

At a Meeting of the WEST SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE, SUNDERLAND on WEDNESDAY, 27TH OCTOBER, 2010 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor P. Gibson in the Chair

Councillors Allan, M. Dixon, Essl, D. Forbes, Gofton, Morrissey, Old, Oliver, P. Smith, Tye, P. Watson, S. Watson, A. Wilson and A. Wright.

Also Present:-

Sheriden Baillie	Young Person	Youth Almighty Project
Andrea Baldwin	Senior Sports Development Officer	Sunderland City Council
Callum Bannan	Young Person	Youth Almighty Project
George Blyth	Area Lead Executive	Sunderland City Council
Linda Brown	Head of Standards, Children's Services	Sunderland City Council
Les Clark	Head of Street Scene	Sunderland City Council
Jodie Collins	Internal Communications Officer	Sunderland City Council
Victoria French	Wellness Manager	Sunderland City Council
Deck Hutchinson	Young Person	Youth Almighty Project
Andrew Jackman	Assistant Head of Traffic	Sunderland City Council
Ernest Jele	Visiting Delegate from South Africa	Mbombela Municipality
Norma Johnston	Assistant Head of Street Scene	Sunderland City Council
Kevin Jones	Acting Inspector	Northumbria Police
Jo Kester	Visiting Delegate from South Africa	Mbombela Municipality
Joanne Laverick	Project Manager	Youth Almighty Project
Dave Leonard	Area Co-ordinator	Sunderland City Council
Vivienne Metcalfe	Area Community Co-ordinator	Sunderland City Council
Anne Morrison		West Area VCS Network
Thandi Ndlala	Visiting Delegate from South Africa	Mbombela Municipality
Mathilda van Niekerk	Visiting Delegate from South Africa	Mbombela Municipality
David Noon	Senior Democratic Services Officer	Sunderland City Council
Richard Parry	Area Officer	Sunderland City Council
Ken Robinson	Acting Inspector	Northumbria Police
Jenny Scott	Policy Officer (Inclusion)	Sunderland City Council
M. Srini	Visiting Delegate from South Africa	Mbombela Municipality

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and everyone present introduced themselves.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors L. Martin, Old, Oliver and T. Wright and also on behalf of Peter Iveson (Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service), Lucy Malarky (Gentoo), Keith Moore (Children's Services), Julie Raine (City of Sunderland College), Bill Leach (VCS Network), Edna Rochester (VCS Network).

Declarations of Interest

Item 2 – Community Chest, Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) and Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) – Financial Statement and Proposals for Further Allocation of Resources

Councillor Tye declared a Personal and Prejudicial interest in the application in respect of the Almighty Bus Project as Chairman of the Management Committee of Youth Almighty and left the meeting during the consideration of the item.

Minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 7th September, 2011

The Chairman referred to queries raised at the meeting regarding SIP funding and advised that confirmation had been received that unspent funding could be carried over into the next financial year.

Richard Parry, Area Officer referred to concerns raised on page 6 of the minutes regarding the operation of the Task and Finish Groups and confirmed that they were being addressed and that information from the Groups was being circulated to all members of the Committee.

Change in the Order of Business

The Chairman advised that the report in respect of 'Responsive Local Services' would be considered at this juncture as the first item of business in respect of item 2 on the agenda 'Community Action in Sunderland West – Progress Review' as it would help inform discussion on the remaining reports on the agenda.

Community Action in Sunderland West Progress Review – Responsive Local Services (RLS)

The Executive Director of City Services submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Members with an update of outstanding issues from the 2009/10 work plan with regard to Responsive Local Services (RLS) together with progress against actions agreed in the current year's (2010/2011) work plan.

(For copy report - see original minutes).

Les Clark, Head of Street Scene, presented the report which covered the service areas of Litter, Graffiti, Refuse, Grass Cutting and Dog Fouling. Members were also provided with tables detailing the volume of service requests for the period August to September 2010, together with information pertaining to three additional service areas to be included within the scope of the RLS (Dumping of Waste, Noise and Street Lighting).

In conclusion Members were advised of the winter maintenance programme, the operation of the intelligence group and the anticipated deployment of six Area Response Managers.

In response to Mr. Clark's announcement that there was an intention to pilot an out of hours noise service, the Chairman asked whether this would be used to deal with noise from pubs and clubs. Mr. Clark advised that the service would respond if reported and the 101 line was there for this purpose. Noise from pubs and clubs was not the main source of complaint however, during an evening 80% of complaints arose from domestic situations.

Councillor Gofton stated that the area teams going out with regard to noise nuisance was a really good initiative but questioned whether it would be a costly exercise. Mr. Clark hoped that it would not be, relying on volunteers and perhaps new terms and conditions through the Internal Jobs Market.

Councillor P. Watson praised the 101 number as an excellent resource and asked if there were any statistics available regarding its usage. Norma Johnston, Assistant Head of Street Scene, advised that the usage figures had been reported via the Community and Safer City Scrutiny Committee, however, they could be brought to the Area Committee in future if members wished.

Councillor Alan Wright referred to the list of partners who would work with the Area Response Managers to identify and tackle key issues and noted that it made no reference to Ward Councillors. Mr. Clark replied that he hoped this was implicit within the mention of Area Committees on the list.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Clark for his report and it was:-

1. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted and that further updates regarding any issues arising from the intelligence group be submitted in due course.

