

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, 20th JUNE, 2013 at 6.00 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Richardson in the Chair

Councillors Blackburn, Ellis, Heron, Lawson, Scott, Speding, Tate, Taylor and Wakefield

Also in Attendance:-

Ron Barrass	Member of the Public	
John Chapman	Head of Neighbourhood	Gentoo
Les Clark	Head of Street Scene	Sunderland City Council
Wendy Cook	Youth and Community Co-ordinator	SNCBC
Dave Ellison	Area Response Manager	Sunderland City Council
Juliana Heron	Councillor	Hetton Town Council
Pauline Hopper	Area Officer, Coalfield	Sunderland City Council
Matthew Jackson	Governance Services Officer	Sunderland City Council
Kasia Kurowska	Partnership Manager	Age UK Sunderland
Amelia Laverick	Member of the Public	
Malcolm Page	Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services & Area Lead Executive	Sunderland City Council
Rachel Putz	Coalfields Locality Manager, Children's Services	Sunderland City Council
Kay Rowham	Member of the Public	
Gill Wake	Area Co-ordinator	Sunderland City Council
Glen Wilson	Public Health Registrar	Sunderland City Council

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He invited all those present to introduce themselves.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Anderson and D. Smith together with Lee Wardle.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Heron declared that he was a Member of Houghton Racecourse Community Association.

Minutes of the Last Meetings

Councillor J. Heron advised that in the attendance her name had been spelled incorrectly.

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 24th April, 2013 be confirmed and signed as a correct record subject to the inclusion of the above amendment.

Setting the Scene for 2013/14

The Chairman introduced a presentation which set the scene for the work that would be done by the area committee during the coming year. He advised that the Council was committed to devolving decision making for local services to a local level; the Area Committees were responsible for these devolved powers and over the last year there had been a number of changes made to the way the area committees supported the decision making. The Place and People boards had been set up to identify areas of priority and develop actions in line with these priorities.

The priorities for 2013/14 had been agreed at the last meeting of the area committee and these were:-

Place: Influencing Responsive Local Services, Streetscene; Improving neglected land; Providing support to local shopping centres; Improving allotments; Local events and celebrations.

People: Influencing Early Intervention Locality Services; Influencing the transformation of adult social care; Healthy choices for young people; Support for older people, vulnerable adults and carers.

The area committee had access to both Strategic Initiatives Budget and Community Chest funding; there was £252,626 of SIB funding available and there was Community Chest funding totalling £45,982.

2. RESOLVED that the scene setting presentation be noted.

Place Board Progress Report

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with an update against the Place Board Work Plan for 2013/14.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Scott, Chair of the Place Board, introduced the update on the progress made by the Place Board up to May 2013.

There had been a lot of work done around cleaning up of neglected land and work on the former Dubmire School site had been completed with seating, trees and shrubs and a footpath installed; young people from the school had been involved in this work.

There had also been a lot of work done around the local shopping centres which included a traders association having been set up in Houghton; there was a need for additional support to be provided and with the project due to end in September 2013 there would be a request for SIB funding to extend the project until March 2014.

On the allotments priority a significant amount of work had been done to bring allotments back into use; previously unlettable plots had been cleared and new fencing had been installed, the waiting lists had been reduced and existing tenants had given positive feedback about the improvements. Tenants who had not been using the allotments for cultivation had been evicted which had then allowed more sites to be offered to those on the waiting lists. Burnside and Britannia Terrace had been the main focus of the work on allotments.

Pauline Hopper advised the committee of the proposed membership of the board and advised that each ward was represented by one Member. She encouraged Members to communicate with each other within their ward so that information could be fed into the board and also back into the ward.

Councillor Wakefield queried whether any Member of the Committee would still be able to attend the boards. The Chairman confirmed that this was the case but that only the core members would be able to vote at the boards.

Councillor Tate queried the work around Flood Risk Planning and was informed by Les Clark that the scrutiny panel was doing work on this matter. The Coalfield area had a lot of flooding issues which needed to be addressed. There was information being collated and this would be fed into the development of the strategy.

Councillor Scott commented that the weather had been the wettest for over 100 years however it was still an issue that there had been flooding and there was a need to address the problem. He felt that the Environment Agency and Northumbrian Water needed to work together to address the issue.

3. RESOLVED that:-

- a. Consideration be given to the progress and performance update with regard to the Place Board work plan for 2013/14
- b. The commencement of phase 1 at the Britannia Terrace allotment site be noted.

People Board Progress Report

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with an update on the progress made against the 2013/14 People Board Work Plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Chair of the People Board, Councillor Lawson, presented the report and advised the Committee of the composition of the board as well as inviting the other Members to attend if they wished. She also advised Members of the work that had been done by the board up to May 2013.

There had been work done on the GP Clinical Commissioning Group, initial meetings had taken place and it had been intended that representatives of the group would be attending the July meeting of the Board however this would now be taking place at a later date.

There had been a lot of work carried out under the Early Intervention and Locality Based Services priority and the contracts for youth commissioning had now been awarded; within each ward there would be 1 session per week for 8-10 year olds and 3 sessions per week for 11-19 year olds. An update was included at Annex 2 to the report.

Members were also given the opportunity to influence the location of 3 sets of goal posts which were being provided and the locations had been discussed by the board. The Committee were asked to agree the locations which were Collingwood Drive, Hetton Lyons Country Park and Success Playing Fields.

Work had also been done at Kirklee Field Play Area to install an area of hard standing which had been funded through SIB and would allow the XL mobile team to provide activities for young people at the site.

