

At a meeting of the EAST SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE, SUNDERLAND on MONDAY, 30th JUNE, 2008 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Wares in the Chair

Councillor Ball, P. Dixon, M. Forbes, Paul Maddison, Peter Maddison, Mordey, O'Connor and M. Smith.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Fairs, T. Martin and Wood.

Minutes of the last meeting held on 7th April, 2008

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 7th April, 2008 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Declarations of Interest

Item 13 – Strategic Initiatives Budget – Regeneration Issues Report

Councillor Mordey declared personal interests in the applications for Hudson Road Primary School and Sit 'n' b Fit as a director of Back on the Map.

Councillor M. Smith declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the application for Living History North East as a Council appointed member of the Donnison School.

Presentation from Northumbria Police on Crime Rates Relating to the East Sunderland Area

Inspector Steve Tallentire and Sergeant Keith Goldsmith briefed Members on the crime figures for April.

With regard to the area comprising Millfield and St. Michael's Wards Members were advised that all crime had reduced by 10%. There was a reduction in crime of 21% in Millfield and an increase of 5% in St. Michaels although this was an increase of only 9 offences.

Criminal damage in the area had reduced by 12% although there was an increase of 22% in Millfield which was 9 more offences. In St. Michael's there was a reduction of 9%.

Violent crime had reduced by 31% in St. Michael's and 32% in Millfield

Vehicle crime had reduced by 25% overall with a reduction of 51% in Millfield and an increase of 40% in St. Michael's which was an increase of 13 crimes.

Burglary from dwellings had reduced by 31% in St. Michael's and had not changed in Millfield with 18 crimes in both years.

In Ryhope all crime had increased by 17%, while in Hendon all crime had reduced by 25%.

In Ryhope violent crime increased by 11 offences which was a 110% increase on last year.

In Hendon criminal damage reduced by 35% while in Ryhope there was no change.

Burglary from dwellings decreased by 8% in Hendon and increased by 66% in Ryhope.

Councillor M. Forbes asked if there was a reason for the increases.

Inspector Tallentire advised that the figures were a comparison with last year which was an exceptional year for crime reduction although if the figures over the last two years were used then there would be a reduction shown.

Councillor O'Connor asked whether the reduction in car crime in Millfield was due to a certain individual being arrested.

Inspector Tallentire stated that there were a number of factors involved including crime prevention campaigns although there were two good arrests last month.

Councillor Paul Maddison asked about the campaign against car crime mentioned in the Sunderland Echo.

Inspector Tallentire replied that Operation Envelope is designed to advise the public in order to reduce vehicle crime, it was in association with the Council. Employees of the Council such as Parking Enforcement Officers would identify vehicles with valuables left on display. Letters would then be sent to the owner of the vehicle advising them of the risks of leaving valuables on display.

Councillor P. Dixon stated that the figures were not bad and asked about the increase in Criminal Damage.

Inspector Tallentire advised that the City Centre makes the figures seem worse as it was natural for there to be an increase in violent crime in the city centre at the weekend. He also advised that there was a campaign against criminal damage although the first night had been bad with 20 vehicles damaged and that next month there should be a decrease recorded. He also stated that an arrest had been made for nine of the offences.

2. RESOLVED that the presentation on crime statistics relating to the East Sunderland Area be received and noted.

Minutes of the Local Multi Agency Problem Solving Groups (LMAPS)

The local Multi-Agency Problem Solving Groups submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided the Members with the minutes of the meetings held on Tuesday 22nd April and Tuesday 27th May, 2008 for the Hendon Ryhope and Grangetown areas and on Thursday 24th April and Thursday 29th May, 2008 for Millfield and St. Michael's Wards.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor P. Dixon advised that the minutes for Millfield appeared to have very few issues on it and that the Cycle Path was a hotspot for problems.

Inspector Tallentire advised that the new campaigns normally start in April. He also advised that there were a number of targets although they would not show on these minutes.

