Capital Maintenance, Shopping Centres and Environment and Street Scene Improvements as at 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2014.

Councillor S. Watson referred to her request during discussion at the Place Board on the West Area Event, that as many local traders as possible were encouraged to provide stalls. Helen Peverley, Area Coordinator advised that a full project Team had been assembled and that this would be picked up as part of its remit. There being no further questions or comments on the report it was:-

2. RESOLVED that the report be received and be noted

## **People Board Progress Report.**

The Chairman of the West Sunderland Area People Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update on progress against the current year's People Board Work Plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Atkinson presented the report drawing Members' attention to the initiation of action towards achieving the key priorities as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report, together with a summary of key areas of influence and achievements of the People Board in relation to Youth Contracts, Local Multi Agency Partnership, Job Prospects and Health and Well Being as at 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2014.

Councillor Gofton stated that there was so much that was good about the report and so much that that she could comment on, however if there was one thing that she had to single out for special praise it would be the job clubs. In the past it had always been a struggle to tie up all the disparate ends of the problem, however the work of the People Board as a catalyst to enable the Council, VCS and the DWP to come together and address the hurdles faced by clients had been amazing. Ms Peverley advised that it was hoped that the best practice developed by the West Area would be influential to city wide delivery, benefitting the residents of Sunderland as a whole.

Councillor S. Watson referred to the WIRES project that she had been involved with as part of her lead member role. The work of the local employers in conjunction with the Community Job Clubs to develop the intensive pre-employment workshops had been transformational for the young people on the course. The confidence boosting nature of the project had been visible.

There being no further questions or comments on the report, it was:-

3. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

### **Report of the West Area Voluntary and Community Sector Network (AVCSN)**

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

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Gilly Stanley, Acting Area Community Officer presented the report highlighting the following feedback and input arising from the two VCS meetings held since the Area Committee:-

- i) the assistance of the Network in the hosting and marketing of the West Sunderland Area Events,
- ii) the participation of the Network in supporting the work of Healthwatch Sunderland,
- iii) the support from the Network in delivering the Committee's priorities in relation to Job prospects, Activities for Older and Younger Persons, Street Scene and Environmental Improvements together with Health and Wellbeing,
- iv) in addition the Network received information on and considered how it could support initiatives in relation to:
  - Housing Renewal
  - Maximising Green Space and improving Health and Wellbeing
  - E Learning
  - Local Multi Agency Partnerships

Bill Leach confirmed that the Network would continue to support the Area Committee and its priorities in as many different ways as possible. He particularly valued the information exchange that was possible via the Network meetings and would continue to disseminate it as widely as possible. Councillor Tye noted the reluctance of Mr Leach to 'blow his own trumpet' so highlighted on his behalf the award winning nature of the services provided by the likes of the Tansey Centre, Youth Almighty and the Pallion

Action Group. This in turn was a reflection of the work carried out by the Area Committee to enable the Voluntary Sector to 'showcase' themselves more readily.

The Chairman thanked Ms Stanley and Mr Leach for their report, and it was:-

4. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

### **Report of the Northumbria Police – Sunderland West**

Inspector Lisa Laverick of Northumbria Police presented a report (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with an update on the Force's most recent performance indicators showing actual crimes for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2014 to 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2014 and the percentage increase / decrease against the same period last year.

Particular reference was paid to crime levels in relation to violent crime, vehicle crime, burglary from dwelling, burglary other than dwelling, criminal damage, theft and handling, shoplifting, youth ASB and Non Youth ASB. In addition members were informed of the particular crime patterns in respect of the Barnes, Pallion, St. Anne's, Sandhill, Silksworth and St Chad's wards for the period 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2014 to 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2014.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Essl referred to the action detailed in the report to tackle anti-social behaviour undertaken by the Neighbourhood Policing Team in the Eden Vale area. This had included the Team working closely with the Council, youth providers and liaising directly with residents through the use of mediators. Councillor Essl believed that it was important that elected officials were also involved in such initiatives. Councillor Tye advised that he had met with the mediator as part of his LMAPs role.

