

At a meeting of the SOUTH SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE on MONDAY, 2ND JUNE, 2008 at 5.30 P.M.

Present:-

Councillor Tye in the Chair

Councillors M. Dixon, E. Gibson, P. Gibson, Oliver, P. Smith and Vardy.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors A. Wright and Errington.

Minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 3rd March, 2008

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 3rd March, 2008 (copy circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Declarations of Interest

Item 6 – Children and Young People's Participation Strategy – 2008-2013

Councillor P. Gibson declared a personal interest in the item as the Chairman of Governors of Farringdon Community Sports College.

Item 11 – Regeneration Issues Report: Feedback on Projects Previously Funded Through Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB)

Councillor P. Gibson declared a personal interest in the item as the Chairman of Governors at Farringdon Community Sports College.

Item 12 – Strategic Initiatives Budget Update

Councillor P. Smith declared a personal interest in the item as Vice Chairman of Silksworth Community Association.

Item 13 – SIB Regeneration Issues Report

Councillor P. Smith declared a personal interest in the item as a governor of Plains Farm Primary School.

Item 15 – Strategic Initiatives Budget 2008/2009 Ward Based Community Chest

Councillors E. Gibson and P. Gibson declared a personal interest in the item as members of the South Forum Committee.

Councillor E. Gibson declared a personal interest as a member of the Friends of Doxford Park.

At this juncture the Chairman welcomed everyone to the Committee, particularly the newly elected Councillors. He hoped that the Committee could work together during the next year to support projects that would benefit the south area.

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

A Police representative was in attendance and presented the report (copy circulated) detailing crimes committed in each ward of the South Sunderland area for the period 1st January, 2007 to 31st December, 2007 in comparison with the same period for 2006.

The Committee were advised that known perpetrators of recent anti-social behaviour incidents were currently in prison, which would have an effect on the statistics.

Councillor P. Gibson stated that he had received a number of telephone calls in relation to break-ins at the Newport Allotments and understood that the CCTV camera focussing on that area was broken. The Police advised that they had not received any phone calls regarding crime at the allotments and were therefore unaware of any problems.

Councillor P. Smith advised that she was concerned about under-age drinking in Silksworth. The problem arose from older youths buying alcohol from supermarkets for under-age children.

The Police advised that they do try to target certain well known hot spots.

Councillor Oliver stated that there were alcohol restricted zones on the large lake at Herrington Country Park but Middle Herrington Park does not appear to have signs informing people about the restricted zones. Councillor Oliver questioned what the process for having signs installed was.

Jim Wotherspoon, Solicitor, advised that all parks were designated alcohol free zones, though it was apparent some lacked signage. Proposals could be made to Alan Mitchell, Community Safety Co-ordinator and Phil Spooner, Programme Manager, regarding new areas to be designated or the erection of new signs.

Councillor E. Gibson noted that drugs offences had increased and asked what the reasons for this were. The Police advised that the majority of cases were not major incidents and usually involved stop checks on young people found to be in possession of Cannabis.

Minutes of the meetings of the Local Multi Agency Problem Solving Group

The Chairman advised that he felt the revised format for the LMAPS minutes were too sanitised and felt that as a consequence they gave little valuable information.

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

Children and Young People's Participation Strategy 2008-2013

The Chairman advised that this item had been postponed due to the representative being unable to attend.

Residents Survey – Future of Adult Social Care 2007

The Director of Health, Housing and Adult Services submitted a report (copy circulated) to inform Members of the results of a Residents Survey about the future of adult social care for 2007 which was undertaken as part of the Council's planning in responding to the Government's White Paper "Our Health, Our Care, Our Say", specifically the development of the Council's 15 year commissioning framework for adult social care and its 3 year Delivery Plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Pauline Blyth, Head of Business Support and Workforce Development, was in attendance and presented the report. She advised that the Council would use the information to provide a more localised engagement with residents about their needs and preferences – to inform planning for adult social care at a local level.

