

At a meeting of the WEST SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE, SUNDERLAND on WEDNESDAY, 25th APRIL, 2012 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor P. Gibson in the Chair

Councillors Allan, Essl, Gofton, L. Martin, Oliver, Porthouse, Smiles, P. Smith, Tye, Waller, P. Watson, S. Watson, Wilson and T. Wright.

Also Present:-

Karen Alexander	Employment and Training Manager	Sunderland City Council
Bill Blackett	Area Response Manager	Sunderland City Council
Gary Clasper	Principal Planner	Sunderland City Council
Alan Duffy	Head of Operations	Gentoo
Angela Cousins	Area Community Co-ordinator	Sunderland City Council
Lee Ferry	XL Village Co-ordinator	Sunderland City Council
Jim Ferry	Project Manager	A690 Youth Initiative
Bill Forster	Station Manager	Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service
Michael Frost	Highways Ops Engineer	Sunderland City Council
Julie Gray	Head of Community Services	Sunderland City Council
Anita Heskett-Saddington		VCS Network
Bill Leach		VCS Network
Sandra Mitchell	Head of Early Intervention and Locality Services	Sunderland City Council
Keith Moore	Area Lead Executive	Sunderland City Council
David Noon	Principal Governance Services Officer	Sunderland City Council
Julie Parker		Sunderland TPCT
Richard Parry	Area Officer	Sunderland City Council
Alison Patterson	Scrutiny and Area Arrangements Manager	Sunderland City Council
Edna Rochester		VCS Network
Karen Todd	Head Teacher	Richard Avenue Primary School
Berni Whittaker	Enterprise Manager	Sunderland City Council

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and those present introduced themselves.

In particular the Chairman welcomed Anita Heskett-Saddington a newly appointed representative from the VCS Network who was attending her first meeting of the Committee

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillor Morrissey, and Councillor A. Wright and also on behalf of James Third, Dave Pickett and Chris Marshall.

Declarations of Interest

Item 3 – SIB Application, Pallion Action Group – ‘West Aspirations’ project

Councillor Wison declared a personal and prejudicial interest as a Board Member of Pallion Action Group and left the meeting during consideration of the item.

Item 3 – Community Chest Application, St. Leonard’s Primary School

Councillor P. Smith declared a personal and prejudicial interest as a Governor of the school and left the meeting during consideration of the item.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 14th March, 2012 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Community Action in Sunderland West – New Issues: Annual Report

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which at annex 1 presented the Committee’s annual report and at annex 2, the end of year performance reports in respect of projects which had received Committee funding.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Chairman introduced the Annual report making reference to his personal highlights of the year including the support provided by the Committee for youth and play, joint working with Health partners in the development of the Health Champions programme and the Jobs Prospects task and finish group

Richard Parry, Area Officer, then proceeded to present the body of the report which outlined the following priorities selected by the committee for 2011/12 together with an evaluation of how successful they had been in achieving their objectives:-

- Youth and play provision: diversionary activities to alleviate anti social behaviour and disorder.
- Traffic and Highways, including repairs, speeding and dangerous driving.

- Job Prospects.
- Health and Well Being; focussing on areas of concern and risk taking behaviour.
- Child and Family Poverty.
- Environmental and Street Scene Improvements, including shopping centres.
- Eden Vale and Thornhill.

To compliment the report the Committee received the following presentations which provided feedback in respect of the priorities indicated :-

- (Youth and Play) Jim Ferry on the successful role played by the two new youth workers and the holiday activities programme. Bill Foster on the anti social behaviour related fire statistics
- (Health and Wellbeing) Edna Rochester on the impact of the Committee funded Development Officer. Julie Parker on the development and successful implementation of the Health Champions programme
- (Eden Vale and Thornhill) Karen Todd on the Committee assisted Community Facility at Richard Avenue Primary school

The Chairman thanked everyone for their hard work in helping to deliver the Committee's priorities for the municipal year.

Councillor Tye referred to the Police representation on the Committee and asked that reporting arrangements for the crime statistics were formalised. The Chairman confirmed that he was to ensure this was reinstated as a standing item on future agenda.

Councillor Tye also reported that there was a growing concern amongst residents of the Silksworth Ward regarding the lack of a police presence in the area. The Chairman asked him, as the Committee's LMAPS representative, to bring it to the Police's attention at the next meeting. Councillor Porthouse reported similar problems in St. Chad's ward and the difficulty in getting PACT meetings off the ground. The leader advised that it was becoming an increasing problem across the City, regionally and nationally, as cut backs in Police funding started to bite. He asked that the Committee's concerns in this regard were brought to the attention of Stuart Douglas and raised at the Safer Sunderland Partnership.

2. RESOLVED the West Area Committee's Annual Report for 2011/12 be received and noted.

Community Action: Reviewing Progress and Agreeing Next Steps: Job Prospects

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) on the outcomes of the Apprenticeship Road Show event held at the South Hylton Tansey Centre, on 13th April, 2012.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Karen Alexander, Employment and Training Manager, provided the committee with a comprehensive powerpoint presentation which detailed the outcomes of the event and the following potential options :-

- 1) Financial Incentives to Employers – A payment of £100 per week for 26 weeks for each employer taking on an apprentice. The cost of this option would be £2,600 per employer.
- 2) Financial Incentives to Employers plus flexible funding – A payment of £100 per week for 26 weeks for each employer taking on an apprentice at a cost of £2,600 (as in option 1). Bus passes for each apprentice for 26 weeks at £25 per week. Equipment for each apprentice at £100. Meal allowance for each apprentice at £20 for 26 weeks. The cost of this option would be £3,870 per apprentice.
- 3) Financial Incentives to Employers, plus flexible funding, plus business start up support – A payment of £100 per week for 26 weeks to the employer taking on an apprentice flexible funding package for each apprentice for 26 weeks at £45 per week (bus pass and meals) and £100 for equipment. Business start up support packages for each apprentice at £1000 The cost of this option would be £4,870 per apprentice.
- 4) Specialist Support – Staffing support to deliver the following:-
 - i) Awareness training for schools /parents
 - ii) Administrative support for employees
 - iii) Generic workplace skills for young people
 - iv) Facilitating shared apprenticeships

The cost of this option would be £73,955.

