

**At a meeting of the COALFIELD AREA COMMITTEE held at the NEW LIBRARY AND LEARNING CENTRE, NEWBOTTLE STREET, HOUGHTON-LE-SPRING on THURSDAY, 5<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2008 at 6.00 p.m.**

**Present:-**

Councillor D. Richardson in the Chair

Councillors Blackburn, Ellis, Heron, Rolph, J. Scott, D. Smith, Speding, Tate and Wakefield.

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Anderson and A. Hall.

**Minutes of the Last Meeting**

- i) Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB): Regeneration Issues Report  
Connecting the Coalfield ILM Project 2 Extension

Councillor Wakefield stated that for clarification only part of the Copthill Ward lay within the Urban II area.

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2008 (copy circulated), be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

**Declarations of Interest**

Item 5 – Minutes of the Last Meetings of the Local Multi Agency Problem Solving Group.

Councillor Rolph declared a personal interest as the Council appointed representative of the Coalfield Area on the LMAPs Group.

Item 7 – Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB): Regeneration Issues Report

- i) Community Building at Houghton Kepier School

Councillor Rolph declared a personal interest in the application as a Council appointed governor of Houghton Kepier School.

Councillor Speding declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the application as a Member of the Football Association and the Football Foundation and withdrew from the meeting before the Committee gave consideration to the application.

ii) Phoenix Project

Councillor Heron declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the above application as a Council appointed Member of the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service and withdrew from the meeting before the Committee gave consideration to the application.

Item 10 – Strategic Initiatives Budget: 2008/09 Ward Based Community Chest

Councillors Rolph and Speding declared personal interests as Council appointed representatives on the Herrington Burn YMCA.

Councillor J. Scott declared a personal and prejudicial interest as the Chair of Herrington Community Trust and withdrew from the meeting before the Committee gave consideration to the application.

Councillor Tate declared a personal interest as a Council appointed governor of Hetton Primary School.

**Northumbria Police Crime Statistics relating to the Coalfield Area**

There being no representative from Northumbria Police present, the item was deferred.

**Variation in the Order of Business**

The Chairman proposed that Item 5 – Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Local Multi-Agency Problem Solving Groups be deferred until later in the meeting to allow sufficient time for a representative of Northumbria Police to attend.

2. RESOLVED that the Agenda be varied accordingly.

**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 INTO work – Connecting the Coalfield Environmental ILM Project 2 which it was funding through its SIB allocation.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Nicol Trueman, Area Regeneration Officer, advised that the project was awarded a total of £50,000 in January 2007 and was due to end in February 2008, but £12,006 as at 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2008 remained unclaimed.

The Committee noted that a representative from the project was not in attendance to present the feedback report; and it was:-

3. RESOLVED that the report be noted and that a representative from the project be asked to attend and provide feedback on the project at the next meeting of the Committee in September 2008.

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

The Chief Executive (Acting) submitted a report (copy circulated) outlining proposals for the allocation of SIB funding to support initiatives of benefit to the area.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Nicol Trueman, Area Regeneration Officer, outlined the budgetary position to the Committee detailed in paragraph 4 of the report.

Mr. Denis Napier, Finance Manager – Technical Services, City Treasurer's Department, advised that £74,400 would be returned to budget and made available for September in respect of the 4 site CCTV Project. In response to Councillor Tate, he confirmed that if Hetton Town Council had made a payment towards the scheme it would be returned and that he would investigate the situation.

The Committee then proceeded to consider the applications for SIB funding.

- i) Projects Previously Approved “Subject to Budget Approval for the Financial Year 2008/09”.

The Area Committee was requested to formally endorse previous approvals as detailed in annex 1 of the report.

- ii) Hetton Lyons/Philadelphia Cricket Club

Mr. Ken Haswell, Funding Officer for the project, was in attendance.

- iii) Community Building at Houghton Kepier School

Mr. David Brennan, Community Development Manager, was in attendance and answered questions and concerns raised by Members which centred around the desire to ensure that should an award be made that it was used by the project for the intended purpose i.e. to purchase laptops, for the benefit of the community as opposed to the hardware being an acquisition for the benefit of Houghton Kepier School. Members also enquired as to the future funding arrangements for the project and as to what consultation had been undertaken to ensure the project linked with other projects being provided

which aimed at improving fitness and general health and reducing obesity in order to avoid any duplication of provision.

iv) Springboard Adventure

There was no one from the project in attendance.

v) Elemore Vale Regeneration

Mr. Keith Hamilton, Deputy Manager Planning Implementation was in attendance. He outlined the project and answered Members' questions in relation to the future maintenance of the site which he explained was currently being managed by the Landscape and Reclamation Section without a formal budget on an adhoc basis. He confirmed however, that the footbridge was to be maintained by the Countryside Team.

vi) Phoenix Project

The Area Committee was requested to approve:-

- transferral of the lead organisation from the Fire and Rescue Service to the Youth Offending Service;
- extend the delivery date to March, 2009;
- transfer expenditure from capital to revenue;
- amend project delivery.

