

**At a meeting of the COALFIELD AREA COMMITTEE held at EASINGTON LANE COMMUNITY ACCESS POINT, BRICK GARTH, EASINGTON LANE, HOUGHTON – LE - SPRING, DH5 0LE on WEDNESDAY, 19<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2012 at 6.00 p.m.**

**Present:-**

Councillor D. Richardson in the Chair

Councillors Anderson, Blackburn, Ellis, Scott, D. Smith, Speding, Tate and Wakefield

**Also in Attendance:-**

Ron Barrass	Member of the Public	
Susan Brown	Area Community Co-ordinator	Sunderland City Council
Graham Burt	Community Development Manager	Sunderland City Council
John Chapman	Head of Neighbourhoods	Gentoo
Wendy Cook	Youth and Community Co-ordinator	Sunderland North Community Business Centre
Dave Ellison	Area Response Manager	Sunderland City Council
R. Foster	Member of the Public	
Pauline Hopper	Area Officer, Coalfield	Sunderland City Council
Pam Lee	Public Health Consultant	Sunderland Teaching Primary Care Trust
Malcolm Page	Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services & Area Lead Executive	Sunderland City Council
Kay Rowham	Member of the Public	
Rachel Putz	Coalfields Operational Manager, Children's Services	Sunderland City Council
James Third	Community Relations Officer	Nexus
Christine Tilley	Governance Services Team Leader	Sunderland City Council
L. Welsh	Member of the Public	

## **Chairman's Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited everyone to introduce themselves.

## **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Heron, Lawson and Rolph, Councillor Julianna Heron, Hetton Town Council, together with Melanie Caldwell, Head of Operations, Gentoo, Emma Frew, ShARP and Lee Wardle, representative from the Voluntary and Community Sector.

## **Declarations of Interest**

There were no interests declared.

## **Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2012**

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2012 (copy circulated), be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

## **Place Board Progress Update**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with an update on progress against the Area's current year's Place Board Work Plan in relation to the following priorities as well as making recommendations for allocation of SIB resources:-

- i) Responsive Local Services (RLS);
- ii) Area Priority: Neglected Land;
- iii) Area Priority: Allotments;
- iv) Area Priority: Local Shopping Centres; and
- v) Public and Local Transport.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Chairman of the Place Board, Councillor John Scott introduced the report, Mr Dave Ellison, Area Response Manager, briefed the Committee on those issues reported to and considered by the Place Board in relation to responsive local services and neglected land, including:-

- The 'Love where you Live' Campaign, an educational project with local schools delivered to help young people understand the importance of picking up litter;
- The improvement of the Collingwood Drive site; one of four priority Council owned sites identified as neglected and arrangements for

the development of the remaining ones.

Councillor Tate commented that there had been problems with grass cutting at Moorsley.

Mr John Chapman, Head of Neighbourhoods, Gentoo advised in response, that there had been difficulties due to inclement weather and the grass cutting service was presently two weeks behind schedule. He undertook to check the current position and report back on the matter.

Ms Pauline Hopper, Area Officer, briefed the Committee in relation to the programme of work being progressed to make improvements on all allotment sites across the Coalfield area which included water installation, clearing and repairing of paths, provision of exterior fencing and gates and strimming of communal areas. Ms Hopper highlighted the proposed allocation of a further £30,000 funding, detailed in the report, to continue the momentum and improvement across all allotment sites.

Councillor Blackburn referred to paragraph 3.3.3 advising that a 'masterplan' had been drafted for the Britannia Terrace Allotment site and that options to create a safe walking route to Dubmire Primary School through the allotment site were being explored. He pointed out that there was an area of deep water in the vicinity.

Mr Ellison advised the Committee that the area Councillor Blackburn may be referring to was out of bounds and not Council owned. In any case Ms Hopper stated that she would ask Mr Colin Curtis, Assistant Head of Street Scene to make enquiries to allay Members concerns and report back to Councillor Blackburn on the matter.

Ms Hopper proceeded to brief the Committee on 'The Shop Local Campaign' drawing attention to the proposed further allocation of funding to expand the Business Support Programme and the proposed allocation of funding from the 2012/13 budget to provide an ongoing programme of support against the area priority in Hetton and Shiney Row shopping centres, as detailed in paragraph 3.4.2 of the report.

Mr James Third, Community Relations Officer, Nexus briefed the Committee on the public consultation Go North East had been undertaking on the series of changes to bus services it was planning and which were to be effective from 28 October, 2012. Mr Third advised that Nexus could not impact on the changes as they were commercial changes. Mr Third provided details of the proposals relating to individual services for Members' information; some of which he pointed out offered an improvement with regards to the route to be taken as they were more direct; whilst others could be viewed less positively as they were to operate less frequently.

Mr Third referred to the letter of objection which had been sent on behalf of the Committee regarding the proposed changes to the number 20 bus service and was pleased to inform Members that those changes would not now be going ahead. The number 20 would continue to operate the same route albeit that the

service had reduced from 6 buses per hour to three buses an hour ie every 20 minutes.

