

At a meeting of the EAST SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE on MONDAY, 23rd MAY, 2011 at 5.30p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Ball in the Chair

Councillors Emerson, Errington, Forbes, E. Gibson, Maddison, Mordey, Scanlan and Wood

Also Present:-

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| Meg Boustead | - Head of Safeguarding, Sunderland City Council |
| Sgt. Lee Butler | - Northumbria Police |
| Hazel Clark | - East Area Voluntary and Community Sector Representative |
| Insp. Neal Craig | - Northumbria Police |
| Paula Hunt | - East Area Voluntary and Community Sector Representative |
| Matthew Jackson | - Governance Services Officer, Sunderland City Council |
| Phil Jeffries | - Olympian Boxing Gym |
| Janet Johnson | - Deputy Chief Executive and Area Lead Executive, Sunderland City Council |
| Vivienne Metcalfe | - Community Development Co-ordinator, Sunderland City Council |
| Ina Murton | - Mary Magdalene's |
| Helen Peverley | - City Centre Area Response Manager, Sunderland City Council |
| Ian Richardson | - Assistant Head of Street Scene, Sunderland City Council |
| Nicky Rowland | - East Area Response Manager, Sunderland City Council |
| Alan Scott | - Acting YDG Manager, Sunderland City Council |
| James Third | - Community Relation Officer, Nexus |
| Nicol Trueman | - Area Officer, Sunderland City Council |
| Ian Warne | - Station Manager, Sunderland East Fire Station |
| Jeremy Wicking | - Media Officer, Sunderland City Council |

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received on behalf of Councillors P. Dixon, Kay, McClennan and T. Martin along with Mr David Curtis

Declarations of Interest

Item 02 - Annual Report 2010/11

Councillor Wood declared a personal interest as a Governor of St. Aidan's R.C. School

Item 04 – Community Chest, Strategic Initiative Budget and Strategic Investment Plan – Financial Statement and Proposals for further allocation of resources

Councillor E. Gibson declared a personal interest as a Local Authority appointed Governor of Benedict Biscop Primary School

Councillor Emerson declared a personal interest as a Governor of Ryhope Infants School

Councillors Ball and Emerson declared personal interests in the Education Business Connections item as the applicants were known to them.

Councillors Errington, E. Gibson, Mordey and Scanlan declared personal and prejudicial interests in the Education Business Connections item as close associates of the applicants and withdrew from the meeting prior to discussion of the item.

Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 28th March, 2011

Ms Hazel Clark stated that with regards to empty properties the minutes should read 650 houses in the selective licensing area rather than the recorded 650 landlords and there had been 421 applications to register properties.

With regard to the Identification of gaps in youth provision, Councillor Mordey stated that it had been agreed that SIB funding of £50,000 be allocated resulting in a total available funding of £80,000 rather than the recorded £80,000 of SIB funding.

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 28th March, 2011 be confirmed and signed as a correct record subject to the inclusion of the above amendments.

East Sunderland Area Committee – Annual Report 2010/11

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which allowed Members to consider the Annual Report for 2010/11 which detailed the achievements and successes achieved throughout the year.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Nicol Trueman, Area Officer, presented the Annual Report and advised the Committee of the priorities which had been covered throughout the year and the SIB and SIP funding which had been awarded against each of the priorities. She informed the Members of the work that had been carried out under each priority and also informed Members of the other work which had been carried out which did not fit into the Committee's priorities.

Under the Identifying gaps in youth and play provision priority Ms Trueman introduced Mr Phil Jeffries, the Treasurer of Olympian Boxing Club in Ryhope, which had been set up using funding provided by the Area Committee.

Mr Jeffries delivered a powerpoint presentation showing the extent of the works which had been carried out and informed Members that the Gym had featured on national TV; it was a non profit organisation operated by volunteers and had provided education to young people through means such as healthy living lectures.

Members congratulated Mr Jeffries for his hard work, the Gym was an excellent facility and it was a fantastic transformation from the condition the building was previously in.

Ms Trueman also introduced Ina Murton who was in attendance to inform the Committee of the work which had been carried out at St. Mary Magdalene's Community Centre. Ms Murton delivered a presentation on the works which had been carried out and showed before and after pictures of the centre.

Councillor Forbes commented that it was excellent to see that there had been improvements to the access to the building.

Councillor E. Gibson stated that there was an amazing difference.

The Chairman advised that she had been at the opening night and it was an excellent event. If any community groups or service providers wished to use the centre then they should contact Ms Murton.

Ms Trueman then introduced the finance section of the Annual Report. The SIB funding was intended to be split with 80 percent made available for projects identified as part of the identified priorities and the remaining 20 percent for other funding bids. For 2010/11 a 52/48 percent split had been achieved. This was an improvement over the previous year however there was still a need to improve further. All SIP funding had been allocated and

nearly all of the Community Chest funding had been allocated. The allocated funding had helped to attract match funding of £284,062 into the area.

Ms Trueman also brought to Members attention information relating to the governance and operation of the Committee. The meetings had been well attended throughout the year however the Members Survey had identified that it was felt there was not enough public involvement in the meetings. There had been a standard agenda introduced and the reports had evolved to become more concise and informative. The VCS Network agenda was being fed into the Area Committee agenda. The Chairman had proposed that the meetings take place at different venues throughout the coming year to help attract more members of the public to the meetings.