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

4. RESOLVED that:-

i) approval be given to the following projects approved by the Committee during 2007/08 pending confirmation of the 2008/09 budget:-

- 1) Working with the Community to Regenerate Hetton Downs - £15,620.
- 2) Fence Houses Community Development Project - £33,990.
- 3) Dubmire Environmental Community/Out of School/Child and Adult Mental Health Service Project - £16,563.
- 4) Monument View Extension - £4,816.
- 5) Hetton School Security Improvements Project - £16,983.
- 6) Connecting the Coalfields ILM Project 2 Extension - £8,005.
- 7) EL-GAP Transport Project - £14,033.
- 8) Hetton Lyons Youth Centre Project - £15,000.

ii) approval be given to the allocation of Strategic Initiatives Budget funding of £10,000 from the 2008/09 budget to support the development of Hetton Lyons/Philadelphia Cricket Club.

iii) consideration of the application seeking support for the development of use of the community building at Houghton Kepier School be deferred to allow further investigation and public consultation on the project.

- iv) consideration of the project Springboard Adventure be deferred to allow a representative to attend to present the application for funding for the project to the Committee.
- v) approval be given to the allocation of Strategic Initiatives Budget funding of £30,000 from the 2008/09 budget to support the regeneration of Elemore Vale, subject to funding being in place to maintain the project.
- vi) the application from the Phoenix Project be declined and that the Service be advised to submit a new application to transfer the remainder of the funding amounting to £4,400 in accordance with the SIB criteria for funding.

### **Strategic Initiatives Budget Update**

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

(For copy report – see original minutes).

5. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

### **Strategic Initiatives Budget 2007/2008 Ward Based Community Chest – Return of Funding for Unclaimed Approvals**

The Chief Executive (Acting) and City Treasurer submitted a joint report (copy circulated) seeking agreement of the return of funding for unclaimed Community Chest approvals from 2005/2006 and the carry forward of unallocated Community Chest Funding from 2007/2008 to the Ward areas.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

6. RESOLVED that approval be given to:-
- i) the return of unclaimed approvals from 2005/2006 for reallocation; and
  - ii) the carry forward of unallocated Community Chest budget from 2007/2008 into 2008/2009.

### **Strategic Initiatives Budget: 2008/09 Ward Based Community Chest**

The Chief Executive (Acting) submitted a report (copy circulated) bringing forward 21 recommendations relating to the 2008/09 Community Chest Scheme.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

7. RESOLVED that approval be given to the 21 proposals recommended for support from the 2008/09 Community Chest with a total value of £15,956 as detailed in Annex 1 to the report.

### **The Future of Barnardos in the South West Area Coalfield**

Ms. Marion McGuinness, Children's Services Manager and Ms. Audrey Bewick, Deputy Children's Services Manager were in attendance at the meeting.

Ms. McGuinness advised the Committee that their work in the Fence House area was coming to an end and they were looking to move into another area of the Coalfield. Ms. McGuinness invited Members to return the questionnaires which had been forwarded to them and suggest another area that might benefit from the Support Barnardos could offer the community.

Ms. McGuinness advised that Shiney Row, Easington Lane, Moorsley, Penshaw and the Racecourse Estate had all been identified as deprived areas. She advised that they would be contacting people and agencies directly in order to get as many ideas, options etc. as possible in order to make an informed decision. Ms. McGuinness advised that the results of the consultation would form part of their decision making process alongside discussions with the Coalfield Forum and Hetton Town Council.

Councillor Speding suggested that Shiney Row would benefit from the support Barnardos could provide.

Councillor Rolph commented that the work done in Fence Houses had made a remarkable difference in the community, improving links to other groups, MPs and local Councillors with the community. She suggested that the central area of Shiney Row and Penshaw would benefit from the community development work Barnardos had done in other areas of the Coalfield.

Councillor Blackburn suggested that Easington Lane would be an ideal area.

Ms. Audrey Berwick invited Members to contact her to discuss the options further either over the phone or in person and invited Members to visit them, particularly the new Members if they felt they needed further information.

The Chairman invited Members to fill in the questionnaires exploring the possibilities of Barnardos moving to another area within the Coalfield and other avenues for the No. 49 allotment and return them to Barnardos. He thanked Ms. McGuinness and Ms. Bewick for their work in the Coalfield and for attending the meeting that evening and for inviting the Committee to contribute to identifying an area for future community development.

