

At a Meeting of the WEST SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE, SUNDERLAND on WEDNESDAY, 7TH SEPTEMBER, 2010 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor P. Gibson in the Chair

Councillors M. Dixon, Essl, D. Forbes, Gofton, Morrissey, Old, Oliver, P. Smith, S. Watson, A. Wilson, A. Wright and T. Wright.

Also Present:-

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| Sarah Abernethy | (Acting) Assistant Scrutiny Officer | Sunderland City Council |
| Angela Cousins | Area Community Co-ordinator | Sunderland City Council |
| Kevin Douglas | Media Officer | Sunderland City Council |
| Alan Duffy | Head of Operations | Gentoo Sunderland |
| Victoria French | Sport Wellness and Partnership Manager | Sunderland City Council |
| Gillian Gibson | Public Health Specialist | Sunderland Teaching Primary Care Trust |
| Julie Gray | Head of Community Services | Sunderland City Council |
| Clive Greenwood | Senior Planner | Sunderland City Council |
| Keith Hamilton | Deputy Manager, Planning Implementation | Sunderland City Council |
| Peter Iveson | Station Manager | Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service |
| Andrew Jackman | Interim Assistant Head of Traffic Road Safety | Sunderland City Council |
| Kevin Jones | Acting Inspector | Northumbria Police |
| Bill Leach | Assistant Head of Adult and Community Learning | Sunderland City Council |
| Sandra Mitchell | Head of Performance Improvement and Policy | Sunderland City Council |
| Keith Moore | Acting Executive Director of Children's Services | Sunderland City Council |
| Richard Parry | Area Officer | Sunderland City Council |
| Julie Rowe | Director of Education | City of Sunderland College |
| Nicky Rowland | Local Environment Manager | Sunderland City Council |
| Christine Tilley | Community Democratic Services Team Leader | Sunderland City Council |

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Allan, L. Martin, Tye, P. Watson and Les Clark, Head of Street Scene.

Declarations of Interest

Item 3 – Community Action: Reviewing Progress and Agreeing Next Steps

Annex 2b, SIB and SIP applications – LMAPs ' Anti Social Behaviour Secondary Fires' Project.

Councillors Essl and T. Wright declared personal and prejudicial interests in the application as a Member and Chairman respectively of the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service.

Annex 2c – Community Chest Applications

Councillor Morrissey declared a personal interest in the application from the Royal British Legion as his partner is an occasional volunteer worker and he was formerly a member at the organisation.

Councillor P. Smith declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the application from Silksworth Community Association as a Member of the Management Committee and took no part in any discussion or decision thereon.

Minutes of the last ordinary meeting of the Committee held on 30th June, 2010 and of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 15th July, 2010

- i) Councillor P. Smith reported that she had submitted her apologies for the meeting on 30th June, 2010 and they had not been recorded.
- ii) Councillor P. Smith reported that she had attended the meeting on 15th July, 2010 and her attendance had not been recorded in the minutes.

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last ordinary meeting of the Committee held on 30th June, 2010 and of the Extraordinary meeting held on 15th July, 2010 be signed as correct records subject to the inclusion of Councillor P. Smith's apologies and attendance as detailed above accordingly.

Community Action in Sunderland West: Identifying New Issues and Agreeing Actions (2010/11 Work Plan)

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided information on the progress made in relation to its Work Plan and the priorities identified by the Area Committee for 2010/11.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Mr. Richard Parry, Area Officer, presented the report and advised that to ensure the Area Committee was kept up to date with current events and developments in its neighbourhoods, he would monitor the key decisions made by the Cabinet via the Forward Plan and would consider whether future decisions would affect the West Area Committee's work plan. When this was considered to be the case, information would be included in an issues log and reported to the Committee, together with proposed next steps for the Committee to consider. A similar arrangement would take place with regard to decisions made under Delegated Powers to update Area Councillors on developments relating to wards via the Ward Bulletin.

Mr. Parry advised that an issue had arisen regarding the need for dropped kerbs, particularly in areas where there were a large number of elderly and mobility restricted people. He added that some shopping areas could prove difficult to access due to a lack of dropped kerbs. Mr. Parry invited Members to forward locations in the West Area where residents would benefit from the installation of dropped kerbs and that these would be considered by the Traffic and Parking Task and Finish Group.

