

At a meeting of the WEST SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in the PALLION ACTION GROUP, SUNDERLAND on WEDNESDAY 25th JUNE, 2014 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor P. Gibson in the Chair

Councillors, Atkinson, Allan, Dixon, Essl, Gallbraith, Gallagher, Gofton, Turton, Tye, Waller, S. Watson, A. Wilson and T. Wright.

Also Present:-

Alesha Aljeffri	Manager	Healthwatch Sunderland
Bill Blackett	West Area Response Manager	Sunderland City Council
Doreen Buckingham	Centre Manager	Pallion Action Group
Joan Carter	Volunteer	Pallion Action Group
Stuart Carter	Volunteer	Pallion Action Group
Doran Clementson	Volunteer	Pallion Action Group
Simone Common	West Locality Operations Manager	Sunderland City Council
Richard Downey	Representative	Pallion Traders
Allan Duffy	Head of Operations	Gentoo
Sheila Fortuna	Event Organiser	Sunderland Filipino Society
Craig Gardner	Inspector	Northumbria Police
Sandra Gurd	Resident	
Ash Hopper	Sergeant	Northumbria Police
Tahir Khan	Chair Person	Unity Organisation
Bill Leach	Partnership Co-ordinator	Pennywell Com. Centre
Julie Lynn	Area Community Officer	Sunderland City Council
David Noon	Principal Governance Services Officer	Sunderland City Council
Helen Peverley	Area Co-ordinator	Sunderland City Council
Nicky Rowland	East Area Response Manager	Sunderland City Council
Tracey Spencer	Volunteer	Pallion Action Group
Sham Vedhara	Director	Uncle Sam's
Karen Wood	Community Worker	Pallion Action Group

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting especially those attending their first meeting of the West Sunderland Area Committee. The Chairman then invited those present to introduce themselves.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors P Watson, P. Smith and Porthouse and also from Jeff Wilkinson of the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service and Chris Marshall of Gentoo.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

The Chairman referred to page two of the minutes regarding the Sunderland Live Presentation and informed the Committee that subsequently he had been appointed to the Board of Sunderland Live Limited by the Council at its Annual Meeting held on 10th June, 2014.

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last ordinary meeting of the Committee held on 9th April, 2014 be confirmed and signed as a correct record subject.

Place Board Progress Report.

The Chairman of the West Sunderland Area Place Board submitted a report (copy circulated) in respect of the above matter.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Tye presented the report drawing Members' attention to the annual update of the 2013/14 work plan, the proposed priorities for the 2014/15 work plan (as detailed in annex 3) together with the Area Governance arrangements and proposed membership of the Place Board for 2014/15.

Councillor Allan referred to the proliferation of weeds across the West Area and the need to undertake a strategic review of the current killing regime which he believed wasn't fit for purpose. In addition Councillor Allan asked that each member received a matrix of the weed killing operation undertaken in the West Area. Councillor Tye confirmed that the item had been placed on the agenda for the next meeting of the Place Board.

2. RESOLVED that:-

- i) the Annual Performance update on the Place Board's Work Plan be noted,
- ii) approval be given to Place Board's Work Plan priorities for 2014/15 as detailed in annex 3 of the report.
- iii) approval be given to the membership of the Place Board as detailed in paragraph 5.3 of the report and
- iv) the Governance arrangements as outlined in paragraph 5 and annex 4 of the report be noted.

Change in the Order of Business.

The Chairman advised that item 4 on the agenda (Dog Control Orders) would be considered at this juncture to allow the presenting officer to leave thereafter.