Inspector Tallentire then advised the members that there were concerns over the future of the taxi marshalling scheme as funding would soon end and that while it was a popular scheme finance was an important factor in its future.

The Chairman commented that Inspector Tallentire was right to inform the Committee now, before the funding was needed for the scheme.

Councillor Forbes stated that it was a matter of concern and that it was integral to the Safer City Objective of the Sunderland Strategy and asked what steps were being taken.

Councillor P. Dixon suggested that the Licensed Premises in the area could pay a contribution to the scheme.

Inspector Tallentire advised that the LMAPS would be looking at alternate ways to manage problems and that money is an important factor especially in the current economic climate which has seen a reduction in trade for Licensed Premises.

3. RESOLVED that the minutes be received and noted

Children and Young People's Participation Strategy 2008 – 2013

The Director of Children's Services Submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Members with feedback from the consultation process on the Participation Strategy and requested comments on the Strategy from the Committee.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Norah Stevens, Participation Officer, presented the report and welcomed any questions and feedback on the strategy.

Councillor M. Forbes commented that there was always a group of 16 to 18 year olds who fell through the net.

Ms. Stevens advised that there was a need to ensure that young people do not fall through the net and that if they do then the appropriate help would need to be provided to them.

Judith Hay, Head of PC and EWB, advised that they work closely with the Youth Offending Service and with young people leaving Care to ensure they have the required support.

4. RESOLVED that the report and draft strategy be received and noted.

Festivals and Events in Sunderland

The Director of Community and Cultural Services submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Members with an update regarding events activity in the City for the period 1st September, 2007 to 31st March, 2008.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Julie McCann, Principal Librarian-E Resources & Information Services, presented the report and welcomed comments from Members.

Councillor O'Connor commented that there had been 3,500 visitors to the ice rink at the old fire station and asked how many visitors there were when the ice rink was in Mowbray Park.

Ms. McCann stated that the ice rink at the fire station was not as popular due to it being a Synthetic Ice Rink and that the people it attracted were younger than at Mowbray Park and that she did not have visitor numbers for when the ice rink was at Mowbray Park.

Councillor M. Smith commented that she had attended the Remembrance Parade every year and asked why last year the routine had changed.

Ms. McCann stated that she did not have the information but would find it.

Councillor Mordey asked whether there were any plans for Firework displays in Mowbray Park this year.

Ms. McCann advised that the planning was underway and that there were no firm proposals in place.

5. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

World Book Day

The Director of Community and Cultural Services submitted a report (copy circulated) which informed members of the World Book Day which took place on Thursday, 6th March, 2008.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Julie McCann, Principal Librarian-E Resources & Information Services, presented the report and advised members that there had been 44 adults attended the discussion with forensic artist Norman Kirtlan and that schools had visited both Ryhope and Hendon libraries.

6. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Proposed Programme for Heritage Open Days 2008

The Director of Community and Cultural Services submitted a report (copy circulated) which updated Members on the Heritage Open Days 2008.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Julie McCann, Principal Librarian-E Resources & Information Services, presented the report and advised that Heritage Open days had taken place each September since 1994 and that it was the Nation's biggest free celebration of architecture, history and culture.

The Chairman commented that it was good to see Ryhope Pigeon Cree included in the tours as it was unique being the only Listed Pigeon Cree in the country.

Councillor Paul Maddison referred to the tour of the Civic Centre and commented that it was not an old building and that there were old buildings at the docks which could be opened for tours.

Ms. McCann commented that the Heritage Open Days rely on generosity of owners to open their property for the Open Days.

Councillor M. Forbes suggested that it could be possible to contact the Maritime Trust to discuss tours.

7. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Residents Survey – Future of Adult Social Care 2007

The Performance and Information Manager (Health, Housing and Adult Services) submitted a report (copy circulated) which informed Members of the results of a Residents Survey about the future of adult social care for 2007.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Phil Hounsell, Team Manager, Services for Older People, presented the report and advised that the survey had been undertaken as part of the Council's planning in responding to the Government White Paper "Our Health, Our Care, Our Say"

Councillor Paul Maddison asked whether minority groups had been contacted.

Mr Hounsell advised that with respect to this report they had not however there was active engagement with the Bangladeshi community through the Bangladeshi Centre.

Councillor P. Dixon commented that Sunderland is above the ageing population national average.

Mr Hounsell advised that this was a challenge as there was a higher than average number of people suffering from dementia and that this number would increase. He also stated that there was a need to take action to find a way to provide care for more people in their own homes rather than in residential care.

Councillor M. Smith commented that the number of surveys returned was disappointing and that this was an important strategy.

The Chairman agreed that the number of returns was disappointing and asked how it was known that the number of service users would increase.

Mr Hounsell stated that there was a formula used in association with the information available on demographic change in order to anticipate the changes.

Councillor Ball commented on the delivery of meals and the evening care provision.

Mr Hounsell advised that he would need to find additional information to respond fully but advised that with the meal delivery service there was previously a fresh meal delivery service however consultation showed that service users preferred to receive frozen meals. He also advised that frozen meals were more cost effective and this meant that the provision of nutritional meals was more sustainable.

He advised that with regards to the late evening service that the scheme helped around 300 people get into bed and that there was an aim to assist people between 9:30 and 11:30 and that there was a focus on trying to help users into bed at a time which suited them most.

8. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Integrated Youth Strategy 2008 – 2011: Consultation Document

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report (copy circulated) which informed Members of the Draft Sunderland Integrated Youth Strategy 2008-2011 and the associated consultation process.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Judith Hay, Head of PC&EWB, presented the report and introduced Kath Butchert, Youth Integrated Officer, who was available to answer any questions

Councillor Mordey asked who sat on the Young Persons Panel and how they were appointed.

Ms. Butchert advised that the Youth Offending Service, Connexions and other specialist organisations were involved and that the panel was made up of a group of experts from these organisations.

Councillor Mordey then asked who the young people who allocated the funds were.

Ms. Butchert advised that the Young Persons Youth Board allocated the funds and that it was made up of Youth Advocates who were employed, and volunteers who were trained in decision making.

The Chairman asked how young people were appointed to the panel and asked whether the Youth Advocates were paid a wage.

Ms Butchert replied that they were employed on a sessional basis for two nights per week and additionally anyone who wanted to volunteer would be able to.

Ms. Hay added that they were paid an hourly rate and that they are employed to ensure that services are held to account.

The Chairman then asked how children were reached, using Ryhope as an example.

Ms. Butchert advised that there were links with the Blue Watch Youth Centre and Southmoor School and that leaflets were distributed.

Councillor O'Connor asked whether any young people were recruited from the outreach workers.

Ms. Butchert advised that there were only five Youth Advocates with the rest being volunteers and that projects needed to demonstrate that they were young people led.

The Chairman stated that advertising needed to be targeted as when the Youth Parliament was advertised on Sun FM no young people asked had heard it however when the advert was played on Galaxy all of the young people questioned had heard the advert.

Councillor Paul Maddison asked whether people taking gap years would be classed as Not in Employment Education or Training (NEET).

Ms. Hay replied that it would be classed as choosing to be NEET and that it was the 12% of 16-18 year olds who wanted to work or train but were unable who needed to be targeted.

Councillor Mordey asked what measures would need to be taken to reduce the NEET figure to 8%.

Ms. Hay advised that the 8% was 400 people and it would be necessary to find out who these people were and then why they were NEET and what problems they faced. There would be a need to find out why people leave college and what they wanted to do. She also advised that 100% of Care Leavers were in employment or training.