Mr. Andrew Jackman, Interim Assistant Head of Traffic Road Safety, advised the Committee that locations for the dropped kerbs were Member request led. If there were significant numbers then they would be put onto a list and there would be a need to prioritise the requests. He confirmed that dropped kerbs were being built in where there was a need, when pavements were being renewed and were usually located at the end of a road/key crossings rather than outside a resident's home in order to maximise the benefit.

Mr. Parry reported that a further new issue had been identified in relation to planning for open space, sport and recreation in that Officers of the Council's Planning Policy Team would like the Committee to consider the opportunity for Councillors, Officers, Partners and Residents to work collectively to refresh the green space survey from 2002.

Mr. Clive Greenwood, Senior Planner, advised in response to Members' questions that the proposal to refresh the green space survey would involve hosting a workshop inviting representatives along to identify spaces in the West which match the planning policy guidelines for open spaces. After the workshop each recognised open space would then be assessed against the recommended criteria to assess the value of area/land to the community and an overall report presented to the Committee. Mr. Greenwood confirmed that maps showing the open spaces would be displayed in the Members' Workroom.

Full consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

2. RESOLVED that:-

- i) City Services be requested to review the provision of dropped kerbs in the West and to bring forward proposals to the Committee on actions to increase the provision of dropped kerbs and improve accessibility; and
- ii) approval be given to implement a two stage approach to refresh the Green Space Topic paper, which forms part of the Local Development Framework as follows:-
 - Stage One: host a workshop to identify new open spaces not shown on the survey/large detailed maps, as laid out in the planning and policy guidance; Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation 2002, see Section Three, with key stakeholders across the West Sunderland Area during October 2010.
 - Stage Two: complete a participatory appraisal for each open space to assess the open space against the recommended criteria to measure the value of area/land to the community by December 2010.

Community Action: Reviewing Progress and Agreeing Next Steps

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which:-

- (i) provided an update on outstanding issues previously identified through the 2009/10 Work Plan with regards to progress or completion; and
- (ii) sought approval to recommendations in relation to the allocation of Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB), Strategic Investment Plan funding (SIP) and Community Chest funding.

(For copy reports – see original minutes).

Mr. Richard Parry, Area Officer, referred the Committee to the Work Plan for 2009-10 at Annex 1 which detailed the progress against the priorities the Committee had identified and the proposed next steps. He reported that funding proposals contained on the Annex 1 would be submitted to future meetings.

Mr. Parry then referred to the Work Plan for 2010-11 and the priority Environment and Street Scene, including shopping centres.

Mr. Keith Hamilton, Deputy Manager, Planning Implementation, briefed the Committee on the proposal to undertake a programme of tree planting. He advised that this would be done in two sections. The first section would cost £77,400. The second section would cost £61,800, giving a total cost of £139,200, at a cost of £600 a tree including three years maintenance. He stated that it was important to plant appropriate trees for the area and the recommended species was lime trees. More

diverse trees could be planted at a later date. Discussions were taking place with City Services with regards to the ongoing maintenance of the trees. The trees would have a girth of 20-25 cm when they were planted which equated to 20-25 feet high.

Members discussed the proposal taking into account the potential cuts in services and jobs and whether they should be spending money on tree planting in such difficult economic times. The question was raised as to what would happen to the Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) funding should the Committee not spend its allocation by March 2011.

Mr. Parry stated that it was his understanding that the SIP funding needed to be spent by March 2011 or the Committee would lose this funding. He would, however, seek to clarify the issue for Members for the next meeting.

The Chairman invited Members to look at the plans and suggest locations in the West area where they would like to see tree planting for consideration at the next meeting.

Mr. Parry then referred the Committee to paragraph 2.4 of the report detailing the recommendations resulting from the Traffic and Parking Task and Finish Group. The Committee was invited to choose a preferred option from the two put forward for Etrick Grove which were Vehicle Activated Signs or the installation of refuges along the stretch of road.

Mr. Andrew Jackman, Interim Assistant Head of Traffic Road Safety, briefed the Committee on the work undertaken to identify a suitable traffic calming option for the Etrick Grove area, explaining that refuges removed the potential for cars to overtake and resulted in the traffic slowing down. If agreed the refuges would be located at the wider parts of Etrick Grove and away from driveways. Vehicle Activated Signs had the advantage in that they could be moved to different locations or permanently sited at the locations where they were most effective.

Councillor Essl asked whether 'sleeping policemen' had been considered.

Mr. Jackman stated that as Etrick Grove was a major link road to the Royal Hospital, this option would provide difficulties for the emergency services and therefore was not considered suitable.

