

At a meeting of the WEST SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE, SUNDERLAND on WEDNESDAY, 30TH JUNE, 2010 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor P. Gibson in the Chair

Councillors Allan, M. Dixon, Essl, Gofton, L. Martin, Morrissey, Oliver, Tye, P. Watson, A. Wilson, A. Wright and T. Wright.

Also Present:-

Chris Campbell	School Improvement Officer	Sunderland City Council
Les Clark	Head of Street Scene	Sunderland City Council
Angela Cousins	Area Community Co-ordinator	Sunderland City Council
Keith Hamilton	Deputy Manager, Planning and Implementation	Sunderland City Council
Judith Hay	Head of Positive Contribution and Economic Well-Being	Sunderland City Council
Marc Hopkinson	Acting Health Improvement Lead	Sunderland City Council
Andrew Jackman	Interim Assistant Head of Traffic Management	Sunderland City Council
Frances Kelly		Observing
William Leach		West Area Voluntary Sector Network
Keith Moore	Acting Executive Director of Children's Services and Area Lead Executive	Sunderland City Council
David Noon	Senior Democratic Services Officer	Sunderland City Council
David Owens		Member of the public
Richard Parry	Area Officer	Sunderland City Council
Jenny Scott	Policy Officer, Inclusion	Sunderland City Council

Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillor Old.

Declarations of Interest

Item No. 3 – Community Action in the West – Progress Review – SIB Funding Application – Education Business Connections

Councillors Allan, Essl, P. Watson and A. Wilson declared personal and prejudicial interests in the item as the applicant was a close associate and left the meeting taking no part in any consideration of, or decision on the application.

Councillor Tye declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the item as the Chair of a partner organisation to the application and left the meeting taking no part in any consideration of, or decision on the application.

Councillor Gofton declared a personal interest in the item as the applicant was known to her but elected to leave the meeting taking no part in any consideration of, or decision on the application.

Councillor P. Gibson declared a personal interest in the item as the applicant was known to him.

Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 26th May, 2010

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 26th May, 2010 be confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to the inclusion of Councillor M. Dixon in the list of those present.

Change in the Order of Business

It was agreed that item 3 on the agenda (Community Action: Identifying New Issues and Agreeing Actions) be considered at this juncture to allow Councillor Allan to attend another meeting thereafter. It was further agreed that consideration would then be given to item 4 on the agenda to allow Raj Singh to provide Members with a presentation and leave to attend another meeting.

Community Action: Reviewing Progress and Agreeing Next Steps

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which:-

- (i) briefed Members on issues previously identified through the 2009/10 Work Plan and provided an update on issues and actions arising.
- (ii) sought approval for recommendations in relation to the allocation of SIB and Community Chest funding.

(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 approve the granting of SIB funding of £15,000 to the Sunderland Fresh Water Angling Club as a contribution to the Silksworth Lake and Grounds Improvements project.
- (ii) to approve the granting of SIB funding of £11,543 to Education Business Connections as a contribution to the Community Leaders of the Future project.
- (iii) reject the application for £40,950 SIB funding received from Groundwork Trust in respect of the Green Team West project.
- (iv) to approve the 22 proposals for support from the 2010/11 Community Chest.

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

With regard to the Community Chest applications, a difference of opinion arose between Members as to the respective merits of considering the applications en masse, as had become custom and practice, or on an individual basis. Clarification was also sought regarding the removal from the report, of the brief descriptions of the purpose of each application and the legal position regarding applications from religious bodies.

By way of drawing the debate to a conclusion it was moved and duly seconded that the Community Chest applications be considered en masse.

Upon being put to the vote, the motion was defeated with 5 Members voting in favour and 6 Members voting against (the Chairman having exercised his casting vote against the motion).

Accordingly, it was:-

2. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the report be received and noted and that approval be given to Community Action Next Steps/Actions as detailed in Annex 1 of the report;
- (ii) approval be given to the granting of SIB funding of £15,000 from the 2010/11 budget to the Sunderland Fresh Water Angling Club as a contribution to the Silksworth Lake and Grounds Improvements project;
- (iii) approval be given to the granting of the SIB funding of £11,543 from the 2010/11 budget to Education Business Connections as a contribution to the Community Leaders of the Future project;
- (iv) the application for £40,950 SIB funding received from Groundwork Trust in respect of the Green Team West project be declined for the reasons as specified in the report; and

- (v) the 22 proposals received for support from the 2010/11 Community Chest as detailed in the report be declined.

Influencing Practice, Policy and Strategy

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Members with a detailed child poverty profile in relation to the West Sunderland Area.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

To complement the report Raj Singh, Extended Services and Attendance Group Manager, provided Members with a powerpoint presentation on the consultation process for Sunderland's Child Poverty Strategy and Action Plan – "Giving Every Child an Equal Chance". Members were informed that the vision behind the Strategy was "to ensure that all Council Services and Local Partners were working in a joined up way to do everything possible to reduce child poverty and mitigate its effects in the City and ensure that today's children don't become parents of poor children in 2005".

The Timeline for the Child Poverty Strategy would be as follows:-

Draft Sunderland Child Poverty Strategy Consultation Consultation will take place from 25 th June to 17 September 2010. Formal and informal consultation via e-mail and focus groups.	June 2010
Local Child Needs Assessment Poverty Needs Assessment being completed between July and September 2010.	July 2010
Analysis of the Consultation responses and Needs Assessment Analysis of the Consultation and Needs Assessment, with revisions made to the Draft Sunderland Child Poverty Strategy.	September 2010
Sunderland Child Poverty Strategy Revised Strategy to Cabinet and Sunderland Partnership December 2010.	December 2010
National Strategy A National Strategy is expected by Spring 2011.	Jan/Feb 2011

Mr. Singh concluded his presentation by advising Members that any comments on the consultation could be e-mailed directly to him by the closing date.

The Chairman having thanked Mr. Singh for his presentation, it was:-

3. RESOLVED that the report and presentation be received and noted.

Community Action in the West – Identifying New Issues and Agreeing Actions (2010/11 Work Plan)

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided information on the progress made in relation to its 6 Work Plan priorities as agreed at its last meeting held on 26th May, 2010.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Richard Parry, Area Officer presented the report and introduced Les Clark, Head of Street Scene and Keith Hamilton, Deputy Manager, Planning Implementation with regard to the Environment and Street Scene priority, Marc Hopkinson, Acting Health Improvement Lead, with regard to Health and Well-Being, Andrew Jackman, Interim Assistant Head of Traffic Management, with regard to Traffic and Parking and Judith Hay, Head of Positive Contribution and Economic Well-Being, with regard to Youth and Play.

The Officers having updated the Committee in relation to current activities to deliver the priorities and addressed questions and comments thereon, it was:-

4. RESOLVED that:-
 - (i) the report be received and noted;
 - (ii) it be noted that performance data relating to new issues raised would be evidenced through Customer Insight Information from September, 2010; and
 - (iii) approval be given to the proposals of the Environment and Street Scene, the Health and Well-Being and the Traffic and Parking Task and Finish Groups as detailed in the report and appendix thereto.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

5. RESOLVED that it be noted that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday, 7th September, 2010 at 5.30 p.m.

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

(Signed) P. GIBSON,
Chairman.