Community Action in Sunderland West – Progress Review – Environmental and Street Scene Improvements, including Shopping Centres

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) in respect of the above matter.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Chairman having advised that the application in respect of the tree planting programme as detailed in paragraph 2.3 of the report was to be deferred, it was:-

2. RESOLVED that:-

- i) the progress of the environmental improvements as detailed in paragraphs 2.1 and 2.2 of the report be noted; and
- ii) approval be given in principle to a bit of up to £30,000 of Strategic Investment Plan funding for the completion of the Pallion Scheme and Phase 2 of the Thorndale Close Scheme, subject to full appraisal and consultation.

Community Action in Sunderland West – Progress Review – Youth and Play

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which updated Members on the development of play opportunities within the West Area.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Andrea Baldwin, Senior Sports Development Officer (Community) presented the report informing Members of the following potential projects:-

- i) Meadow Grove site;
- ii) South Hylton Playing Fields (Fitness Trail);
- iii) Ford Oval dedicated Play Area.

All would be subject to consultation with partners and Ward Members. There was some Section 106 finance available and she would also like to develop a £75,000 bid for SIB funding.

The Chairman advised that a similar scheme had been undertaken in Silksworth, the consultation had been well received and had worked well.

3. RESOLVED that approval be given to the further development of play site and environmental improvements in South Hylton and the development of a possible application for SIB funding to this Committee.

Community Action in Sunderland West – Progress Review – Traffic and Parking

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) in respect of the above.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Andrew Jackman, Interim Assistant Head of Traffic Road Safety, presented the report and tabled copies of accident statistics for the West Area. The intelligence gained would be used to drive forward the road safety aspects of the Local Transport Plan.

With regard to potential road safety schemes outlined in paragraph 2.3, Members expressed concern that calls were being made on the Area Committee budget to address what was essentially a Citywide problem that should be tackled via mainstream funding.

It was moved by the Chairman that the Committee do not agree to pursue the schemes at this stage on the basis that they should be considered as a Citywide strategic issue and that a further report should be prepared into the matter. The Committee agreed accordingly.

4. RESOLVED that:-

- i) the report and the accident statistics be received and noted; and
- ii) the proposals detailed in paragraph 2.3 of the report be not pursued at this stage on the basis that they should be considered as a Citywide strategic issue and that a further report be prepared into the matter.

Community Action in Sunderland West – Progress Review: Reducing Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) and Secondary Fires

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) in respect of the above matter.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Inspector Kevin Jones presented the report and briefed Members on Operation Freedom, which was a new way of addressing Anti Social Behaviour in the West Sunderland Area and involved a lot of joint working with the community, young people and a range of partner agencies. The Project targeted Anti Social Behaviour geographically and included prevention, intelligence gathering and off licence checks.

Members having thanked Inspector Jones for his report, it was:-

5. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted and that further updates be submitted regarding any issues arising from the Task and Finish Group.

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) in respect of the above matter.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Richard Parry, Area Officer, presented the item informing Members of the following recommendations as detailed in the report:-

- i) to note the financial statement for Area Committee funding for 2010/11;
- ii) to approve the granting of SIB funding of £29,994 in respect of the Youth Almighty's Minibus Project;
- iii) to approve the granting of SIB funding of £36,000 for Silksworth Cricket Club's Facilities Rejuvenation Project;
- iv) to approve the granting of SIP funding of £90,000 in respect of the City County's 'Tree Planting' Project;
- v) to approve 26 proposals for support from the 2010/11 Community Chester.

Consideration was given to the report and to the funding requests.

The Chairman referred to discussion earlier in the meeting and reminded Members that the SIP funding request for £90,000 in respect of the Council's Tree Planting Project was to stand deferred pending further consultation.

With regard to the SIB funding request from Silksworth Cricket Club in respect of the facilities renewal project, the Chairman advised that he would be seeking a deferral of the application to the Committee's next meeting to allow for further consultation with Ward Members.

In addition he informed Members that the application from Silksworth Bowls Club for £500 Community Chest funding as a contribution towards room hire had been withdrawn.

Accordingly it was:-

6. RESOLVED that:-

- i) the Area Committee's funding statement for 2010-11, together with the SIB and SIP Interim Report, be received and noted;
- ii) approval be given to the granting of SIB funding of £29,994 to Youth Almighty in respect of the Almighty Bus Project;
- iii) consideration of the application from Silksworth Cricket Club for SIB funding of £36,000 be deferred to the Committee's next meeting to allow for further consultation with Ward Members;
- iv) consideration of the application for SIP funding of £90,000 in respect of the City Council's Tree Planting be deferred pending further consideration;
- v) the withdrawal of the Community Chest application from Silksworth Bowls Club for funding totalling £500 be noted;

- vi) approval be given to the granting of the remaining 25 Community Chest applications as detailed in Annex 1b of the report.

Influencing Practice, Policy and Strategy

The Executive Director of City Services submitted a report which briefed Members on the consultation currently being undertaken between Sunderland City Council and the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) on the draft Community Assets Policy.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Vivienne Metcalfe, Community Co-ordinator, presented the report and outlined the three stage approach to the transfer of a Council owned asset to the VCS. She advised that any views Members may have on the matter could be forwarded directly to her. She was also willing to go and speak to outside organisations if that was what Members would prefer.

The Chairman having thanked Ms. Metcalfe for her report it was:-

- 7. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

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

(Signed) P. GIBSON,
Chairman.