8. RESOLVED that the information 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) to inform Members of the results of a Residents' survey about the future of Adult Social Care for 2007 which was undertaken as part of the Council's planning in responding to the Government White Paper "Our Health, Our Care, Our Say", the development of the Council's 15 Year Commissioning Framework for Adult Social Care and its 3 Year Delivery Plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Mr. David Smith, Housing Strategy Manager, Health, Housing and Adult Services briefed the Committee on the report and advised that a further report would be submitted to the Committee in three month's time following analysis of the results. The information would be collated and form part of the Council and City's approach to better needs assessment of the population. He highlighted that 97% of people had said that they would like to stay in their own home for as long as possible rather than move to a residential or nursing home.

Councillor Blackburn enquired as to what percentage of people would always need residential care.

Mr. Smith stated that he could not answer this enquiry however he would find out. Mr. Smith proceeded to outline to Members the extra care housing scheme planned for the Moor House site in Hetton and in so doing explained the process for the allocation of living accommodation. He advised that the scheme was not yet finalised however he would be able to come back to a future meeting of the Committee at which point he would be able to provide more details. Mr. Smith stated that he would be able to organise a visit to the extra care housing scheme at Silksworth later in the year if Members would like this.

Members having welcomed the above proposal; it was:-

9. RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted.

## **Children and Young People's Participation Strategy 2008-2013**

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report (copy circulated) presenting the draft Children and Young People's Participation Strategy, giving feedback from the consultation process on the Participation Strategy and seeking comments from the Area Committee on the Strategy.

(For copy report and draft Strategy – see original minutes).

The Committee having been informed that the presenting Officer was unable to attend that evening due to sickness, it was:-

10. RESOLVED that the report be deferred to the next meeting.

## **Festivals and Events in Sunderland**

The Director of Community and Cultural Services submitted a report (copy circulated) providing Members with an update regarding events activity that took place within the City for the period 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2007 – 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2008.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Julie Elliott, Assistant Head of Culture and Tourism briefed the Committee on the report.

Councillor Rolph referred to the remembrance services held in the Coalfield and suggested that they should be mentioned in future reports.

Councillor Tate enquired as to the arrangements for the switch on of the Christmas illuminations when the Hetton Sports Centre was demolished.

Ms. Elliott advised that she would make enquiries in relation to the above and ensure that Members received a response.

11. RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted.

## **Northern Children's Book Festival**

The Director of Community and Cultural Services submitted a report (copy circulated) informing Members of the Northern Children's Book Festival which was held from 5<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2007 culminating in the Gala Day at Crowtree Leisure Centre on 17<sup>th</sup> November.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Julie Elliott, Assistant Head of Culture and Tourism briefed the Committee on the report.

Councillor Heron commented that it was a good festival however felt all school children needed more encouragement to get involved more in story writing about their own locality throughout the year through outreach work to develop reading and writing.

Councillor Speding advised of the Outreach Service and work of the Tyne and Wear Museums Service and in this regard cited the commemoration of the centenary of the Washington mining disaster.

In response to Councillor Rolph's comment concerning the low participation of Houghton Schools, Ms. Elliott advised that all schools in Sunderland are invited to participate in the Book Festival however cost was a major barrier as schools must be willing to pay for authors to visit. Teachers must also be able to devote time to prepare and follow-up work to benefit from the visit.



In response to Councillor Tate as to what feedback had been received from those schools who took part in the Book Festival, Ms. Elliott advised that she would make enquiries and report back.

12. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

### **World Book Day**

The Director of Community and Cultural Services submitted a report (copy circulated) informing Members of World Book Day which took place on Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2008.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

13. RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted.

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

A copy of the minutes of the meetings of the Local Multi-Agency Problem Solving (LMAPs) Group held on 11<sup>th</sup> March and 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2008 (copies circulated), were submitted.

(For copy reports – see original minutes).

Councillor Rolph briefed the Committee on the work of the LMAPs Group as the representative Member appointed from the Coalfield Area Committee. She highlighted the new format of the minutes which had been sanitised so as not to include any personal information but did include key information as to where incidents were taking place and what actions were being put in place to address them. She emphasised that the issues the Group looked at were those matters that would benefit from a multi-agency approach.

In response to Councillor Speding as to how best to raise issues, Councillor Rolph stated that the contact details used to be included in previous reports and that she would seek to reinstate this in the new format.

The Chairman having thanked Councillor Rolph for the briefing; it was:-

14. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meetings of the LMAPs Group held on 11<sup>th</sup> March and 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2008 be received and noted.

### **Welcome and Thanks**

The Chairman welcomed Councillors Ellis and D. Smith who were new Members to the Committee.

The Chairman thanked former Councillors Carthy and Lawson for their contribution to the Coalfield Area.

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

(Signed) D. RICHARDSON,  
Chairman.