

At a meeting of the WASHINGTON AREA COMMITTEE held at WASHINGTON BUSINESS CENTRE on THURSDAY 16TH OCTOBER, 2014 at 6.00 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Williams in the Chair

Councillors Farthing, Fletcher, Kelly, Lauchlan, F. Miller, G. Miller, Dianne Snowdon, David Snowdon, Thompson, D. Trueman, H. Trueman, and Walker.

Karon Purvis	-	Chief Executives
Louise Butler	-	Chief Executives
Helen Wardropper	-	Chief Executives
Neil Revely	-	Executive Director of People Services
David Hardy	-	City Services
Paul Wood	-	Commercial and Corporate Services
Elaine Harbron	-	ICT Unit
John Rostron	-	VCS Representative
Kasia Kurowska	-	VCS Representative
Steve Graham	-	TWFRS
Colin McCartney	-	Gentoo
Bryan Beverley	-	Washington Trust
Phi McAloon	-	ODYPP
Ev Ripley – Day	-	Foundation of Light
Muriel Hardy	-	Washington Youth Council
Emma Bowman	-	Washington Youth Council
Astin Maltby	-	Washington Youth Council
Lewis Todd	-	Washington Youth Council
Martin Robinson	-	Washington Youth Council
Karen Mallin	-	SNCBC

Members of the Washington Community.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Scaplehorn and Julie Parker-Walton

Declarations of Interest

Item 5 – Financial Statement and Proposals for further allocation of Resources

Councillor David Snowdon made an open declaration in the funding application for the Youth Opportunities Project as Secretary of the Millennium Centre Trust.

Councillor Fletcher made an open declaration in the funding application for the Youth Opportunities Project as a trustee of the Millennium Centre.

Councillor Walker made an open declaration in the funding application for the Youth Opportunities Project as Chairman of the Millennium Centre.

Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 19th June, 2014

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 19th June, 2014 (copy circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record subject to the following amendment:

Page 4 Paragraph 5 – Councillor Thompson commented that there was a dearth of heritage/culture in Washington South Ward.

Partner Agency Reports

(a) Report of the Washington Area Community Voluntary Sector Network

The Washington Area Community Voluntary Sector Network submitted a report (copy circulated) to inform the Committee of activity, progress, issues and concerns of the sector.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

John Rostron, VCS Representative, introduced Bryan Beverley to the Committee, who was the new Washington Trust Volunteer and Community Support Worker.

Mr Rostron wished to raise his concerns in relation to DWP/Welfare reform discussions which had taken place at the last VCS meeting and a representative from DWP who had been in attendance. Despite raising concerns with the representative over the pressures put on the voluntary sector by directing members of the public to their services for help in completing C.V's and such like, these issues were still occurring and the VCS did not have the capacity to solve the problems being created and a solution needed to be found.

Louise Butler, Area Co-ordinator advised that this was an emerging issue across the City and the West Area was looking at lessons learnt from a job club project already

in place. Ms Butler commented that she was liaising with officers on this from a strategic view and can feed these comments back.

Karon Purvis, Area Officer commented that she had been asked to approach Fiona Brown on attending a future meeting but as every Board and Area Committee had also requested this, an approach on how this could be discussed collectively was being considered.

Councillor Kelly requested that a report be brought back to the next Area Committee.

Councillor G. Miller advised that a conversation needed to be had with DWP and to engage with them directly.

Councillor Kelly proposed that a member of DWP also be invited to the next Area Committee.

Councillor Farthing also suggested it would be interesting to see if the government's figures on the amount of claimants receiving job seekers allowance being reduced was down to the fact of sanctions being imposed.

Ms Butler advised that they were trying to link the subjects by having the Social Justice Co-ordinator attend the Network meetings.

Councillor David Snowdon commented that whilst there was some support available, residents had to travel to Sunderland for this, and there needed to be local support for Washington residents.

Councillor Kelly commented that a conversation needed to be had on the implementation of a system so that Washington residents had a local point of contact.

Karen Mallin, SNCBC advised that as part of their work programme they do deliver some support however the gap was in the newly unemployed, which they were not funded for.

Councillor Kelly requested that the issue be considered by the People Board. The Committee agreed with this proposal.

