

**At a meeting of the COALFIELD AREA COMMITTEE held at HERRINGTON BURN YMCA, on WEDNESDAY, 25<sup>th</sup> APRIL, 2012 at 6.00 p.m.**

**Present:-**

Councillor D. Richardson in the Chair

Councillors Blackburn, Ellis, Hall, Heron, Scott, Speding, Tate and Wakefield

**Also in Attendance:-**

Ron Barrass	Member of the Public	
Susan Brown	Area Community Coordinator	Sunderland Council
Mel Caldwell	Head of Operations	Gentoo
John Chapman	Head of neighbourhoods	Gentoo
Jim Daly	Senior Planner	Sunderland Council
Dave Ellison	Area Response Manager	Sunderland Council
Emma Frew		ShARP
Cllr Juliana Heron	Member	Hetton Town Council
Linda King	Youth Team Leader	Sunderland Council
Helen Lancaster	Scrutiny Officer	Sunderland Council
Amelia Laverick	Member of the Public	
Pam Lee	Public Health Consultant	Sunderland TPCT
Linzi Milley	Senior Policy Officer for Economy and Place	Sunderland Council
Ricky Murray		Underground Music Project
Malcolm Page	Director of Commercial and Corporate Services & Area Lead Executive	Sunderland Council
Alan Pitchford	Acting Inspector	Northumbria Police
Karon Purvis	Area Officer	Sunderland Council
Rachel Putz	Coalfields Locality Manager	Sunderland Council
Kay Rowham	Member of the Public	
Gemma Taylor	Member of the Public	

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Rolph and D. Smith along with Pauline Hopper, Liz St. Louis, James Third and Lee Wardle.

## **Chairman's Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

## **Declarations of Interest**

### Strategic Initiatives Budget

Councillor Heron declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the application for the Phoenix Project as a member of Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority.

## **Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2012**

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2012 (copy circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

## **Community Action in Coalfield: Progress Review**

### Annual Report

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which allowed Members to consider the Committee's Annual Report for 2011/12.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Karon Purvis, Area Officer, presented the report which detailed the successes and achievements of the committee over the last year. There had been a task and result group set up to look at the heritage priority; a lot of work had been carried out in relation to this priority and this work was detailed on pages 13 and 14 of the annual report.

The Local Shopping Centres priority had not had any budget allocated to it this year however there were projects being delivered using the budget which was allocated to the priority last year.

There had been a lot of work done on the Activities for Young People priority. £71,943 was allocated to the priority, 31 percent of the total budget available to the Committee. Representatives of the Underground Music Project were in attendance to provide an update on the work they did for young people in the area.

Ricky Murray from the Underground Music Project delivered a presentation on the work of the project. He advised that the project was run by young people and had been successful in attracting young people from all backgrounds. The project was open to young people aged 11 to 21 and at each session there would be around

40 people attending. Anyone was welcome regardless of musical ability and one to one and group lessons were available.

The project had gained charity status in the last year however they still found it difficult to gain funding and were currently waiting to hear whether three bids had been successful.

They did work to support the community and there had been an exchange programme with Essen, Sunderland's twin town in Germany; this had allowed the people involved to experience different cultures and had been beneficial to everyone involved.

Councillor Heron advised that power company e.On operated a Community Development fund which could be accessed by organisations which were based within a certain distance of the wind turbines operated by them. He suggested that the project look into trying to get funding from this.

Members congratulated the young people from the project for the excellent work they had done.

Ms Purvis then introduced the Allotments and Community Gardens priority and advised that there had been a lot achieved, an audit of 41 sites had taken place and 16 previously derelict sites had been brought back into use. There had also been improvement works carried out at Burnside allotments which had led to 5 large, unmanageable sites being divided into 14 smaller plots.

The Support for Older People priority had been allocated funding of £32,166 and over £23,000 had been provided to ShARP to enable 2 advice workers to provide 3 additional 2 hour sessions per week.

Emma Frew advised that ShARP had provided assistance to 102 people aged over 50 and their oldest client had been 87. They had seen an increase in the number of older people seeking advice. It was expected that even more people would be seeking advice in the future due to the changes to the benefits system.

Ms Purvis then introduced the Empty and Problematic Properties; Unadopted Roads; and Neglected Land priorities and advised that Councillor Rolph had submitted a statement which she wished to have read to the Committee.

Councillor Rolph's statement advised the Committee that the Neglected Land task and result group had anticipated that the work done to improve Council owned sites would pave the way for private landowners to carry out works. It was excellent to see the amount of work that had been done to improve the sites and the response from private landowners had been astonishing; they had carried out vast amounts of work to improve their property. There had been a huge amount of improvements in the Chilton Moor area. She thanked everyone involved for their hard work.