Councillor Essl suggested that an alternative to the proposed options was to install a chicane. This option received support from other Members of the Committee.

Mr. Jackman stated that this option could be looked at, however, he pointed out that there might be some difficulty in installing a chicane by April 2011 as the scheme would need to be worked up and consulted upon.

In response to Councillor S. Watson, Mr. Parry advised that any measures the Area Committee was undertaking in respect of traffic calming, for example, a top three priority for the area; was in addition to whatever Council departments were doing on such matters.

The Chairman added that traffic calming issues in respect of Etrick Grove had been raised at the Traffic and Parking Task and Finish Group and Mr. Jackman had been tasked to provide options and costings.

Mr. Parry referred the Committee to the recommendation to prepare detailed costs for safety works at Allendale Road outside of Farringdon Community College.

The Chairman advised the Committee that a raised platform for the zebra crossing was being requested, together with a gate on Allendale Road in order to allow the emergency services to access the school yard should an ambulance be needed as well as appropriate road markings.

Mr. Parry referred the Committee to the proposal to prepare detailed costs for safety works at the junction of Warwick Terrace and Lincoln Avenue, Silksworth, which had been submitted from Members of the Committee for consideration.

Members of the Committee expressed concern that a number of issues were coming forward from the Task and Finish Groups and the wider membership had little or no information on the proposals other than the brief details included in the agenda papers and yet they were being asked to make decisions as to whether to take the proposals forward. The point was made that issues coming forward needed to be Member led and that whilst this was the case for some proposals it did not appear to be the case for all.

It was accepted that whilst an open invitation had been extended to all Members of the Committee to join Task and Finish Groups, not all Members were able to attend and a weakness had been exposed in that they were not being informed of the outcomes from the Task and Finish Groups prior to the submission of the proposals on the Area Committee agenda.

Mr. Keith Moore, Acting Executive Director of Children's Services and Area Lead Executive for the Area Committee, stated that he was concerned to hear that Members did not feel the process was being Member led in all cases and confirmed that this should be the case. He suggested that a discussion be held with the Chairman and Vice Chairman, the Area Officer and himself as to the best way to ensure Members received the necessary information in order to make decisions on proposals coming forward from the Task and Finish Groups to the Area Committee and that this be reported back to the next meeting. This would include ensuring all Members were aware when the Task and Finish Groups were meeting and had the opportunity to submit any issues or proposals in advance for the Groups to consider so that Members who were unable to be present could still feed into the process. Members would also be informed of the outcome of the meetings.

Members accepted the above approach.

Mr. Parry asked Members to note the approach of the Chief Constable regarding possible parking enforcement by Community Support Officers and invited the Committee to choose a preferred option with regard to employing an additional Civil Enforcement Officer (CEO) in the West, to support the existing CEO at a cost of £60,000, for two years.

Councillor S. Watson expressed concern at the lack of information Members had received in respect of the proposals and that if they were to approve them there might be other proposals which come forward the next month that were considered to be more of a priority but that there would be no funding left.

With regards to the Health and Well Being Task and Finish Group, Ms. Gillian Gibson provided the Committee with a verbal update in respect of the ways in which they were trying to find a way to move quickly to address health inequalities in a strategic way. This included providing basic training to all staff to understand the basic determinants and signpost people to health services. Ms. Gibson advised that it was proposed that 200 frontline staff in the West Area would be provided with the training in an effort to improve outcomes. This model was already a place in the Washington Area.

Members expressed their support for the above approach.

Mr. Parry referred Members to paragraph 2.6 of the report concerning the Work Plan for 2010/11 and the Reducing Anti Social Behaviour and Secondary Fires priority. He reported the proposals from the West and South LMAPs to submit a funding application through the emergency protocols, for a West area multi agency ASB project at a revised cost of approximately £41,000 revenue only.

Inspector Kevin Jones, Northumbria Police, and Peter Iveson, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service, briefed the Committee on the multi agency strategy to tackle anti social behaviour hotspots through multi agency patrols, signposting and engagement with families with the first proposed intervention being in the Eden Vale area. Inspector Jones advised that some of the funding would go to supporting youth workers at Young Asian Voices.

At this juncture Ms. Victoria French, Sport, Wellness and Partnership Manager, briefed the Committee on the Play and Urban Games Strategy Review. Ms. French highlighted that the total number of refurbished play areas in the West had increased from 2 in 2004-2006 to 10 as at April 2010, however, this did not include the investment of the adventure playground at Silksworth and that access had increased from 47% to 72%. Ms. French drew Members' attention to the Consultation Framework to be followed in respect of the development of play facilities detailed at Appendix 1 and stated that Members' comments would be welcomed.