Councillor P. Smith commented that the survey appeared to echo the research conducted for the Plains Farm Charter which it was hoped would be specifically tailored to meet neighbourhood priorities and needs.

The Chairman, having thanked Ms. Blyth for her report, it was:

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

World Book Day

The Director of Community and Cultural Services submitted a report (copy circulated) to inform Members of World Book Day (WBD) which took place on Thursday, 6th March, 2008.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Ann Hall, Service Support Officer, was in attendance and provided Members with details of library service activities and events to celebrate World Book Day in the Sunderland South area.

Councillor P. Gibson stated that the figure of 544 new library members as a result of World Book Day was excellent and commented that it certainly seemed to be an activity worth repeating. He also commented that the exercise of travelling with commuters on trains seemed to be an effective means of engaging people in World Book Day.

4. RESOLVED that the contents of 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 for the period 1st September, 2007 – 31st March, 2008.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Anne Hall, Service Support Officer, Culture and Tourism, presented the report and detailed some of the wide ranging events that were part of the programme which were high quality and well attended, attracting substantial media interest and significant economic spend.

Councillor P. Smith advised that the City Sings events were an excellent way of engaging young people in music. She also advised that Herrington Country Park would be an ideal venue for a youth music event.

Ms. Hall advised that music in the City would be a priority of the Head of Culture and Tourism.

Councillor Vardy queried what capacity the music events would have at Herrington Park. Ms. Hall advised that the improvements to entrance to

Herrington Park were being considered. A scoping exercise would take place to determine possible capacity for audiences. In response to a question from Councillor Dixon, Ms. Hall advised that Sunderland were trying to do something different to South Shields whereby music events would have a focus very much on young people.

The Chairman advised that he would like the report to have focussed in greater detail on events in the South area, for example, the Remembrance Parade at Silksworth was always extremely well attended and a very significant event was not mentioned.

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

Northern Children's Book Festival

The Director of Community and Cultural Services submitted a report (copy circulated) to inform Members of the Northern Children's Book Festival which was held from 5th-17th November, 2007 culminating in the Gala Day at Crowtree Leisure Centre on Saturday, 17th November, 2007.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Anne Hall was in attendance to present the report and advised that the Book Festival was an annual regional event held each November over two weeks to promote the love of reading and books to children as well as parents/carers and teachers who also gain new knowledge and enthusiasm.

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

Regeneration Issues Report: Feedback on Projects Previously Funded through Strategic Initiatives Budget

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 has previously funded.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Jemma Cole, Project Manager for Capacity Building Project, Farringdon Jubilee Centre, provided Members with an update on the project.

Councillor P. Gibson commented that Blue Watch was already a project in the East that engaged young people and encouraged them to participate in a range of activities and he therefore queried why the Jubilee Centre Project was engaging in partnership work with Blue Watch.

Ms. Cole advised that partnership working had commenced with Blue Watch prior to the boundary change. Blue Watch could deliver Duke of Edinburgh

awards and the partnership working had helped to address the lack of youth facilities in Farringdon.

Councillor Oliver commended the Jubilee Centre on the good work it carried out and queried whether a move towards jobs/skills based training would attract more funding.

Ms. Cole advised that Learning and Skills Council money was on the whole related to worklessness and courses offering work related training did attract funding.

In response to a query from Councillor Oliver regarding the definition of an electronic village hall, Ms. Cole advised that these offered free access to computer-based equipment and resources in a community setting led by the Digital Challenge Team.

The Chairman thanked Jemma Cole for her feedback.

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

Strategic Initiatives Budget Update

The Director of Development and Regeneration submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide Members with an update on live projects for which the Area Committee has previously approved funding through its Strategic Initiatives Budget.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor P. Gibson raised a query in relation to Chelmsford Street Community Safety Initiative. Funding had been sought to 'gate' Chelmsford Street, a private, non-adopted highway, by installing a fence and gate at either end of it which would counter anti-social behaviour. Councillor Gibson advised that following a meeting with Mr. Ken Heads, Development and Regeneration, he had been informed that the 'development' was now subject to a Stopping Up Order which could take up to 10 months to progress.

