

At a meeting of the SOUTH SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE on MONDAY, 5th January, 2009 at 5.00 P.M.

Present:-

Councillor Tye in the Chair

Councillors Errington, M. Dixon, E. Gibson, P. Gibson, Oliver, Vardy and A. Wright

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor P. Smith.

Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 27th October, 2008

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 27th October, 2008 (copy circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Declarations of Interest

Item 6 – Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB): Regeneration Issues Report

Councillor Errington declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the item as a member of the Management Committee of the project and withdrew from the meeting prior to consideration of the application.

Item 8 – Strategic Initiatives Budget 2008/2009 Ward Based Community Chest

Councillor Errington declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the item as a governor of Portland School and also as a member of Doxford Park Community Association.

Item 10 – Heritage Open Days – Post Event 2008

Councillor Errington declared a personal interest in the item due to a friend owning a listed building.

Crime Rates relating to the South Sunderland Area – Presentation from Northumbria Police

Inspector Cheryl Warcup presented the report (copy circulated) detailing crimes committed in the South Sunderland area for the period 31st March, 2008 to 4th January, 2009 in comparison to figures for the same financial period of 2nd April, 2007 – 6th January, 2008.

(For copy statistics – see original minutes).

Members raised the following issues:-

- In relation to the increased figures of burglaries other than dwellings, what items are being stolen?

Inspector Warcup advised that the most common items being stolen include lawnmowers, garden furniture and so on. People in general are not securing their sheds properly. Interventions include crime prevention measures such as shed alarms (purchased through LMAPS) and increased advice.

- Do the figures extend to allotments?

Inspector Warcup informed Members that the figures did include allotment burglaries and that there had been a number of incidents reported at Doxford Park allotments. The general security of the allotments was poor and ways for improvement were being looked at.

- Is there a seasonal factor involved with the increase of burglaries?

Inspector Warcup advised that there is an increase in crime during the winter season, when the darker nights set in. Christmas time also sees a rise in burglary figures.

- There are no figures on Youth Disorder. Can Councillors access this information?

Inspector Warcup informed Members there was a problem solving database, but this was not accessible to the public. Any problem areas would then go to LMAPS.

- If a constituent were to contact a Member with a problem, can the Member contact the Police?

Inspector Warcup advised that Councillors can email or telephone her personally and she would assign the problem to an appropriate officer. If the problem were to continue, it could be put on LMAPS.

- Due to increased unemployment in the area, are the Police receiving any directives?

Inspector Warcup advised that new directives had been received due to the current economic situation.

2. RESOLVED that the contents of the presentation be received and noted.

Minutes of the Meetings of the Local Multi-Agency Problem Solving Group

A copy of the minutes of the meetings of the Local Multi Agency Problem Solving Group held on 7th October, 2008 and 11th November, 2008 (copy circulated) were submitted.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Inspector Cheryl Warcup informed the Committee that a new item, Prevent, had been added which related to Terrorism. A DVD was being produced which would be available for viewing.

Councillor P. Gibson requested that some form of action be taken in regards to concrete posts being smashed at Silksworth Recreational Park on the mineral line.

Inspector Warcup agreed to look into it and report back to Councillor Gibson.

The Chairman thanked Inspector Warcup for her attendance.

3. RESOLVED that the minutes of the Local Multi Agency Problem Solving Group held on 7th October, 2008 and 11th November, 2008 be received and noted.

Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB): Regeneration Issues Report

The Chief Executive (Acting) submitted a report (copy circulated) outlining the current expenditure from the Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) and applications for funding from this budget in order to support new initiatives, which would benefit the area.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Mr. Richard Parry, Area Regeneration Officer, presented the report and requested the Committee's consideration on paragraph 2.2 of the report.

The Chairman proposed that the Committee agree in principle to deferring commitment of expenditure from next year's SIB budget (subject to budget approval), except in cases of clear emergency.

The Chairman proposed that the Committee reject the request to defer consideration of Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) expenditure until the new financial year, and that the Committee be able to spend what has been allocated within this year's budget.

Members enquired if any commitments had already been made out of next year's budget, and would these be honoured?

Mr. Parry advised that the Committee had already committed money from next year's budget to the Jubilee Centre and this would be honoured.