Part 6 Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005, Dog Control Orders – Consultation Results and Findings

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which advised Members of the results of the public consultation exercise relating to the Council's intention to implement Dog Control Orders under Part 6 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Nicky Rowland, East Area Response Manager, presented the report which also sought the Committee's endorsement of the implementation of the Orders as detailed in Annex1 to the report. Members were informed that of the four Dog Control Order proposals consulted upon, the results were as follows:-

- a. 90.48% agreed with the proposal to introduce an order making it an offence for a person to fail to clear away after their animal has fouled in any open public area.
- b. 83.93% agreed with the exclusion of dogs from enclosed children's play sites
- c. 56.55% agreed with the proposal to require dogs to be kept on a lead at all times in open play areas
- d. 72.02% agreed with the proposal to require dogs to be kept on a led at all times in cemeteries
- e. 66.07% agreed with the proposal to enable an authorised officer of the Council to request a dog be put on a lead in any location across the city with is open to the public, where the officer feels it is appropriate to do so.

Ms Rowland and Mr Blackett having addressed comments and questions from Members in relation to the extent and format of the consultation, enforcement of the orders and the cost of purchase and installation of dog waste bins, it was :-

3. RESOLVED that:-
 - i) the information presented in the report be received and noted; and
 - ii) the implementation of the Dog Control Orders within the West Sunderland Area, as outlined in Annex 1 of the report of the Deputy Chief Executive, be endorsed

People Board Progress Report.

The Chairman of the West Sunderland Area People Board submitted a report (copy circulated) in respect of the above matter.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Atkinson presented the report drawing Members' attention to the annual update of the 2013/14 work plan, the proposed priorities for the 2014/15 work plan (as detailed in annex 3) together with the Area Governance arrangements and proposed membership of the Place Board for 2014/15.

Councillor A. Wilson noted that all the SIB projects funded by the Area Committee had either hit or exceed their targets. In particular Councillor Wilson highlighted the West Aspirations Project, one aspect of which had been to encourage young people aged 16 to 19 not in employment, education or training to enter further education or the workplace. The output target had been 44 young people however the actual output had totalled 119. Councillor Wilson congratulated all concerned on the success of the project, especially Pallion Action Group.

4. RESOLVED that:-

- i) the Annual Performance update on the People Board's Work Plan be noted,
- ii) approval be given to People Board's Work Plan priorities for 2014/15 as detailed in annex 3 of the report.
- iii) approval be given to the membership of the People Board as detailed in paragraph 5.3 of the report and
- iv) the Governance arrangements as outlined in paragraph 5 and annex 4 of the report be noted.

Report of the West Area Voluntary and Community Sector Network (AVCSN)

The AVCS Network submitted a progress report (copy circulated) which briefed the Committee on issues pertinent to the Voluntary and Community Sector.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Julie Lynn, Area Community Officer presented the report highlighting:-

- i) the assistance of the Network in the review of the West Area priorities,
- ii) the participation of the Network in the adoption of the All Together Sunderland Brand and how the Network could work with partners working within the brand to publicise the work they do,
- iii) the support from the Network in delivering the Committee's priorities in relation to Job prospects, Activities for Older and Younger Persons, Street Scene and Environmental Improvements together with Health and Wellbeing,

- iv) the participation of the Network at the extremely successful community event at Silksworth as part of the Beckwith Mews open day showcasing the community resources available and commemorating World War 1,
- v) the opportunities available to the Network following the recent round of procurement activity for Family and Adult Community Learning.

Bill Leach having confirmed that the Network would continue to support the Area Committee and its priorities in as many different ways as possible, the Chairman thanked the Network for their report, and it was:-

5. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Report of the Northumbria Police – Sunderland West

Inspector Craig Gardner of Northumbria Police presented a report (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with an update on the Force's most recent performance indicators showing actual crimes for the period 1st April, 2014 to 31st May 2014 and the percentage increase / decrease against the same period last year.