9. 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 the Committee with information on the following project which it had previously funded through its SIB allocation:-

- 'Ryhope Detached Youth Work Programme' – Blue Watch Centre

Nicol Trueman, Area Regeneration Officer, introduced Tony Semley in respect of the project who proceeded to provide Members with a commentary on her feedback report and answered questions thereon.

The chairman having thanked Mr Semley for his presentation it was:-

10. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB): Regeneration Issues Report

The Chief Executive (Acting) submitted a report (copy circulated) on the proposed allocations of Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) funding to support the following initiatives of benefit to the area:-

- (i) £7,500 from the 2008/2009 budget and £2,500 from the 2009/2010 (subject to budget approval) to contribute towards the delivery of an Eco School Awards Scheme across multiple areas of the city delivered by Groundworks.
- (ii) £20,396 from the 2008/2009 budget to provide gap funding at Hudson Road Primary School – Community Facilities.
- (iii) £19,212 from the 2008/2009 budget to provide gap funding at Living History North East – The Donnison School
- (iv) £5,000 from 2008/2009 budget to contribute towards the delivery of improving health in older people across multiple areas of the city delivered by Mature Moves.
- (v) £13,000 from 2008/2009 budget to provide capital funds to repair the roof and minor internal damage to St. Joseph's Parish Centre.
- (vi) £1,562 from 2008/2009 budget to provide revenue funds to Sunderland Dance.
- (vii) £12,260 from 2008/2009 budget to provide capital and revenue funds to build a replica of Jack Crawford HMS by Sunderland Maritime Heritage.

In addition the Committee was requested to extend the Phoenix Project until March 2009 as detailed in Annex 2 to the report.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Nicol Trueman, Area Regeneration Officer, presented the report and advised that should the committee endorse the extension of the Phoenix Project plus the seven requests before the committee it would leave a balance of £68,688 in the 2008/2009 budget.

Ms. Trueman provided members with a summary of the applications and introduced Sam Palombella in respect of the Eco Schools Project; Kris Heskett from Hudson Road School; Janette Hilton of Living History North East; Lynn Summerside for Mature Moves; Elizabeth Lardner for St Josephs Parish Centre; Deloris Martin from Sunderland Dance and Brenda Rowell from Sunderland Maritime Heritage who were present to address any comments and questions from Members.

Consideration having been given to the applications it was:-

11. RESOLVED that:

- (1). approval be given to the allocation of Strategic Initiatives Budget Funding of:-

- £7,500 from the 2008/2009 budget and £2,500 from the 2009/2010 (subject to budget approval) to contribute towards the delivery of an Eco School Awards Scheme across multiple areas of the city delivered by Groundworks.
- £20,396 from the 2008/2009 budget to provide gap funding at Hudson Road Primary School – Community Facilities.
- £19,212 from the 2008/2009 budget to provide gap funding at Living History North East – The Donnison School
- £5,000 from 2008/2009 budget to contribute towards the delivery of improving health in older people across multiple areas of the city delivered by Mature Moves.
- £13,000 from 2008/2009 budget to provide capital funds to repair the roof and minor internal damage to St. Joseph's Parish Centre.
- £1,562 from 2008/2009 budget to provide revenue funds to Sunderland Dance.
- £12,260 from 2008/2009 budget to provide capital and revenue funds to build a replica of Jack Crawford HMS by Sunderland Maritime Heritage.

(2). Approval be given to the extension of the Phoenix Project until March 2009.

Strategic Initiatives Budget: 2008/2009 Ward Based Community Chest

The Chief Executive (Acting) submitted a report (copy circulated) on 15 projects recommended for support from the 2008/09 Community Chest Scheme in respect of the Hendon, Millfield, Ryhope and St. Michael's Wards.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

12. RESOLVED that approval be given to the 15 projects recommended for support from the 2008/09 Community Chest Budget with a total value of £6,895 as detailed in Annex 1 of the report.

(Signed) D.R. WARES,
Chairman.