

At a meeting of the WEST SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE, SUNDERLAND on THURSDAY, 27TH NOVEMBER, 2008 at 5.00 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor D. Forbes in the Chair

Councillors Allan, Arnott, Morrissey, Old, J. B. Scott, P. Watson, S. Watson and A. Wilson.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Gofton, L. Martin and T. Wright.

Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 2nd October, 2008

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 2nd October, 2008 (copy circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Presentation from Northumbria Police on Crime Rates Relating to the West Area

In the absence of a representative from Northumbria Police, it was:-

2. RESOLVED that the item be deferred to the next meeting of the Committee.

Local Multi Agency Problem Solving Groups (LMAPS)

In the absence of a representative from Northumbria Police it was:-

3. RESOLVED that consideration of the item be deferred to the next meeting of the Committee.

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

The Chief Executive (Acting) submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with information on the following project which it had previously funded through its SIB allocation:-

- Claxheugh Riverside Master plan Project

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Dave Leonard, Area Co-ordination and Health Lead, introduced Keith Hamilton, Deputy Manager, Landscape and Reclamation who proceeded to provide members with a commentary on the master planning exercise for the area covering Claxheugh Rock and its environs, Ford Quarry and the riverside between the former Groves Cranes site and the steps at West View, South Hylton. The Master plan had sought to identify problems and opportunities to offer solutions and outline potential sources of funding.

Mr. Hamilton suggested a variety of future options including the establishment of a community liaison group to engage the local community and canvas views on the various options.

Consideration was given to the way forward and it was agreed that Mr. Hamilton be asked to provide detailed costings, including drawings, for a proposal to reinstate the 1.5 metre wide riverside footpath from the A19 to the 100 steps to be submitted to the Committee's next meeting on 5th February, 2009. Such costings to include barriers to prevent vehicular access.

4. RESOLVED that detailed costings including drawings be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee on a proposal to reinstate the 1.5 metre wide riverside footpath from the A19 to the 100 steps, such costings to include barriers to prevent vehicular access.

Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) : Regeneration Issues Report

The Director of Development and Regeneration submitted a report (copy circulated) which outlined current expenditure from the Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) on projects and initiatives of benefit to the West Area.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Dave Leonard, Area Co-ordination and Health Lead presented the report advising that at its last meeting the Committee agreed funding for projects totalling £20,572 leaving a balance of £139,348 in the 2008/09 budget.

Councillor Arnott referred to the deferral at the Committee's previous meeting of an SIB application regarding the 'Barnes Burn Stream and Habitat Rejuvenation Project'. He noted that the Committee had almost £140,000 left in its budget and suggested that the project would represent an appropriate legacy from the Committee given the proposed restructure outlined in the new Area Arrangements.

Strategic Initiatives Budget Update

The Chief Executive (Acting) submitted a report (copy circulated) providing 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)

In response to an enquiry from Councillor P. Watson, Mr. Leonard confirmed that if SIB grants had not been spent within a 2 year period, then the funding would be reclaimed.

6. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Sport and Leisure in West Sunderland

The Director of Community and Cultural Services submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided members with a details narrative on the provision of sport and leisure services in the West Sunderland Area.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor P. Watson stated that given the move towards Area Arrangements, the Committee would expect to have a greater involvement in the development and co-ordination of an even distribution of play and sports facilities across the West Sunderland Area.

Councillor S. Watson stated that she was unhappy that Section 106 money was being spent in the West Area without coming to the Area Committee first.

Alison O'Neill, Assistant Head of Community Services advised that in 2004 the Culture and Leisure Review Committee's policy review centred on the play and urban games strategy. This strategy was revised and updated in 2007 setting out the strategic objective of establishing play and urban games provision within 1km of a young person's doorstep. Whilst the Directorate had a mathematical model it was not used in isolation with regard to the allocation of play provision. No provision was made without undertaking community consultation first. She acknowledged however that the agenda was changing given the development of Area Arrangements. In response to the enquiry from Councillor S. Watson, Mrs. O'Neill advised that she would provide her with the details of how Section 106 funding had been allocated in the West Sunderland Area.

7. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the report be received and noted, and
- (ii) Members provide feedback to the Directorate of Community and Cultural Services on locations they consider would benefit from future investment in play provision.

Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) 2008/09 Ward-Based Community Chest

The Director of Development and Regeneration submitted a report (copy circulated) on 12 projects recommended for support from the 2008/09 Community Chest Scheme in respect of the Barnes, Sandhill and St. Anne's Wards.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

8. RESOLVED that approval be given to the 12 projects recommended for support from the 2008/09 Community Chest budget with a total value of £5,149 as detailed in Annex 1 and 1A of the report.

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

(Signed) D. Forbes,
Chairman.