Mr Rostron informed the Committee that representatives had attended the Wellness Hub procurement briefing and in relation to the signposting within the sector, he requested that consideration be given at an area level rather than at a city level.

2. RESOLVED that Members noted the contents of the report and considered the opportunities and issues raised by the Washington ACVSN.

Place Board – Progress Report

The Chair of the Place Board submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide the Committee with an update of progress against the current years (2014/15) Place Board Work Plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Fiona Miller, Chair of the Place Board presented the report and referred to the Washington Way Project, advising that she was really pleased with the work that had been carried out and more or less everything was in place now therefore requested Members to agree to note the progress to date and agree a main project launch in early spring with further engagement with local communities and the VCS to continue and co - ordinate with other Washington Area Committee projects and investments.

In relation to the Culture and Events Planning (2015) Task Group, Councillor F. Miller introduced Councillor Kelly to update the Committee on the progress. Councillor Kelly informed Members that they had been tasked with looking into getting better value and how best to take this forward by the Board.

They were proposing to change the Heritage Festival into a Washington Carnival and if they were realistic in how much they could invest and were aiming for two events over the year. As Sunderland Live were charging a fee it was possibly time to look at other organisations who were willing to get involved and with the support of officers we could create a new style carnival.

Mrs Purvis commented that we were asking the Area Committee to agree for the Place Board to go away and consider/work up a project brief and approach and also for Members support in relation to the Remembrance parade and a corporate contribution being sought.

With regards to the Walk and Talks, David Hardy, Area Response Manager advised that he would be meeting with Members to discuss final details.

Councillor Farthing commented that the walk and talks had been badly attended by officers in other departments and had consisted of only Members and the Responsive Local Services Team.

Mrs Purvis advised that she believed Councillor Mordey had raised this issue with the Head of Service.

Councillor Kelly commented that a number of key people did not turn up including key partners and this had been a lost opportunity in his opinion.

Colin McCartney, Gentoo advised that he was disappointed Gentoo officers had not turned up and he did believe there was a need for discussions on the way forward and how better to use budgets etc.

Councillor F. Miller updated the Committee on the community engagement that took place at the Heritage festival and that two themes had been mentioned the most, Litter and Hedges.

Mrs Purvis advised that there had been a lot of comments from the public who had not realised the level of work that had been undertaken and completed by the Area Committee.

Councillor Kelly commented that when events were held, it was always a Sunderland City Council poster and suggested there needed to be a 'funded by the Washington Area Committee' poster instead.

Councillor Fiona Miller suggested that investigations be made into having a Banner/poster made up for when Washington Area Committee fund events.

Councillor Kelly suggested even presentations of handing over giant novelty cheques would be beneficial in raising the Area Committees profile.

It was agreed for Mrs Purvis and Ms Butler to investigate the proposals further with Corporate Communications.

Councillor Fiona Miller informed the Committee that Highways Maintenance would be coming back to the next meeting of the Place Board with a report on the current programme and that Members would be contacted to commence identifying the 2015/16 priorities. All Members were invited to attend the next Board meeting if they so wished.

3. RESOLVED that the Committee

- (i) Considered the progress and performance update with regard to the Washington Place Board's Work Plan for 2013/14 as detailed in Annex 1 and paragraph 3 of the report
- (ii) Noted the progress and agreed the recommendations of the Place Board regarding the Washington Way Project attached at Annex 2 of the report
- (iii) Considered and agreed the recommendations of the Place Board regarding the Events 2015 Plan attached as Annex 3 of the report

People Board – Progress Report

The Chair of the People Board submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide the Committee with an update of progress against the current years (2013/14) People Board Work Plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Williams presented the report and introduced Ms Butler to give an update on the partnership approach and Strategic Health Group. Ms Butler advised that she had met with the Clinical Commissioning Group on how we could grow the funding

that had come from Public Health and they were really positive about the application going forward.

The Boards recommendations to Area Committee were detailed in Annex 2 of the report with a recommendation for an executive decision to approve £20,000 SIB 2014/15 under Item 5. Subject to CCG funding this would result in a total budget of £60,000 being available to launch this strategic approach and shared ownership of local priorities. The Committee approved the recommendation.