Councillor Wood congratulated the officers for their hard work in supporting the Committee over the course of the last year. He asked for clarification of the meaning of RAG and also of the percentage figures used in the tables. He also advised that work had started on the installation of the pedestrian crossing on Strawberry Bank. If it was felt that the Committee should go to other venues then St. Mary Magdalene's Community Centre would be a good place to go to as it would enable Members to see the result of the funding provided by the Committee. There was a need to allow members of the public to participate in the meetings as it was unlikely that people would attend purely to watch the meetings. He also commented that on the satisfaction levels section the bullet point regarding satisfaction with the Council did not include any figures; he asked whether they could be provided.

Ms Trueman advised that RAG was Red, Amber and Green and was based around how close to the targets the outputs were; the percentage was how far over or under the target the project was operating. She agreed to provide the figures for the satisfaction levels and also to speak to the Area Network representatives about how public participation in the Area Committees could be improved.

Councillor Mordey stated that there had been a lot of work done by the officers and this work was often taken for granted; he thanked the officers involved for their hard work. He also referred to the annual reports of the scrutiny committees which were submitted to full Council, he asked whether it would be possible for the Area Committee annual reports to be submitted to Council as a way of publicising the work done.

Janet Johnson, Area Lead Executive, advised that this was something that would be worth considering as a way of improving the promotion of the work of the Area Committees.

2. RESOLVED that the Annual Report be received and noted and the lessons learned be progressed during the 2011/12 year.

East Sunderland Area Committee: Work Plan for 2011/12

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which informed Members of the proposed key priorities for the area which had been identified. In March 2011 the Committee had agreed the next steps to be undertaken as part of the process for developing the new work plan for the Committee and this report was the outcome of this work.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Nicol Trueman, Area Officer presented the report and advised that this report was intended to look forward to the next 12 months and put the emerging priorities to the Committee. There would be an online work programme which would be updated following each meeting of the Committee. Members were asked to agree the points which were set out in paragraph 1.4 of the report which included the priorities set out in paragraph 1.5 and the lead agents for the priorities.

Ms Trueman then went through each of the proposed priorities.

With regards to the 'Cleaner and Greener Streets' priority Ms Trueman advised that Helen Peverley, Area Response Manager - City Centre, and Nicky Rowland, East Area Response Manager, would be the lead agents and that there were to be 'Walk and Talk' sessions arranged within each ward along with a further session for the city centre which would include Members from each of the Wards which covered the city centre area; she asked for nominations for this session and also advised of the proposals to align SIB funding to the priority which were set out in paragraph 2.8.

Councillor Forbes put herself forward as the representative from St. Michael's ward and suggested that it could be worthwhile having substitutes in case Members could not attend.

Councillors Mordey and Scanlan nominated themselves as representatives of Hendon and Millfield wards respectively.

Councillor Mordey queried whether any issues identified would be brought to the Committee and Ms Trueman confirmed that this was possible, if an issue could not be resolved or it was a 'City' issue and not an 'area' issue..

Ms Trueman then introduced the 'Coastal Path' priority and advised that the lead agent would be Tim Ducker, Public Rights Of Way Officer. It was proposed that a task and finish group be set up to look at how the coastal path would be connected to the community and asked for nominations to this group. There would be no SIB aligned to this priority.

Councillor Mordey nominated Councillor T. Martin while Councillors Emerson and Maddison along with Paula Hunt put themselves forward as members of the group.

On the 'Employment, Enterprise and Welfare Advice' priority Ms Trueman advised that the lead agent would be Joan Reed, Strategic Change Manager. Employment and Enterprise had been identified as a priority during the previous year and it had been agreed that organisations would be asked to submit funding applications against 2 project briefs and the outcome of this was detailed within the finance report. The Welfare Advice part of the priority was a new addition following discussions which had been taking place since March 2011 on informing the Area Committees of the Council's intended approach to Welfare Rights Provision. It was proposed that Liz St. Louis, Head of Customer Service & Development, be the lead agent for the Welfare Advice aspect of the priority.

There was to be no task and finish group or further allocated on SIB funding. It was proposed that updates would be provided to the Committee on a regular basis.

Councillor Mordey commented that this priority could be a good way of engaging members of the public; he suggested that the public could be invited to the September meeting of the Committee to give their perspectives on the matter.

Councillor Errington commented that the nearest Employment Advice service for Doxford Residents was in either Farringdon or Thorney Close, he felt that it was important that Members knew what input residents of Doxford Ward would have on these services.

Ms Trueman then introduced the 'Public Transport' priority and James Third, Community Relation Officer, who would be the lead agent for the priority. It was proposed that a Task and finish group be established to complete a mapping exercise. There was no request to align SIB funding to this priority. Ms Trueman asked for nominations for membership of the task and finish group.

Councillor Wood referred to the Accessible Bus Network and that Sunderland was behind other authorities within the area; he asked to what extent this exercise would inform the development of the Accessible Bus Network.