Particular reference was paid to crime levels in relation to violent crime, vehicle crime, burglary from dwelling, burglary other than dwelling, criminal damage, theft and handling, shoplifting, youth ASB and Non Youth ASB. In addition members were informed of the particular crime patterns in respect of the Barnes, Pallion, St. Anne's, Sandhill, Silksworth and St Chad's wards.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

The Chairman having thanked Inspector Gardner and Sgt Hopper for their attendance it was:-

6. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Report of the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service

Julie Lynn, Area Community Officer, having advised that Jeff Wilkinson of the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service (TWFRS) was unable to attend the meeting, presented his report (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with an update on the Service's performance indicators for the period 1st April to 31st May, 2014 with particular reference to:-

- i) the number of deaths from accidental / all dwelling fires (there were none),
- ii) the number of injuries from accidental / all dwelling fires (there was one),
- iii) accidental fires in domestic properties (5),
- iv) deliberate property fires (none),
- v) deliberate vehicle fires (4) and

(For copy report – see original minutes)

The Chairman having thanked Ms Lynn for the report, it was:-

7. RESOLVED the report be received and noted.

Sunderland Healthwatch

The Chairman welcomed and introduced Alesha Aljeffri, Healthwatch Sunderland Manager, who was present to provide the Committee with a presentation on the operation of Healthwatch in the city.

(For copy presentation – see original minutes)

Ms. Aljeffri informed members that Healthwatch was an independent body, accountable to its membership of local people with a Governance Board made up of its members. It was the new independent consumer champion for both health and social services. As an organisation it was unique being a non-statutory body with statutory powers.

Ms. Aljeffri explained that Healthwatch in Sunderland had the following vision:-

- influencing health and social care delivery
- a strong, independent, trusted and effective voice and a champion for local people
- supporting people to access health and social care services
- striving to ensure the best possible quality and choice in health, social care and wellbeing services for the benefit of all living and working in the city

and had the following role:-

- Gathering views of local patients, public, service users and carers and making those views known to those who commission and provide local health and social care services
- Supporting the involvement / scrutiny by local people in the commissioning and provision of local health and social care services
- Providing information and signposting about health and care services to support local people to make informed choices
- Signposting them if they wish to complain, or get support to complain about these services.

The Healthwatch Sunderland Executive Board were recruited at the end of October 2013 and had met for the third time in May 2014. Ms. Aljeffri having explained the Healthwatch governance structure and progress made to date, concluded her presentation by outlining the following next steps:-

- Continue to raise awareness of the Information & Signposting service
- Recruit more Information Champions
- Work with partners to identify issues
- Review the current work plan
- Set up Task & Finish Groups (ongoing)

- Host the Healthwatch annual update event on 27th June

The Chairman thanked Ms Aljeffri for her attendance and it was:-

8. RESOLVED the presentation be received and noted.

Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) and Community Chest – 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).

Julie Lynn, Area Community Officer, presented the report highlighting the financial statement, details of 17 projects approved for support from the 2014/15 Community Chest budget as outlined in Annex 2 of the report together with details of 3 further SIB funding requests.

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

9. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the Area Committee's funding statement as detailed in paragraphs 2.1, and 3.1, of the report be received and noted, and
- (ii) approval be given to the recommendation of the People Board to the allocation of £5,000 SIB funding from the 2014/15 budget, towards the Safety Works Education Delivery Programme, subject to full application and consultation,
- (iii) approval be given to the recommendation of the People Board to the allocation of £60,000 SIB funding from the 2014/15 budget, towards the delivery of the Healthy Lifestyles Programme, subject to full application and consultation,
- (iv) approval be given to the recommendation of the Place Board to the allocation of £1,000 SIB funding from the 2014/15 budget, to fund Land Registry searches on privately owned land identified through the derelict land programme, subject to full application and consultation,
- (v) the approval of the 17 Community Chest applications as detailed in Annex 2 of the report be noted.

Current Planning Applications (West Area)

A schedule (copy circulated) of current planning applications lodged during the period 1st to 31st May 2014 was submitted for members information only.

(For copy schedule – see original minutes).

10. RESOLVED the schedule be received and noted.

The Chairman then closed the meeting having thanked everyone for their attendance and contributions and especially to Pallion Action Group for their kindness and assistance in hosting the meeting and the associated community event.

(Signed) P. GIBSON,
Chairman.