Councillors Gofton, Wilson and Tye welcomed the report as a genuine step forward with Councillor Tye highlighting the importance of the role played in Redcar and Cleveland of a coordinator in facilitating the employment of apprentices in that area. Councillor Gofton welcomed the potential to forge a link with the Youth Contract and the possibility of finding someone from within the Contract with a natural aptitude to carry out the role of co-ordinator.

The Chairman thanked Ms Alexander for her presentation and moved that a meeting of the Jobs Prospects Task & Finish Group be convened as soon as possible to progress the matter with a view to make a recommendation to the Committee on the most suitable of the four options. Accordingly it was:-

3. RESOLVED that a meeting of the Jobs Prospects Task & Finish Group be convened to progress the matter with a view to making a recommendation to the Committee on the most suitable of the four options either as a stand alone scheme or to add value to the Youth Contract.

Community Chest, Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) and Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) – 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).

Richard Parry, Area Officer, presented the item highlighting the financial statement for 2011/2012 together with details of 6 applications for SIB funding and 21 proposals for support from the Community Chest budget.

The Chairman having advised that the application for SIB funding to support the Diamond Jubilee Mela was being withdrawn as the event was no longer being held in the West Area, it was :-

4. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the Area Committee's funding statement for 2011-2012 be received and noted,
- (ii) approval be given to the granting of SIB funding of £6,740 to Any Age Music in respect of its Play and Perform project,
- (iii) approval be given to the granting of SIB funding of £68,092 to Pallion Action Group in respect of its West Aspirations project,
- (iv) approval be given to the granting of SIB funding of £75,000 to the Youth Development Group in respect of its West Holiday Activities project,
- (v) approval be given to the granting of SIB funding of £2,600 to Sunderland City Council's Highways Section in respect of its Aintree Road project,
- (vi) approval be given to the granting of SIB funding of £4,000 to the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service in respect of the Advance and Respect elements of the Phoenix Project,
- (vii) the withdrawal of the application for SIB funding of £10,150 from the Unity Organisation in respect of the Diamond Jubilee Mela be noted; and
- (ix) approval be given to the granting of the 21 Community Chest applications as detailed in Annex 4 of the report.

Influencing Practice, Policy, Strategy – Provision of XL Village Youth Activity

The Executive Director of Children's Services submitted a report (copy circulated) which presented the current position in relation to the XL Youth Village provision.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Sandra Mitchell, Head of Early Intervention and Locality Services presented the report which detailed the current position together with proposals for amendment to the delivery model in order to provide better value for money and which also sought approval for the intended summer sites as proposed by the West Area Task and Finish Group.

To compliment the report Lee Ferry, XL Village Co-ordinator provided members with a comprehensive powerpoint presentation highlighting:-

- i) the new delivery model
- ii) the type and scale of provision
- iii) the time and location of the 4 Block City wide programme
- iv) a depiction of the increase in face to face youth work hours.

Discussion ensued during the course of the presentation with members raising specific concerns centred on the proportionality of the proposals and a perceived inequity/inequality in their application to the West Area.

Keith Moore, Area Lead Executive Officer, stated it was evident that members had significant and deep concerns regarding the proposals. All members and officers were committed to improving outcomes for the City's young people and he suggested the matter was deferred to allow members the opportunity to provide a greater input into how the matter as to be taken forward.

Richard Parry advised that arrangements were being made to hold an informal meeting of the West Area Committee members on 10th May. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the forthcoming State of the Area debate however it could also be used to accommodate the XL Village discussions.

5. RESOLVED that consideration of the matter be deferred to allow further discussions to take place with regard to the concerns raised by members.

Influencing Practice, Policy, Strategy – City of Sunderland Local Development Framework: Core Strategy Revised Preferred Options and Supporting Evidence Papers

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided members with an opportunity to be consulted on the LDF Core Strategy revised preferred options document.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Gary Clasper, Principal Planner, presented the report which advised that the Core Strategy lay at the heart of the Local Development Framework (LDF). It would set out the overarching strategic planning framework for the development of the city for the next 20 years and draw from other strategies of the City Council (such as the Sunderland Strategy and Economic Masterplan). Apart from the allocation of "Strategic Sites", the Core Strategy would otherwise not be site specific and would only indicate the broad locations for delivering new development such as housing, employment and transport. Once the Core Strategy was adopted, all other Development Plan

Documents (DPD's) would need to conform to the broad requirements of the Core Strategy.

To compliment the report, Mr Clasper provided members with a powerpoint presentation which outlined the purpose of the core strategy, major changes to planning policy arising from the Localism Act and the National Planning Policy Framework, together with the impact on Sunderland and the West Area in particular.

Discussion on the matter ensued with Mr Clasper addressing questions from members regarding central government's move to prioritise housing over employment development land, the possibility of an additional metro station on the former Groves site and how long the current UDP would remain in effect.

Councillor Essl having urged Mr Clasper to continue to resist the pressure to sacrifice employment development land in favour of housing, it was:-

6. RESOLVED that the report and presentation be received and noted.

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

(Signed) P. GIBSON,
Chairman.