

**At a meeting of the SOUTH SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE on MONDAY, 29<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER, 2007 at 5.30 p.m.**

**Present:-**

Councillor Tye in the Chair

Councillors Blyth, M. Dixon, Errington, E. Gibson, P. Gibson, Oliver, L. Scott and P. Smith

**Apologies for Absence**

All Members being present there were no apologies for absence.

**Minutes of the last Meeting of the Committee held on 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 2007**

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the committee held on 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 2007 (copy circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

**Declarations of Interest**

Item 7 – Sunderland Empire Theatre Centenary Festival

Councillor P. Gibson declared a personal interest in the item as Chair of the Empire Theatre Trust

Item 8 – Play and Urban Games Update

Councillor Blyth declared a personal interest in the item as a member of the Management Committee of the Box Youth Project.

Item 11 – Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) : Regeneration Issues Report

Councillors Errington and Tye declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the application from Silksworth Junior School as Council appointed Governors of the school and left the meeting prior to consideration of the application.

Councillor P. Smith declared a personal interest in an application as a Friend of Silksworth Park

## Item 12 – Strategic Initiatives Budget 2007/2008 Ward Based Community Chest

Councillor Scott declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the item relating to St Chad's Youth Club and left the meeting prior to consideration of this item.

## Item 13 – Impact of the Youth Work Commissioning Strategy

Councillor Blyth declared a personal interest in the item as a member of the Management Committee of the Box Youth Project.

### **Variation in Order of Business**

At this junction the chairman proposed that the Committee vary the order of business to hear Item 11 – Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) : Regeneration Issues Report and Item 12 – Strategic Initiatives Budget 2007/08 Ward Based Community Chest, first on the agenda.

### **Strategic Initiative Budget (SIB) : Regeneration Issues Report**

The Director of Development and Regeneration submitted a report (copy circulated) on the proposed allocation of Strategic Initiative Budget (SIB) funding to support the following initiatives of benefit to the area:-

- (i) East Herrington Primary School's Extended Services Project;
- (ii) Silksworth Park Bowls Club's Roller Shutter Project;
- (iii) Durham County Agricultural Society's County Show; and
- (iv) The Development of Family Learning Resources and New Silksworth Junior School.

Alison Hodgson presented the application in respect of East Herrington Primary School, Bob Rollason in respect of Silksworth Park Bowls Club, Ann Roxburgh in respect of Durham County Show and Mike McGrawin in respect of New Silksworth Junior School.

Councillor P. Gibson requested that should Coalfields Area Committee refuse the application for the Durham County Show for £10,000, it be considered for resubmission to the remaining Area Committee's for further funding to cover the shortfall.

The representatives having answered Members' questions it was:-

2. RESOLVED that approval be given to the allocation of Strategic Initiatives Budget Funding of:-

- (i) £12,500 from the 2007/2008 budget as a contribution to the East Herrington Primary School's Extended Services Project;
- (ii) £2,266 from the 2007/2008 budget as a contribution to the Silksworth Park Bowls Club's Roller Shutter Project;
- (iii) £1,500 from the 2007/2008 budget as a contribution to the Durham County Agricultural Society's County Show 2008; and
- (iv) £6,500 from the 2007/2008 budget as a contribution to the Development of Family Learning Resources at New Silksworth Junior School.

### **Strategic Initiative Budget : Ward Based Community Chest**

The Director of Development and Regeneration submitted a report (copy circulated) on 9 recommendations relating to the 2007/08 Ward Based Community Chest Scheme of Doxford, Silksworth and St. Chad's Wards.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

The Chairman advised that to seek further advice and clarification the following applications be deferred:-

Doxford Ward – SAPS Meadow Nursery Cottage – Contribution towards insurance, etc. - £500

St Chad's Ward – Meadow Nursery Cottage – Contribution towards IT equipment - £549

Councillor Scott advised that a previous application had been deferred with regard to St Chad's Ward, from St Aidan's Community Project for £500. Councillor Scott asked if this application could now be awarded as there would not be another opportunity to consider the matter until the next meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> January, 2007.

