

At a meeting of the SOUTH SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE on MONDAY, 27th October, 2008 at 5.00 P.M.

Present:-

Councillor Tye in the Chair

Councillors Errington, M. Dixon, E. Gibson, P. Gibson, P. Smith, Vardy and A. Wright

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Oliver.

Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 8th September, 2008

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 8th September, 2008 (copy circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Declarations of Interest

Item 8 – Strategic Initiatives Budget Update

Councillor P. Smith declared a personal interest in the item as Vice Chairman of Silksworth Community Association.

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

Sergeant Hall presented the report (copy circulated) detailing crimes committed in the South Sunderland area up until 20th October, 2008 in comparison with the same period for 2007.

(For copy statistics – see original minutes).

Councillor P. Gibson enquired over the accuracy of the figures for Violent Crime due to reports in the Press that the Police had recorded incorrect figures.

Sergeant Hall responded that he was extremely confident that the figures were correct.

Councillor M. Dixon enquired if there were any figures relating to knife crime.

Sergeant Hall advised that knife crime was included under wounding and that there had been no reported incidents of knife crime.

In relation to the increase of burglaries other than dwellings, Sergeant Hall informed Members this was due to allotments being broken into in the Doxford ward.

Councillor Errington enquired if there was anything that could be done regarding complaints received concerning parents parking on the Keep Clear signs and roundabout at Venerable Bede School.

Sergeant Hall advised that he was aware of the problem and had sent Community Support Officers to patrol the area, but it was difficult to commit resources everyday. Sergeant Hall stated he would look into the problem and would also speak to the Ryhope Team as it could also come under their jurisdiction.

The Chairman thanked Sergeant Hall for his attendance.

2. RESOLVED that the contents of the presentation be received and noted.

Minutes of the Meetings of the Local Multi-agency Problem Solving Group

A copy of the minutes of the meetings of the Local Multi Agency Problem Solving Group held on 2nd September, 2008 (copy circulated) were submitted.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Chairman expressed his disappointment that Members of the Committee were not receiving full copies of the LMAP minutes and felt that this was unacceptable.

3. RESOLVED that the minutes of the Local Multi Agency Problem Solving Group held on 2nd September, 2008 be received and noted.

Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB): Regeneration Issues Report

The Chief Executive (Acting) submitted a report (copy circulated) outlining the current expenditure from the Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) and applications for funding from this budget in order to support new initiatives, which would benefit the area.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Mr. Richard Parry, Area Regeneration Officer, presented the report and informed Members that there were no applications for funding at the moment. Mr. Parry also informed Members that there was £124,632 within the budget to be spent by the end of the financial year, with two more Committee meetings left. The next meeting would have proposals for Members to consider.

Members having considered the report, it was:-

4. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Regeneration Issues Report: Feedback on Projects Previously Funded through Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB)

The Chief Executive (Acting) submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided information to the Area Committee on projects it had previously funded and on how the funding had been utilised.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Mr. Richard Parry, Area Regeneration Officer, provided Members with an update on the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) – Youth Diversionary Activities in Doxford Park and Ryhope Project.

5. RESOLVED that the feedback report be received and noted.

Strategic Initiatives Budget Update

The Chief Executive (Acting) submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide Members with an update on live projects for which the Area Committee had previously approved funding through its Strategic Initiatives Budget.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor P. Gibson raised a query in relation to The Phoenix Project – Community Outreach Programme and how £6,000 had been allocated in 2005, yet only £1,600 had been spent to date.

The Chairman advised the Committee that the Project had undergone a change in staffing, with the lead agent having transferred to the Youth Offending Service, but the money would be spent shortly.

Councillor P. Gibson also enquired on the progress of the Chelmsford Street Community Safety Initiative Project.

Mr. Richard Parry informed Members that legal advice had indicated that a Gating Order was needed. They were currently in the process of obtaining the Order and would come back to the Committee when approved. Due to these circumstances, the financial package for the project may need to be re-examined.

6. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Strategic Initiatives Budget: 2007/2008 Ward-Based Community Chest

The Chief Executive (Acting) submitted a report (copy circulated) on 17 projects recommended for support from the 2008/2009 Community Chest Scheme in respect of the Doxford, Silksworth and St. Chad's Wards.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

7. RESOLVED that approval be given to the 17 projects recommended for support from the 2008/09 budget with a total of £7,172 as detailed in Annexes 1 and 1A to the report.

Update on Sunderland Community Network

The Chairman informed the Committee that Item 10, a presentation to update Members on Sunderland Community Network, had been withdrawn.

8. RESOLVED that the withdrawal of the item be noted.

Area Regeneration Framework, 3G Rapid Deployment CCTV Project

The Director of Development and Regeneration submitted a report (copy circulated) informing Members on the benefits of using CCTV in making the City a safer place to live.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Chairman updated the Members on the progress of the project.

Councillor P. Gibson referred to the CCTV camera, placed at Monkwearmouth Bridge, and its usage.

The Committee suggested that if it was true that the camera was only used periodically, in relation to high risk football matches, then it should be re-sited somewhere else within the south area of Sunderland.

Mr Parry having advised that the issue of the CCTV Project was to be the subject of a further report to the Area Chairs meeting, it was:-

9. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted with the Committee awaiting further updates.

Strategic Investment Plan Update

The Chairman provided a verbal update on the matter informing Members he had requested a copy of the report, but as of yet none was forthcoming.

Members raised concerns that nothing had been done, with several proposals having been identified in the Leader's ward visits and in desperate need of maintenance.

10. RESOLVED that Members approach Richard Parry, Area Regeneration Officer, with their proposals and identified areas to be included in a future written report.

(Signed) P.M. TYE,
Chairman.