

At a meeting of the SOUTH SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE, SUNDERLAND on MONDAY, 4TH SEPTEMBER, 2006 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Tye in the Chair

Councillors Blyth, E. Gibson, P. Gibson, Oliver, L. Scott and P. Smith

Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillor Porthouse.

Minutes

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 5th June, 2006 (copy circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Declarations of Interest

Item 6 - Regeneration Issues Report : Feedback on Projects Previously Funded through Strategic Initiatives Budget

Councillor Blyth declared a personal interest as a member of the Friends of Doxford Park.

Item 7 - Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) Regeneration Issues Report

Councillor Blyth declared a personal interest as a member of the South Area Forum. Councillor P. Smith declared a personal interest as Vice Chairman of Silkworth C.A. Management Committee.

Item 10 - Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) 2006/2007 Ward Based Community Chest

Councillor E. Gibson declared a personal and prejudicial interest as her husband was President of the Heritage Society in relation to Tunstall Village Green. Councillor Blyth declared personal interests as an attendee at

meetings of the Doxford Support Group and as a member of the Friends of Doxford Park. Councillor P. Smith declared a personal interest as Vice Chairman of Silksworth C.A. Management Committee.

Presentation from Northumbria Police on Crime Rates relating to the South Sunderland Area

Inspector Michael Smith was in attendance and circulated for Members' information details of crimes committed in the South Sunderland Area for the period April to July 2006 in comparison with the same period in 2005 and 2004 together with the number of juvenile disorder reports from each of the South Area Wards.

(For copy statistics – see original minutes)

Inspector Smith highlighted the various peaks and troughs in the reported crimes for the St. Chad's, Doxford and Silksworth Wards, together with details of Operation Javelin (targeting theft from motor vehicles) and Operation Flugal (targeting disorder in the Silksworth Ski Slope area).

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Blyth, Inspector Smith advised that he would investigate the recent increase in burnt out vehicles left in the Doxford Park area (3 in one month).

With regard to an enquiry from Councillor Oliver, Inspector Smith stated that the sharp increase in Burglary from Dwellings within the St. Chad's ward during April was attributable to a series of break ins along the A690 corridor. The number of patrols had been increased in the area, however there had been a scarcity of intelligence and forensic material.

Councillor L. Scott asked whether the increase in Burglary OTD within the St. Chad's Ward related to sheds and garages. Inspector Smith replied that it did. An article had been placed in the press warning of the dangers in this regard. In response to a further question from Councillor Scott, Inspector Smith confirmed that the incidents had been localised, occurring mainly in the vicinity of Alnwick Road.

The Chairman noted the need to continue to watch for youth disorder in the Warwick Garage area. Inspector Smith confirmed that the issue had been raised at the LMAP and would be monitored.

There being no further questions for Inspector Smith, the Chairman thanked him for his attendance and it was:-

2. RESOLVED that the information be received and noted.

Presentation from Nexus on Taxi Link and Link Up Services

The Chairman welcomed and introduced John Usher, Nexus Head of Transport Integration, who informed Members of the Link Up and Taxi Link Services which formed part of the Nexus Social Inclusion Network.

Both services had commenced on 30th July, 2006. Link Up was a demand responsive service available to everyone in Tyne and Wear. Its purpose was to provide journeys at times when regular services were not operating or where direct services were not available.

The service would operate in each of the 4 contract areas using 4 to 5 brand new, DDA compliant vehicles. The service would be free to concessionary travel pass holders. The aim was to provide maximum flexibility, a local link for local people to local services and conventional public transport.

The Taxi Link Service was intended for people with severe mobility or sensory impairment and would replace the Nexus Care Services. There would be a revised eligibility criteria. People in receipt of high rate mobility component of disability allowance, attendance allowance, registered blind or severely visually impaired would automatically qualify for the scheme. Taxis would be wheelchair accessible. Mr. Usher advised that plans were being developed to introduce a 'Taxi Card Scheme' for use with the Taxi Link Service. The aim was to provide a 'smart card' which could be pre charged and used in taxis fitted with the appropriate reader. This would allow customers to use the taxi firm of their choice.

Both the Link Up and Taxi Link Services had been publicised through press releases, posters and leaflets. Copies of the promotional material and application forms were circulated for Members' information. Mr. Usher advised that Nexus would be more than happy to visit residential homes, residents and community associations to discuss the schemes if Members felt this would be beneficial.