Ms Purvis then advised Members of the financial allocations for the year. The Committee had allocated funding totalling £280,622 over the year and £112,927 of

this had been proactively allocated to projects identified and developed by the task and result groups set up by the Committee. Match funding of £317,961 had been attracted into the area. She also advised Members of the performance of the projects against the targets which had been set.

The chairman then advised the Committee of the State of the Area debate which would be held at the start of the new municipal year at the Bethany Christian Centre. It would be based on the State of the City debate and would allow residents to ask questions of senior officers and directors. It was hoped that the event would be well attended by residents and community groups.

Councillor Tate queried whether residents would be required to submit questions in advance or whether they would be able to ask them on the day. The Chairman advised that anyone would be able to ask any question however to guarantee a response at the event it was recommended that they be submitted in advance. Forms would be available for submitting questions in advance and residents could fill in a form to have a question asked on their behalf.

2. RESOLVED that the annual report be noted.

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

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which requested the Members to consider proposals for the allocation of SIB and Community Chest funding to support initiatives that would deliver activity against the priorities for 2011/12.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Karon Purvis, Area Officer, presented the report and advised that there was only £105 remaining in the budget which would be carried forward to next year. There was one application for SIB funding from the 2012/13 budget which was detailed in annex 2 of the report. There were 13 applications for support from Community Chest and these were outlined in paragraph 2.2 and annex 4 of the report. Members were also asked to approve improvement works at Collingwood Drive totalling £4,880 which would be funded from the previously approved budget for Neglected Land.

3. RESOLVED that:-
  - a. The financial information set out in sections 2.1 and 2.2 and Annex 2 be noted
  - b. The improvements at Collingwood Drive totalling £4,880 be approved from the Neglected Land budget
  - c. The proposal for SIB funding of £4,000 for the Phoenix Project, as detailed in Annex 2 be approved
  - d. The 14 proposals for support from the 2011/12 Community Chest as set out in Annex 3 be approved.

## **Influencing Practice Policy and Strategy**

### Provision of XL Village Youth Activity

The Executive Director of City Services submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided information on the current position with regard to the XL Youth Village provision and highlighted the proposals for amendments to the delivery model. The Committee were also asked to approve the intended summer sites for delivery as proposed by the Task and Result Group.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Rachel Putz, Coalfields Locality Manager, presented the report and advised that under the new structure there would only be one much larger youth village which would be made up of a number of marquees offering a wide range of activities; there would also be the provision of a second youth bus and there would be detached youth work taking place.

There would be 7 blocks of provision, each one being 6-7 weeks long. The first of the blocks had already started and had seen the XL youth village being located on Rectory Field, the task and result group had discussed the provision and it had been proposed that when the XL Village returned to the Coalfield it be held on a Saturday evening either in Hetton or at Rectory Field.

Councillor Scott expressed concerns that there would only be 2 sites for the village and that Hetton was not central in the area and would be difficult to access for young people from the Shiney Row end of the area. Ms Putz advised that the locations were open to discussion at the task and result group, it was important to consider that the villages would be quite large and as such needed a large site to accommodate them.

Linda King, Youth Team Leader, advised that information from the police with regard to youth antisocial behaviour had been used when the locations had originally been identified. The current XL Village would be operating for 6 weeks at Rectory Field followed by a one week break and would then be moving to Herrington Burn for 1 week.

The Chairman commented that he felt the previous system with provision spread out more seemed more likely to work. Ms Putz advised that the new service would provide more; the villages would be bigger and would have more activities and set up time would be reduced compared with the previous villages. The new model had been tested in the North Area and had been a huge success. There would be more additional provision in addition to the villages. Last year there had been 160 sessions, this year there would be over 400.

Councillor Scott stated that although there were more sessions the provision was not the same and he did not think it would be as accessible for young people from all parts of the area. Ms Putz stated that the youth bus and the detached youth work would reach the young people who were unable to access the youth villages.

Councillor Speding stated that he was reasonably happy with the youth village being located in Houghton; it was central in the area and as such would allow easy access from Hetton and Shiney Row. Herrington Country Park would not be as easy to access for young people from Hetton. He was slightly concerned that the task and result group meetings had all been held at the Hetton Centre as he felt that this had excluded the Shiney Row councillors.

Ms King advised that at the task and result group meeting the general consensus had been that Houghton would be the most appropriate venue.