There had also been work done on the Transformation of Adult Social Care priority which had included work done to create a 'dementia friendly community' as part of this work Bernard Gilpin Primary School had been designated a 'dementia friendly school' due to the work done by staff and pupils to raise awareness of dementia; this was the only school north of Leicester to have been awarded this status.

As part of the Support for older people, vulnerable adults and carers priority there had been SIB funding provided to five local groups to provide activities and social support. A feedback report on this would be provided to the July meeting of the board.

Councillor Blackburn asked for clarification on where the goalposts at Hetton Lyons would be installed. Dave Ellison advised that they would be next to the formal football pitches.

Councillors Blackburn and Heron stated that they had seen the work done by Bernard Gilpin School; they both felt that the work that had been done by the school was excellent.

Pauline Hopper then provided an update from the VCS Network on the VCS Transformation Project. She advised that due to changes in the Councils structure it had been recognised that there was a need to change the way the council worked with the VCS network. Groups often did not know how they could feed information into the Area Committee and there would be work done to identify how the council communicated with organisations. There were plans to work more closely with organisations in order to more effectively deliver services. The terms of reference for the VCS network were currently being reviewed as it was felt that they were not fit for purpose. From September there would be an update from the VCS network included on the Area Committee agenda.

4. RESOLVED that:-
 - a. The progress and performance update with regard to the People Board work plan for 2013/14 be given consideration.
 - b. The recommendations for the locations of the goalposts be noted.
 - c. The youth contact delivery programme detailed at annex 2 be noted and the recommendations of the board be agreed.

Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) Financial Statement and Proposals for Further Allocation of Resources

The Chief Executive submitted a report requesting the Area Committee's consideration of proposals for the allocation of Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) to support initiatives that will benefit the area.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Pauline Hopper presented the report and advised that the SIB budget for the year was £252,626. To date there had not been any applications approved and at this meeting Members were being asked to approve two applications totalling £42,000. The full details of these two projects were set out in full in Annex 2 to the report. The applications were for to extend the Shopping Centres project at a cost of £40,000 and the installation of street lighting at Ross Lea at a cost of £2,000.

Ms Hopper then advised that there was Community Chest funding of £50,406 available in total for the year and the ward allocations were set out in the table at paragraph 4.1 of the report. The Committee was being asked to note the project approvals from the April and May panel meetings and was asked to give consideration to the approval of an application from Herrington Burn YMCA for £500 as a contribution towards a trip to Prague as part of the YMCA International

Festival which had not been approved at the panel meeting as there had not been a unanimous decision reached.

Councillor Ellis advised that she had objected to this application as she did not see how it would have any benefit for the ward.

Members questioned the application and in response were advised that there would be 12 young people going on the trip which would allow them to meet with other young people from around the world. The YMCA would be providing £8,000 towards the cost of the trip.

Councillor Lawson, seconded by Councillor Scott, moved that the application be approved.

The Chairman advised that the mechanisms for approving Community Chest applications where there was not a unanimous decision at the panel meetings would be looked at as there was the possibility that if this situation arose again that the decision could be delayed beyond the proposed start of the project. Ms Hopper added that Members would be consulted before any changes were made and that there was a need to amend the Community Chest application forms to make it clear that projects should link into the Area Committee priorities.

Ms Hopper then informed the Committee that an extra £413 had been made available for the Healthy City Investment Fund. The People Board would be looking into how this funding could be spent.

Councillor Lawson added that there were a number of organisations in the area who did a lot of good work with very little money; she felt that this additional HCIF money should be given to one of these organisations. Councillor Wakefield suggested that Bernard Gilpin Primary School could be given this funding to help them continue the good work they had done around Dementia.

5. RESOLVED that:-
 - a. The financial statements and previously approved Community Chest applications be noted.
 - b. The SIB project applications totalling £42,000 be approved.
 - c. The application for Community Chest funding of £500 from the Houghton Ward budget for Herrington Burn YMCA be approved.

Coalfield State of the Area Event

The Chairman of the Area Committee submitted a report (copy circulated) which presented the Area Committee with the issues collated from questions raised at the State of the Area event and how to progress the issues through the Place and People Boards.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Pauline Hopper introduced the report and advised that this feedback was from the second annual State of the Area event which was held on 18th April 2013. There were 16 actions identified and these were detailed in the actions list which was included at annex 1 to the report.

Action 6 'Insufficient focus on environmental objectives within Area Committee Priorities' did not have any next steps identified and it was proposed that this be added to the list of priorities for the Place Board.

Councillor Tate stated that 'Simpson Grove' referred to in action 10 was actually known just as 'The Grove'.

Local resident Kay Rowham stated that it was good to see action 7 included and it was pleasing that residents would be consulted; she asked when and how residents would be consulted. She then referred to actions 6, 7 and 10 and stated that she felt that these actions were connected to each other and needed to be considered as one. She also stated that they were of importance to Hetton residents as the flooding problem in the area needed to be addressed. She also stated that she wanted to see brownfield sites redeveloped before Greenfield sites were developed.

Councillor Scott stated that the planning policy document was still being developed and once it had been developed there would be consultation with residents. Les Clark agreed to contact the Planning Policy department to find out the timescale for the work.

The Chairman stated that the Place Board would be asked to give consideration to the joining of action points 6, 7 and 10 into one action.

6. RESOLVED that:-
 - a. The issues outlined at annex 1 be noted.
 - b. The updates and actions against each issue be noted.
 - c. The next steps be agreed.
 - d. Action 6 be referred to the Place Board for consideration of the next steps.
 - e. The joining of actions 6, 7 and 10 to be considered by the Place Board.

The Chairman having thanked everyone for their attendance, then closed the meeting.

(Signed) D. RICHARDSON,
Chairman.