Councillor L. Scott having commended the scheme for its imagination and flexibility, it was:-

3. RESOLVED that the information be received and noted.

Regeneration Report : Feedback on Projects Funded Through Strategic Initiative Budget (SIB)

The Director of Development and Regeneration submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with information on the following projects which it had previously funded through its SIB allocation:-

- Raising Awareness and Community Activity Week Project;
- Horticultural Training at Doxford Park Project.

Richard Parry, Area Regeneration Officer, introduced Christine Bulmer, Sports Development and Intervention Team Manager, in respect of the Raising Awareness and Community Activity Week Project, and John Grabham, Manager, in respect of the Horticultural Training at Doxford Park Project, who proceeded to provide Members with a commentary on their feedback reports and answer questions thereon.

The Chairman having thanked Ms. Bulmer and Mr. Grabham for their presentations, it was:-

4. RESOLVED that the feed back reports be received and noted.

Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) : Regeneration Issues Report

The Director of Development and Regeneration submitted a report (copy circulated) on the proposed allocation of Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) funding to support the following initiatives of benefit to the area:-

- (i) WearAble Service Development and Capacity Building Project;
- (ii) South Area Events Budget;
- (iii) Silksworth Cricket Club's Pitch Repair Project;

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Richard Parry, Area Regeneration Officer, presented the report and advised that the three applications for funding before the Committee were requesting £21,180 in total from the 2006/07 budget. Should the Committee grant these requests, £169,157 would be committed from the 2006/07 budget leaving a balance of £30,834.

Mr. Parry provided Members with a summary of each application and introduced representatives from the projects who were present to address any comments or questions from Members.

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

5. RESOLVED that approval be given to the allocation of Strategic Initiatives Budget Funding of:-

- £7,080 to WearAble as a contribution to the Service Development and Capacity Building Project.
- £10,000 as a contribution to the South Area Committee Events Budget.
- £4,100 to Silksworth Cricket Club as a contribution to the Pitch Repair Project.

Adults Social Services – Ward-Based Data Analysis – February 2006

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which aimed to provide the Committee with ward-based intelligence about key areas within the purview of Adult Social Services.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Pauline Blyth, Assistant Head of Service, presented the report and advised that the item was the first in a series of reports and would look at information that covered the cycle from referrals of clients aged 18 and over through the assessment process to services delivered.

Councillor P. Gibson asked whether in the future it would be possible to show the figures on a monthly basis rather than annually, so that month on month comparisons could be made. Mrs. Blyth replied that the report represented a current position statement and she would investigate whether Councillor Gibson's request could be included in future reports.

The Chairman having thanked Mrs. Blyth for her attendance, it was:-

6. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Tackling Social Exclusion Through Transport (TSETT) Initiative – Dropped Crossings and Raised Kerbs

The Director of Development and Regeneration submitted a report (copy circulated) which requested the Committee to consider nominating locations for inclusion in the TSETT Dropped Crossings and Raised Kerbs Initiative.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Richard Parry, Area Regeneration Officer, presented the report and invited suggestions from Members.

Councillor L. Scott suggested the Silksworth Road, Oakfield Court area because of their location near the only post office in Farringdon. He also highlighted the Lakeside area with its hillside location, approximately 700 elderly residents and a high percentage of wheelchair users.

Councillor P. Gibson highlighted the Plains Farm area as having predominantly old fashioned kerb stones.

Mr. Parry advised that if Members had any further suggestions they could forward them to him following the meeting. The Chairman suggested that Members should look to nominate areas close to residential homes for the elderly.

7. RESOLVED that the nominations be referred to the TSETT Working Group for consideration.

Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) 2006/07 Ward-Based Community Chest

The Director of Development and Regeneration submitted a report (copy circulated) on 16 projects recommended for support from the 2006/07 Community Chest Scheme in respect of the Doxford, Silksworth and St. Chad's Wards.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

8. RESOLVED that approval be given to the 16 projects recommended for support from the 2006/07 budget with a total value of £9,836 as detailed in Annex 1 to the report.

The Chairman then closed the meeting having thanked Members and Officers for their attendances.

(Signed P.M. TYE,
Chairman.