Councillor Blackburn queried whether postcodes were collected from young people to identify where the young people were coming from. Ms King advised that they were and agreed to provide the information to Members.

Councillor Speding commented that he thought that Rectory Field would be the most appropriate venue however it would be necessary to ensure that the youth village was taking place during Houghton Feast.

4. RESOLVED that:-

- a. The proposed changes to the delivery model be noted
- b. consideration be given to the sites for the XL youth villages as identified by the task and result group
- c. A further report on the progress and outcomes of the project be received.

City of Sunderland Local Development Framework: Core Strategy Revised Preferred Options and Supporting Evidence Papers

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which offered Members the opportunity to be consulted on the Core Strategy which was part of the Local Development Framework which would be the overarching strategic planning framework for the city for the next 20 years.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Linzi Milley, Senior Policy Officer for Economy & Place, presented the report and advised that work had been done on the core strategy since 2004; once completed the core strategy would replace the Unitary Development Plan. There would be an Allocations Development Plan Document produced which would provide more detail of individual sites.

In the Coalfield area there would be a focus on providing new homes and regenerating the area. 15,000 new homes were needed and it was proposed that 3,500 of these would be built on a site in the Burdon Lane area. There were also plans for the development of employment sites at Rainton Bridge and there would be a large mixed use site in Philadelphia which would see the development of new homes and businesses.

There was a need for 40 additional sites for showpeople in the city and it was expected that some of these would be within the Coalfield.

There would be a new cycle link created which would link Houghton with Doxford Park and there were also proposals for the new Central Route and East Durham Link Road as well as the reopening of the Leamside Line. Currently there was not any funding available for these transport links however it was hoped that funding would become available in the future.

There was a need to preserve and promote the heritage of the area and support the local shopping centres in Hetton and Houghton. Herrington Country Park would continue to be promoted as a regional attraction.

Local resident Kay Rowham queried what form the public consultation would take and was advised by Ms Milley that previously the consultation had been very traditional however the consultation on this matter would be making more use of the media to enable consultation with more residents.

Councillor Hall queried what was meant by green infrastructure corridors. Ms Milley advised that there were currently a series of separate green areas; it was proposed to link them up to provide corridors which would allow the movement of wildlife and people through the area.

Councillor Hall then stated that she was pleased to see that there were still aspirations for the Central Route to be developed. She was however concerned by the amount of housing that was proposed for the area. She welcomed the consultation with Members. Ms Milley stated that there would be consultation events with Members and that these would possibly be taking place prior to the public consultation.

Councillor Wakefield expressed concerns over the site at Philadelphia being changed to mixed use. There had been interest in the site from a housing developer and he was worried that the public might perceive that the council were working with the developer. Ms Milley reassured Members that the site was no longer used for employment and that it was felt that the development of the site would be more successful should it be changed to a mixed use site.

Councillor Ellis raised concerns over the amount of new housing that was proposed for the area; there were already a large number of new housing estates and the traditional villages which made up the area would be damaged by the building of further large housing estates. There was a need for employment in the area and the loss of employment land to build houses was a serious concern.

Councillor Heron stated that there were a lot of brownfield former housing sites in the area which were in need of redevelopment. He appreciated that these sites were more expensive to develop than other sites due to the old services buried on the sites and suggested that the developers of other sites could be required to enter into Section 106 agreements to provide funding to be used to reduce the cost of developing the brownfield sites and ultimately encourage the redevelopment of these sites.

Ms Milley advised that currently Section 106 agreements could not be used in this way; the government was currently revising the Section 106 scheme and was developing a new Community Infrastructure Levy which would see a levy being imposed on developments where feasible. The money from the levy would go into a central pot which could then be used to provide improvements to the infrastructure of the area. It would be possible for the Council to prioritise the development of brownfield sites.

Councillor Heron then stated that there was a need to improve transport links and public transport in the area. Ms Milley stated that currently there was no funding available for the central route although if it was deemed to be a priority to have the route developed then the Community Infrastructure Levy could be used to provide funding for the work.

Councillor Scott commented that he remembered when the site at Philadelphia had been pit houses; he wanted to see the workshops on the site retained and renovated. He queried how many of the 600 proposed houses would be social or affordable houses. Ms Milley advised that the policy for affordable houses was currently that 10 percent needed to be affordable housing; should the economy improve it was possible that the amount would increase to 15 percent.

Councillor Speding stated that there was a need for the Council to develop an allocations plan to identify which uses would be suitable for different sites; this would prevent developers from using sites for inappropriate uses.

5. RESOLVED that consideration be given to the content of the LDF.

(Signed) D. RICHARDSON,  
Chairman.