

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

Present:-

Councillor D. Forbes in the Chair

Councillors Allan, P. Gibson, Old, P. Smith, Tye, P. Watson, S. Watson, A. Wilson, A. Wright and T. Wright

Also Present:-

Susan Brown	Area Community Coordinator	Sunderland City Council
Kath Butchert	Integrated Youth Officer	Sunderland City Council
Jodie Collins	Employee Communications Officer	Sunderland City Council
Michael Dodds	Centre Manager	Sunderland City Council
Kevin Douglas	Media Officer	Sunderland City Council
Julie Gray	Head of Community Services	Sunderland City Council
Mick Hall	Inspector	Northumbria Police
Keith Hamilton	Deputy Manager, Planning Implementation	Sunderland City Council
Marc Hopkinson		Sunderland TPCT
Lucy Malarkey	Head of Neighbourhoods	Gentoo
Anne Morrison		West Area Voluntary Sector Network
David Noon	Senior Democratic Services Officer	Sunderland City Council
Richard Parry	Area Officer	Sunderland City Council
Paul Power	Sports Development Delivery Manager	Sunderland City Council
Jenny Scott	Policy Officer, Inclusion	Sunderland City Council

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Gofton, L. Martin, Morrissey and Oliver and also on behalf of Lisa Theaker, Cheryl Warcup, Edna Rochester, Bill Leach, Peter Iveson and Angela Cousins.

Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 24th February, 2010

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 24th February, 2010 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Declarations of Interest

Item 4 – Sunderland West Annual Report 2009/10

Councillor Tye declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the item as Chairman of the Youth Almighty Project and left the meeting during consideration of the report, taking no part in any discussion or decision.

Item 7 – Consultation on Football, Play and Wellness

Councillor P. Smith declared a personal interest in the item as a governor of Plains Farm Primary School.

Councillor P. Gibson declared a personal and prejudicial interest as Chairman of the Governors of Farrington Sports College and left the meeting during consideration of the report, taking no part in any discussion or decision.

Sunderland West Annual Report 2009/10

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Members with the opportunity to reflect on the work undertaken by the Committee during 2009-10.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Richard Parry, Area Officer, presented the report which focused on the following areas:-

- the area, people and place;
- the safe theme and priorities;
- the learning theme and priorities;
- the attractive and inclusive theme and priorities;
- prosperous theme and priorities;
- governance
- finance and funding requests.

A summary was provided for each thematic heading outlining the achievements both delivered and influenced by the Area Committee.

Kath Butchert, Integrated Youth Officer, was present to brief the Committee on the current position with regard to youth provision in the West Area and address the following concerns from Members:-

- whether the commissioning system would provide the same level of service as previously;

- concern that it appeared provision levels had not been specified in the tendering process but being negotiated after contracts had been awarded;
- concern regarding the capacity of a specific provider to deliver.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor S. Watson, Ms. Butchert confirmed that she would circulate to Members details of the value of each of the five contracts operating in the West Sunderland Area.

With regard to the safe theme, Councillor Tye advised that the old South Area Committee had commissioned a report during its final months into the lack of CCTV provision at Silksworth Ski Slope. The Committee had been advised that the equipment would be incorporated into the new development however this had yet to materialise. Julie Gray, Head of Community Services, stated that she recalled the issue and reassured Members that it had not been forgotten. She would ensure the matter was addressed and that Members received an update.

Councillor P. Watson welcomed that the West Area, as a whole, had seen its overall crime rates fall further than the City average but expressed concern at the figures for Pallion. He questioned whether the actions being taken were adequate.

With regard to the attractive and inclusive theme, Councillor P. Smith referred to the railings at Cornelia Close which she believed were becoming an eyesore and asked if they could be painted. Lucy Malarkey, Gentoo Head of Neighbourhoods, replied that she would investigate and get back to Councillor Smith within the next week.

2. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Sunderland West: Towards a New Work Plan

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Members with initial proposals for the development of the Committee's Work Programme prior to its consideration and adoption at the first meeting of the new municipal year.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

With regard to Work Programme priorities, Councillor P. Gibson suggested that the Committee should focus on adult learning in the community. It was important that people were supported through the learning process. Mr. Parry advised that the Committee had instigated a review with the Family Adult and Community Learning Service which would report back on plans to plug any gaps identified. Councillor Tye concurred with Councillor Gibson and also suggested that the Committee should look at the fairness of the support provided to Community Associations.

3. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Financial Statements and Funding Requests

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) in respect of the above matter which sought Committee approval for the following recommendations:-

- to note the 2009/10 Community Chest, SIB and SIP budget statement as detailed in Annex 1 of the report;
- to approve the allocation of £3,000 SIB funding from the 2009/2010 budget to the Hylton Castle Re-enactment Project as detailed in Annex 2 of the report.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Richard Parry, Area Officer, presented the report and advised Members that following the 24th February meeting a balance of £299,814 remained to be allocated from the 2009/2010 budget. Should the Committee approve the application before it in respect of the Hylton Castle Re-enactment Project, the remaining balance would be £296,814.

Councillor Allan stated that given his previous statements regarding the allocation of SIB funding to City wide projects he felt unable to support the application before the Committee however laudable. He reiterated that a message needed to be sent to Officers that SIB funding was for Area specific projects only.

Members having noted and in general sympathised with Councillor Allan's concerns felt that on this occasion the project was worthy of support, accordingly it was:-

4. RESOLVED that:-
- i) the 2009/10 Community Chest, SIB and SIP budget statement as detailed in Annex 1 to the report be noted; and
 - ii) approval be given to the allocation of £3,000 SIB funding from the 2009/2010 budget to the Hylton Castle Re-enactment Project.

Consultation on Football, Play and Wellness

The Executive Director of City Services submitted a report (copy circulated) which aimed to consult with the Area Committee in relation to:-

- i) the Football Investment Strategy (FIS) – proposed priorities;

- ii) the Play and Urban Games Strategy – identification of priorities for future investment.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Chairman welcomed and introduced Julie Gray, Head of Community Services, and Paul Power, Sports Development Delivery Manager, who presented the report and addressed comments and questions thereon.

Councillor Tye expressed concern that the report before Members in respect of the FIS was significantly different from that which had been submitted to Cabinet in January and which had prioritised the Silksworth Sports Complex as having Citywide significance. He believed that Members had been misled and struggled to understand that the priority for the West Area was being selected from D2 of the tiered model. He felt that report should be the subject of a separate discussion outside of the meeting.

Ms. Gray and Mr. Power explained the current position regarding the development of the Silksworth Sports Complex in partnership with the private sector and advised that the consultation before Members tonight related to the proposed Football Foundation investment of £1 million for which Silksworth Sports Complex was not eligible.

Councillor Pat Smith referred to the inclusion of Silksworth Recreation Park in Phase 3 and found the timescale of 2018-2022 unacceptable.

Councillor Tye stated that he would be unable to support the proposals in the current form.

Councillor P. Watson referred to the statement in the report that 'Silksworth Recreation Park will also receive some small work in Phase 1...' and asked for clarification as to what this would include. Ms. Gray advised that this referred to perimeter fencing, security and additional improvements to shower facilities. Councillor P. Watson asked if this Phase 1 work could be 'beefed up' to provide a more extensive refurbishment of the Silksworth Recreation Park. Ms. Gray confirmed that this was possible. In response to an enquiry from Councillor P. Watson regarding timescales, Ms. Gray stated that she was being pressed by the Football Foundation for a response and would like to take a decision away from tonight's meeting if possible.

It was therefore moved by Councillor P. Watson that approval be given to the Football Foundation's preferred option of Plains Farm Primary School joining Farringdon Sports College as Phase 1 priorities and that Silksworth Recreation Park receive an additional refurbishment as part of the Phase 1 works.

5. RESOLVED that:-

- i) the report be received and noted

- ii) approval be given to the following sites as the West Area Committee's priorities for Phase 1 Football Foundation funding:-
- Farringdon Specialist Sports college;
 - Plains Farm Primary School.
- iii) Silksworth Recreation Park receive an additional refurbishment as part of the Phase 1 works.

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

(Signed) D. FORBES,
(Chairman).