In relation to the Young People's Event, Councillor H. Trueman commented that it was absolutely fantastic that this event was taking place and he was pleased to see Members of the Youth Council attending this Area Committee meeting.

Berni Whitaker, Enterprise Manager advised that the planning of the event had reached a crucial stage and productive meetings had been held to try and make sure the day was rich in opportunities for the people and also the employers. A draft outline scheduling the day was to be sent around to Members and schools had been informed of the date so it was hopeful this would be a very good event.

Ms Whitaker also advised that they did hope to get Members of the Youth Council on board for the day as well.

With regards to the Youth Contract Review, Councillor L. Williams advised that a meeting was to be arranged to have an input on discussions.

4. RESOLVED that the Committee

- (i) Considered the progress and performance update with regards to the Washington People Board Work Plan for 2014/2015, as detailed in Annex1 of the report
- (ii) Considered and agreed the recommendation of the People Board regarding the Washington Way to Well Being Call for Projects as detailed in Annex 2 of the report, adding or amending project outcomes to the proposed project briefs as appropriate
- (iii) Considered and agreed the People Boards recommendation with regard to the Young People's conference as detailed in Paragraph 3.1 of the report

Financial Statement and Proposals for further allocation of Resources

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to request the Committee's consideration of proposals for the allocation of the Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) that would benefit the area and to note the Community Chest initiatives that would benefit the area.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Ms Purvis presented the report and advised that there was only one SIB application for consideration, the Youth Opportunities (Phase 2) and that Ms Karen Mallin was in attendance to answer any queries they may have.

Councillor Kelly raised a concern in relation to the partnership working and that he would be unsupportive of a SIB project that takes away from the existing provision that was in place, therefore sought an assurance they would be working with the likes of the Millennium Centre and such like.

Ms Mallin confirmed that they would be working with the existing groups in partnership.

Councillor David Snowdon commented that he had strong concerns other projects could be harmed by this project and would like to see it re-profiled and also altered so it was not just working with NEET's.

The Chairman advised that the project had already been re-profiled. Ms Mallin commented that this application was to sustain the project for the Youth of Washington.

Mrs Purvis suggested that the People Board be tasked with working up some project proposals to look at the remaining people not catered for in this project.

Councillor Kelly suggested a possible working group to look at these areas as a number of Members had concerns about this.

Councillor G. Miller commented that he was happy with the proposals but if there had been any budget remaining, he would have liked to see more consideration to prevention rather than a cure, with under 16's being looked at.

Ms Purvis advised that this was already being considered under the School Opportunities programme.

In relation to the completion of the Washington 50 Community Programme, Mrs Purvis commented that from an officer point of view, this had been a really positive programme and work was still on going.

Councillor Kelly wished to thank Helen Wardropper, Scrutiny and Area Support Officer for the fantastic job she had carried out and the positive feedback that had been received.

Councillor Kelly also advised that through the heritage lottery fund, a film on the story of Washington had been commissioned, with discussions taking place on a venue to screen it. Work was continuing on this and he wished to thank John Rostron and his Team on behalf of the Washington Trust.

The Chairman commented that the Washington 50 project was brilliant and she would like to see it carried on for the future.

Mrs Purvis advised that the Washington 50 website was now packed with content and well worth a visit.

5. RESOLVED that the Committee:-

- i) Noted the financial statements set out in the report.
- ii) Approved the allocation of £59,992 SIB 2014/15 to Youth Opportunities Project (SNCBC) as set out in Annex 1 of the report
- iii) Approved the allocation of £20,000 SIB 2014/15 for the Washington Way to Well Being Call for projects
- iv) Approved the allocation of £15,000 SIB 2014/15 to support the development of the Washington Events Programme 2015
- v) Noted the approvals and completion of the Washington 50 Community Programme as detailed in Annex 2 of the report; and
- vi) Noted the 32 Community Chest approvals supported from 2014/15 Community Chest as set out in Annex 3 of the report.

Planning Applications – For Information Only

Current Planning Applications relating to the Washington Area for the period 1st August to 30th September 2014 were submitted for Members information only (copy circulated).

(For copy report – see original minutes)

6. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting

(Signed) L. WILLIAMS,
Chairman.