Mr. Parry highlighted the Financial Statement detailing all Community Chest, SIP and SIB approvals up to September 2010 to the Committee.

Mr. Parry referred Members to Annex 2b detailing an application for SIB funding for £3,000 towards an ASB Secondary Fires project for West and South LMAPs.

The second application was in respect of the 'Raising Aspirations' project submitted by Pallion Action Group for SIB funding of £52,421 and the final application for SIB funding was for Pennywell Neighbourhood Centre's 'Next Steps' project in the sum of £10,672.

Mr. Parry referred Members to the application for SIP funding towards the City Council's 'Hastings Hill' project to construct a new cycle path that will complete the network from Chester-le-Street to the Sunderland cycleway.

Members expressed support for all four of the above applications and proceeded to give consideration to the 22 proposals for support from the 2010/2011 Community Chest detailed at Annex 2c to the report.

Full consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

3. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) in relation to the Work Plan 2009-10: Raise Aspirations of Children, Young People and their families that the progress on more effective delivery of Family, Adult and Community Learning Services be noted;
- (ii) the update on Tree Planting, Thorndale Road and Pallion Shops be noted; Members to submit suggested locations for tree planting in the West area and clarification to be sought in relation to the deadline for spending SIP funding;
- (iii) costings for the installation of chicanes be prepared and submitted for the Committee to consider the most suitable option for traffic calming measures on Etrick Grove;
- (iv) the preparation of detailed costs for safety works on Allendale Road outside of Farrington Community College be approved;
- (v) the preparation of detailed costs for safety works, estimated at £35,000, at the junction of Warwick Terrace and Lincoln Avenue, Silksworth be not approved;
- (vi) the approach to the Chief Constable regarding possible parking enforcement by Community Support Officers be noted;
- (vii) the proposal to choose a preferred option with regard to employing an additional Civil CEO in the West, to support the existing CEO at a cost of £60,000 for two years be not advanced;
- (viii) the health update be noted;
- (ix) approval be given to the proposals from West and South LMAPs to submit a funding application through the emergency protocols for a West area multi agency ASB project at approximately £41,000 revenue;
- (x) the recommendations relating to the Play and Urban Games Strategy Review as detailed in paragraph 2.7 of the report be approved;
- (xi) the Financial Statement for the Area Committee as set out in Annex 2 to the report be noted;

- (xii) approval be given to an application for SIB funding of £3,000 from the 2010/2011 budget for the LMAPs 'Anti Social Behaviour Secondary Fires' project;
- (xiii) approval be given to an application for SIB funding of £52,421 from the 2010/2011 budget for Pallion Action Group's 'Raising Aspirations' project;
- (xiv) approval be given to an application for SIB funding of £10,672 from the 2010/2011 budget for Pennywell Neighbourhood Centre's 'Next Steps' project; and
- (xv) approval be given to a contribution of £30,000 from the Strategic Investment Reserve towards the City Council's 'Hastings Hill' project to construct a new cycle path to complete the network from Chester-le-Street to the Sunderland Cycleway; and
- (xvi) approval be given to all 22 proposals for support from the 2010/11 Community Chest as detailed in Annex 2c to the report at a total cost of £12,803.

Influencing Practice, Policy and Strategy

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) requesting Members to consider the draft Sunderland Partnership Volunteering Strategy and Action Plan, which was subject to consultation at that time and seeking their participation in the consultation process to ensure the Strategy would effectively address the volunteering needs of the West Area.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Angela Cousins, Area Community Co-ordinator, referred the Committee to the extract from the draft document included as Annex 1 to the report and she stated Members' views would be welcomed and invited them to engage in the consultation. Ms. Cousins advised that the full document could be accessed at www.sunderlandcompact.org.uk with a deadline for views to be submitted by 17th September, 2010. Alternatively a hard copy of the draft Strategy could be supplied to Members if this was preferred.

4. RESOLVED that the consultation process on the draft Sunderland Partnership Volunteering Strategy and Action Plan be noted.

The Committee noted that the next meeting of the Area Committee was to be held on Wednesday, 27th October, 2010 at 5.30 p.m., venue to be confirmed.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.

(Signed) P. GIBSON,
Chairman.