Discussion ensued on the matter and in accordance with Section 100(B) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Chairman agreed by reason of the special circumstances that the application be considered at this meeting as a matter of urgency. Accordingly it was :-

3. RESOLVED that:-

- i) the 2 projects with regard to Meadows Nursery Cottage be deferred for further investigation and consideration;

- ii) the remaining 7 projects recommended for support from the 2007/08 budget with a total of £2271 as detailed in Annex 1 to the report be approved; and
- ii) the granting of £500 Community Chest funding from the St Chad's Ward to the St Aidan's Community Project be approved.

### **Crime Rates Relating to the South Sunderland Area – Presentation from Northumbria Police**

Inspector Lisa Musgrove presented the report (copy circulated) detailing crimes committed in each ward of the South Sunderland Area for the period 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2006 – 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2007 in comparison with the same period for 2004/05 and 2006/07.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

The Chairman referred to the table giving the total figures for the A3 Sector South and commented that the figures were not shown for all incidents as in the other tables for wards. Inspector Musgrove advised that the overall figures for the sector highlighted the key 6 areas for the ward area.

Councillor Blyth noted the increase in drug offences and queried if there was an underlying problem. The Inspector advised that the offences recorded were those where an individual had been caught and therefore the increase was an indication that more offenders were being caught and not necessarily more incidents occurring.

The Chairman having thanked Inspector Musgrove for the update, it was:-

4. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

### **Minutes of the Meeting of the Local Multi-Agency Problem Solving Group**

The Local Multi-Agency Problem Solving Group submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with the minutes of their last meetings held on 14<sup>th</sup> August, and 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2007.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Blyth referred to the issue of car parking problems in the Doxford Park area and noted that since the introduction of yellow lines and cones preventing parking at Camberwell Way the issue had now moved down into the neighbouring estates. Councillors Dixon and Scott had similar concerns and raised areas of ongoing problems that they had been made aware of. The Inspector advised that the surrounding areas would be policed and patrolled but if vehicles were parked legally and without causing obstruction

there was very little the Police could do. She did inform Members that a proposal was being investigated at present to help alleviate the problem.

The Chairman having thanked Inspector Musgrove for the updates, it was:-

5. RESOLVED that the minutes of the LMAPS meetings held on 14<sup>th</sup> August and 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2007 be received and noted.

### **Housing and Council Tax Benefit – Progress Report**

The City Treasurer submitted a report (copy circulated) to inform Members of the performance of the Benefits Section in the processing of new claims in accordance with the Best Value Performance Indicator (BVP178a) for Housing and Council Tax Benefit, for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2006 to 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2007 and 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2007 to 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2007.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Steve Atkinson, Benefits Manager, presented the report and advised that there had been initial problems with the implementation of the new Benefits and Council Tax computer system in January 2007 and thereafter particularly, with the interface to Gentoo's system. Some of the problems had spilled into the new financial year which had adversely affected the performance figures, showing the half yearly figure as 39.3 days.

6. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

### **Sunderland Empire Theatre Centenary Festival**

The Director of Community and Cultural Services submitted a report (copy circulated) which updated the Committee on activities held to celebrate the Empire Centenary.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Having considered the report, it was:-

7. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

### **Play and Urban Games Update**

The Director of Community and Cultural Services submitted a report (copy circulated) which updated the Committee on the play project submitted to the Big Lottery Fund (BLF) Children's Play Programme in September, 2007 and other play developments in the locality.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Having considered the report, it was:-

8. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

### **Leisure Centres Summer Holiday Programme 2007**

The Director of Community and Cultural Services submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided feedback for Members on the success of the Summer Holiday Promotion for 2007, which was delivered throughout the city's leisure complexes in 2007, including the Sunderland Tennis Centre and Silksworth Sports Complex.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Having considered the report, it was:-

9. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted

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

10. RESOLVED that this item be deferred to the next meeting of the Area Committee to allow full consideration of the report.

### **Impact of 'The Youth Work Commissioning Strategy'**

11. RESOLVED that this item be deferred to the next meeting of the Area Committee to allow full consideration of the report.

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

(Signed) P.M. TYE,  
Chairman.