The Committee agreed to the Chairman's proposal on the decision.

Mr. Parry informed Members that the application for funding before the Committee from the Box Youth Project was requesting £5,790 from the 2008/9 budget. Should the Committee agree the request, £81,158 will be committed from the 2008/9 budget, leaving a balance of £118,842, and £20,000 from the 2009/10 budget, subject to budget approval.

Consideration having been given to the item, it was:-

4. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the Committee agree in principle to defer commitment of expenditure from next year's SIB budget (subject to budget approval), except in cases of clear emergency;
- (ii) the Committee reject the proposal to defer consideration of Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) expenditure until the new financial year;
- (iii) approval be given to the allocation of Strategic Initiatives Budget Funding of £5,790 from the 2008/09 budget as a contribution to 'Box Youth Project'

Regeneration Issues Report: Feedback on Projects Previously Funded Through Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB)

The Chief Executive (Acting) submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide information to the Area Committee on expenditure from the Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) on projects it had previously funded.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

There being information outstanding on the report, it was:-

5. RESOLVED that the feedback report be deferred to the next meeting of the Committee.

Strategic Initiatives Budget: 2008/2009 Ward Based Community Chest

The Chief Executive (Acting) submitted a report (copy circulated) on 10 projects recommended for support from the 2008/2009 Community Chest Scheme in respect of Doxford, Silksworth and St. Chad's Wards.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

6. RESOLVED that approval be given to the 10 projects recommended for support from the 2008/09 budget with a total of £3,415 detailed in Annex 1 to the report.

Sport and Leisure in Sunderland South

The Director of Community and Cultural Services submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide the South Area Committee with information relating to the provision of sport and leisure services.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Julie Russell, Sport and Leisure Partnership Manager, presented the report and welcomed views from Members:-

- The report refers to Sunderland's City Adventure Centre and the inclusion of specialist sensory provision for children and young people with complex needs. As Portland, Sunningdale and Thorney Close Schools are already set up for this, are we not duplicating services?

Ms. Russell advised that as a family destination, the Sunderland City Adventure Centre would be available to all children. With the inclusion of the sensory provision, they will compliment services already on offer.

Community and Cultural Services are to consult with specialists in regards to sensory provision, so if for example Portland School or Sunningdale School did not have a particular piece of equipment, then the Adventure Centre could meet their needs.

- In relation to a recent incident at the Aquatic Centre where a man was knocked unconscious, are there any warning signs when the floor of the swimming pool is lifted?

Ms. Russell advised that there is markings and signage of the depth of the pool. The Aquatic Centre follows all national guidance and the incident was unfortunate as the gentleman dived into the shallow end.

- Perhaps warnings messages could be issued over the PA system in the changing rooms?

Ms. Russell welcomed any suggestions for consideration.

- Does the Tennis Centre still offer vouchers for cheaper admissions for children?

Ms. Russell informed Members that children can receive a free Life Card which would offer discounts and special promotions. Promotions are also offered to schools during the holidays.

- Is there any intention to remove the name Puma from the Tennis Centre, as they do not provide sponsorship?

Ms. Russell advised that Puma had been removed so the official name is now Sunderland Tennis Centre.

- The Chairman commended the consultation that has taken place in relation to the Silksworth Recreation Park and welcomed the decision to illuminate the Park longer during the winter period/dark nights.
- The Chairman also requested consideration be given on subsidised access for activities.

Ms. Russell agreed to feed back Members' comments.

7. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) Members provide officers with feedback in relation to the content of the report and specifically in relation to the issue of the Play and Urban Games Strategy/Play Pathfinder programme;
- (ii) the report be received and noted.

Heritage Open Days – Post Event 2008

The Director of Community and Cultural Services submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide Members with an update on Heritage Open Days 2008.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

8. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Festivals and Events in Sunderland

The Director of Community and Cultural Services submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide Members with an update regarding events activity that took place within the City, including South Area, for the period 1st April – 31st August, 2008.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ann Scott, Principal Librarian – Library Operations, presented the report and informed Members that attendances of the International Friendship Festival/Kite Festival were down on previous years due to bad weather. A report on the financial implications would be brought before the Committee at a future meeting.

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

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

(Signed) P.M. TYE,
Chairman.