Residents had been given notice of the Council's intention to make the order and had been asked to sign an agreement. Councillor Gibson felt this was a deviation from what had been initially agreed.

Mr. Richard Parry, Area Regeneration Officer, advised that he was unaware of the Stopping Up Order and he agreed to contact Jennifer Penman, Project Manager, to ascertain the situation.

Councillor P. Gibson also raised concerns in relation to the A690 Youth Initiative. Councillor Gibson believed that young people from outside of the South Sunderland Area were engaging in community work in Silksworth. As a

consequence, rewards funded by the project, were being given to young people from Thorney Close.

The Chairman concurred with Councillor Gibson. He informed the Committee that he had written to the project to request details of the young people involved in the 'Dreamscheme' but was advised that due to data protection issues, access to the figures would need to be sought via the Youth Development Group.

The Chairman proposed that further payments to the Dreamscheme initiative be suspended to allow the issue above to be looked at in greater detail. The Chairman advised that the survey should be carried out as quickly as possible (within 2/3 weeks) to ensure there is no adverse impact on the initiative.

8. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) Mr. Parry contact Jennifer Penman, Project Manager, Chelmsford Street Residents Group to ascertain the current situation regarding a Stopping Up Order in relation to the initiative.
- (ii) Funding in relation to the A690 Youth Initiative be temporarily suspended while an enquiry is carried out in relation to where the young people carrying out Dreamscheme work in the Silksworth area are from.

Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) Regeneration Issues Report

The Director of Development and Regeneration submitted a report (copy circulated) on the proposed allocation of SIB funding to support the following initiatives of benefit to the area:

- i) Plains Farm Primary School's Premier Play Project;
- ii) the approval of projects previously considered, subject to budget approval, from the 2008/9 budget;
- iii) Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Services Phoenix Project.

Mr. Richard Parry, Area Regeneration Officer, presented the report and advised that the applications for funding before the Committee were requesting £11,000 from the 2008/9 budget. Should the Committee agree this request, and endorse projects previously agreed subject to budget approval for financial year 2008/9 in annex 3 to the report, £36,708 would be committed from the 2008/9 budget, leaving a balance of £163,292.

Mr. Parry provided Members with a summary of each application and introduced Mrs. Thirlwell, Headteacher from Plains Farm Primary School who was present to address any comments or questions from Members.

The Chairman stated that it was important to ensure that the school building, as a community facility, remained open. The Chairman was advised that the school would be advertising for a casual key holder to ensure the school was accessible at all times.

The Chairman, having thanked Mrs. Thirlwell for her presentation, it was:

9. RESOLVED that:-
- (i) £11,000 from the 1008/9 budget as a contribution to Plains Farm Primary School's 'Premier Play' project be approved;
 - (ii) Projects previously considered, subject to budget approval, from the 2008/9 budget be approved;
 - (iii) the extension and variation of previously agreed funding for Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Services ' Phoenix Project' be approved.

Strategic Initiatives Budget: 2008/9 Ward Based Community Chest – the return of unclaimed approvals

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to agree the return of funding for unclaimed community chest approvals from 2005/06 for re-allocation and to carry forward unallocated Community Chest budget from 2007/2008 into 2008/2009.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

10. RESOLVED that:
- (i) the return of unclaimed approvals from 2005/2006 for re-allocation be approved; and
 - (ii) the Committee agree to carry forward unallocated Community Chest budget from 2007/2008 into 2008/2009.

Strategic Initiatives Budget: 2007/2008 Ward Based Community Chest

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

(For copy report – see original minutes).

11. RESOLVED that approval be given to the fourteen projects recommended for support from the 2008/09 budget with a total of £7,620 as detailed in Annex 1 and 1A to the report.

The Chairman thanked Members and Officers for their attendance and closed the meeting.

(Signed) P.M. TYE,
Chairman.