Councillor Gofton referred to the deployment of the Body Worn Cameras (BWCs) and asked whether they had made a difference? Inspector Laverick advised that they had been invaluable in the campaign against domestic violence with the evidence they provided enabling victimless prosecutions to take place. The cameras were worn by the 24/7 Unit and the Neighbourhood Policing Team and were switched on every time an incident occurred.

Councillor D. Dixon placed on record his thanks to Northumbria Police for their efforts to curb the incidents of anti-social behaviour in Herrington Country Park.

Councillor Allan stated that looking at the crime figures there had been a long term and continuing rise in burglary from dwellings and thefts from motor vehicles. He asked if there were any underlying reasons. Inspector Laverick replied that there were occasions when people left their property unsecured however the main modus operandi was the forcing of locks. The crime figures reflected a small number of hardened offenders operating in small pockets. In response to a further question from Councillor Allan, Inspector Laverick advised that there was no evidence to suggest that 'false burglaries' were being carried out in order to generate insurance claims.

The Chairman having thanked Inspector Laverick and Sgt Barker for their attendance it was:-

5. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

### **Report of the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service**

The 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<sup>st</sup> September, 2014 to 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2014 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 (1),
- iii) accidental fires in domestic properties (8),
- iv) deliberate property fires (none), and
- v) deliberate vehicle fires (2)

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Helen Peverly, Area Coordinator, advised that the TWFRS's usual representative at the Area Committee, Jeff Wilkinson, had now retired and that his replacement Steve Burdis would be attending future meetings.

The Committee having placed on record their best wishes to Mr Wilkinson for a long and happy retirement, it was:-

6. RESOLVED the report be received and noted.

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

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) in respect of the above matter.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Helen Peverley, Area Coordinator, presented the report highlighting the financial statement, details of 12 projects approved for support from the 2014/15 Community Chest budget, details of 6 projects approved for support from the maximising green spaces fund, together with details of 4 further SIB funding requests.

Councillor Gofton having sought clarification regarding the approval mechanism for small grants made in relation to the delivery of priorities under the Health Plan on a Page, Ms. Stanley advised Members that in line with the Area Committee's delegated decision making powers, the Committee was requested to approve £80,000 of grant to

support the delivery of the Health Plan. Further recommendations were made to carry out a call for projects to support the delivery of the Plan with a request that all projects, below the value of £5,000, were presented to the People Board, to ensure they were fully in keeping with the Health Plan requirements. Where the activity was over £5000 full details would continue to be presented to the Area Committee for its approval.

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

7. 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 recommendation of the People Board that £80,000 SIB funding from the 2014/15 budget be allocated towards the development of a Health Programme using the small grants process, (as detailed in annex 1 to the report),
- (iii) approval be given to the recommendation of the People Board that £31,837 SIB funding from the 2014/15 budget be allocated to support the extension the Community Work Clubs via the West Intensive Recruitment Employment Support (WIRES) programme (as detailed in annex 2 to the report),
- (iv) approval be given to the recommendation of the People Board that £4,500 SIB funding from the 2014/15 budget be allocated to enable the Community Work Clubs to design and deliver a comprehensive training package to ensure continued support for residents in relation to seeking employment (as detailed in annex 2 to the report),
- (v) approval be given to the recommendations of the Place and People Boards that £40,000 SIB funding from the 2014/15 budget be allocated to support the development of the West Area Event (as detailed in annex 3 to the report),
- (vi) the approval of six projects using the small grants process from the Maximising Green Spaces fund (as detailed in annex 4 of the report) be noted, and
- (vii) the approval of the 12 Community Chest applications as (detailed in Annex 5) of the report be noted.

### **Current Planning Applications (West Area)**

A schedule (copy circulated) of current planning applications lodged during the period 1<sup>st</sup> October and 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2014 was submitted for members' information only.

(For copy schedule – see original minutes).

8. RESOLVED the schedule be received and noted.

The Chairman then closed the meeting having thanked everyone for their attendance and contributions and especially to all at Sainsbuys for their kindness and assistance in hosting the meeting and the associated community event.

(Signed) P. GIBSON,  
Chairman.