Mr Third replied that the network had been delayed more than in other areas and that Newcastle had already started to implement their Accessible Bus Network however within Sunderland the local agenda was being pushed more.

Councillor Maddison nominated Councillor Wood; Councillor E. Gibson nominated Councillor Errington and Councillor Mordey nominated Councillor Emerson.

On the 'Tackling Crime' priority Ms Trueman introduced Inspector Neal Craig who would be the lead agent. The key crimes which were of most concern within the area were identified in paragraph 6.1 of the report. It was proposed that the existing joint meetings between the police and Members continue

however they be renamed as the 'Crime Task and Finish Group'. SIB funding of £74,599 was requested to be aligned to the priority as detailed in paragraph 6.3 of the report.

Ms Trueman then introduced the 'Youth and Teenagers' priority and advised that the lead agent would be Pauline Tsentas, Training and Accreditation Manager. It was recommended that the work of the existing task and finish group be continued. It had previously been agreed that £50,000 of SIB funding would be allocated to this priority and as such there was no request for further SIB funding. The amount of funding provided by Children's Services had been reduced by £5,000 as this money had been used to provide activities in the area during the Easter Holiday. A call for projects had gone out and there would be a report to the July 2011 meeting to consider this.

Ms Trueman then advised that should the work plan be adopted and the Committee agree to the alignment of SIB funding to the priorities within the work plan then there would be £110,599 allocated to the priorities which was 53 percent of the available budget, the aim was for Area Committee to align 80% of their total budget against the work plan priorities, leaving 20% available for groups/statutory providers to submit expressions of interest. However all approved applications must deliver activities against the East work plan..

Ms Trueman then referred to the proposed membership of the Committee which was set out in section 9 of the report; this detailed the representatives from the Council, Local Strategic Partnership and the Area Partners and Members were asked to agree this proposed membership.

3. RESOLVED that the work plan outline in Annex 1 to the report be adopted, and:
 - a. Cleaner and Greener Streets
 - i. Members to support the delivery of the Walk and Talk programme in their ward
 - ii. Funding of £36,000 be aligned to the priority from the 2011/12 SIB budget, subject to full application and appraisal
 - b. Coastal Path
 - i. A task and finish group be set up and Councillors Emerson, Maddison and T. Martin be appointed to the group along with Paula Hunt
 - c. Employment, Enterprise and Welfare Advice
 - i. The update be noted and further updates be submitted to future meetings of the Committee
 - d. Public Transport
 - i. A task and finish group be set up and Councillors Emerson, Errington and Wood be appointed to the group
 - e. Tackling Crime
 - i. The existing group be renamed to the Crime Task and Finish Group

- ii. £74,599 be aligned to the priority from the SIB 2011/12 budget, subject to full application and appraisal
- f. Youth and Teenagers
 - i. The existing Youth Task and Finish group to continue
 - ii. The call for projects totalling £75,000 be noted
 - iii. The actions set out in Annex 1 be agreed
- g. Membership
 - i. The Membership of the Committee, as set out in section 9 of the report, be agreed.

Community Chest, Strategic Initiative Budget (SIB) and Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) – Financial Statement and Proposals for Further Allocation of Resources

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which allowed Members to consider the allocation of SIB and Community Chest funding to support initiatives which would deliver activities against the priorities for 2011/12.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Nicol Trueman, Area Officer, presented the report and advised Members that the SIP funding that had not been spend by Hendon Young People's Project would be returned to the Area Committee budget however it would be as SIB rather than SIP funding.

Councillor Mordey expressed concerns that the money would be going into the general SIB pot rather than being ring fenced for the Hendon Ward, he queried whether it would be possible for the money to be allocated to Community Chest instead.

Councillor Wood stated that it could be possible to ensure that the funds were ring fenced for the Hendon Ward.

Ms Trueman advised that as the work plan had been agreed including the alignment of SIB funding to the priorities there would now be £102,194 remaining in the budget for 2011/12.

Ms Trueman then advised Members of the 14 proposals for support from Community Chest and the 5 applications for SIB funding which were recommended for approval; the details of these were set out in annexes 1 and 2 of the report. The applications for SIB funding consisted of 3 projects which were requesting funding from the 2011/12 budget, totalling £20,512 and 2 projects which had come forward through the Call for Projects totalling £124,678 which would come from the £125,000 which was ring fenced from the 2010/11 budget and carried forward to the 2011/12 budget. The remaining £322 would be added to the main SIB budget leaving £82,004 available for allocation.

Ms Trueman also advised Members of the changes to the previously approved Community Leaders of the Future project from Education Business Connections, the details of this change along with the options for progression were outlined in section 2.4 of the report; after a lengthy discussion Members unanimously agreed to re-coup all unclaimed expenditure of the original grant awarded, .

4. RESOLVED that:-

- a. The 14 proposals for support from Community Chest totalling £7,605 be approved
- b. The 5 applications for SIB funding be approved
- c. The changes to the previously approved Education Business Connections 'Community Leaders of the Future' project be rejected and all unclaimed expenditure be recouped.
- d. The financial statement be noted.

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

(Signed) E. BALL,
Chairman.