Members commented that the public consultation had not been well publicised and that it was all well and good to consult but it was important to listen and take on board the feedback received.

Councillor Ellis commended the prompt action of the Coalfield Area Place Board to the Committee in managing to make an objection to the proposed change to the route for the number 20 bus service before the end of the consultation period on behalf of Members of the public.

Full consideration having been given to the report the Committee:-

**2. RESOLVED:-**

i) to note the report and the Place Board's timetable for activity for the year ahead as detailed at Annex 1;

ii) agreed to accept progress update reports based on the timetable outlined in Annex 1;

iii) approved the allocation of £30,000 from the 2012/13 SIB budget for future improvements on allotments;

iv) agreed that the £15,000 remaining from last year's Shopping Centres Budget be used to extend the Business Support Programme; and

v) agreed that £20,000 from the 2012/13 SIB budget be allocated for further support for local shopping centres.

### **People Board Progress Update**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with an update of progress against the current year's People Board Work Plan in relation to the following priorities:-

- i) Healthy Lifestyles; and
- ii) Area Priority: Activities for Young People.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms Pauline Hopper, Area Officer highlighted that the Board's first meeting was scheduled for 27<sup>th</sup> September and that target dates for delivery and feedback would be considered at that meeting.

Ms Hopper highlighted the applications for Healthy City Investment Funding and SIB funding detailed in paragraph 3 advising that they would be considered under the next item of the agenda.

Ms Rachel Putz, Coalfields Operational Manager, Children's Services advised that the Committee would be consulted upon the new youth provision and activities for young people service proposals as part of the commissioning arrangements for the new contract and that the new service arrangements needed to be in place from April 2013.

Ms Putz advised that the intention was that detailed discussions would take place on the proposals at meetings of the People Board and recommendations from the Board would be submitted to an extraordinary meeting of the Area Committee for consideration in October prior to submission to Cabinet for consideration.

The Committee:-

3. RESOLVED:-

i) to note the report and the People Board's work plan for the year ahead as detailed at Annex 1; and

ii) to accept progress update reports when appropriate; the timetable to be agreed at the first People Board meeting scheduled for 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2012.

At this juncture the Chairman, advised the Committee that Ms Susan Brown, Area Community Co-ordinator was leaving the Council's employment and on behalf of the Committee thanked Ms Brown for her work over the years in the Coalfield Area and in support of the Committee and wished her well for the future.

Ms Brown thanked Members for their kind wishes and for the support they had given to her in her role.

The Chairman then vacated the Chair as he had another engagement to attend and the Vice Chairman, Councillor John Scott took the chair for the remaining item of business.

**Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB), Community Chest and Healthy Cities Investment Fund (HCIF) – Financial Statement and Proposals for Further Allocation of Resources**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) requesting the Area Committee to consider proposals for the allocation of the Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) and Healthy Cities Investment Fund (HCIF) to support initiatives that will deliver activity against priorities for 2012/13.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms Pauline Hopper, Area Officer referred the Committee to the projects presented for approval set out in paragraph 2.1.1 and detailed in Annex 1 of the report.

Ms Hopper pointed out the difficulties in progressing the 'Safe Walking Route to Rainton Meadows' scheme detailed at paragraph 2.1.3 of the report and the recommendation to withdraw the scheme and return the funding to budget.

Mr Malcolm Page, Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services and Area Lead Executive to the Area Committee reaffirmed that there had been objections to the Council's application to acquire a piece of unregistered land required to commence the works and despite lengthy discussions and negotiations it had not been possible to reach a suitable agreement with all parties concerned. To avoid further legal costs and officer time he stated that the Committee was being recommended to withdraw the scheme and return the funding to the budget for use in a more productive way for the benefit of the community.

Members of the Committee expressed disappointment that the scheme could not be progressed for the reasons stated and therefore needed to be withdrawn.

4. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the financial information set out in sections 2.1, 2.2, 2.3 and Annex 2 be received and noted;
- (ii) approval be given to the granting of SIB funding of £10,000 to Project 1 – People's Challenge (Community Challenge phase 2) as detailed in Annex 1 of the report;
- (iii) approval be given to the granting of SIB funding of £24,482 to Project 2 – Junior and Holiday Youth Provision, as detailed in Annex 1 of the report;
- (iv) the previously agreed 'Walking Route to Rainton Meadows' project be withdrawn and the £34,000 allocation be returned to the budgets from where it was drawn; £20,000 to the Area Committee SIB and £14,000 to the Houghton ward SIP;
- (v) the nine Community Chest approvals from the July and September Panel meetings set out in Annex 3 be noted; and
- (vi) approval be given to the project proposal for support of £31,000 from the HCIF Project for the Coalfield Healthy Men Partnership as detailed in Annex 1 of the report.

The Chairman then closed the meeting having thanked everyone for their attendance and contribution to the meeting.

(Signed) D. RICHARDSON and J. SCOTT,  
Chairmen.