

**At a meeting of the WEST SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE, SUNDERLAND on WEDNESDAY 15<sup>th</sup> JANUARY, 2014 at 5.30 p.m.**

**Present:-**

Councillor P. Gibson in the Chair

Councillors Allan, Atkinson, Dixon, L. Martin, Gofton, Oliver, P. Smith, Tye, P. Watson, S. Watson and A. Wilson.

**Also Present:-**

Bill Blackett	Area Response Manager	Sunderland City Council
Simone Common	West Locality Ops Manager	Sunderland City Council
Kevin Douglas	Media Officer	Sunderland City Council
Janet Johnson	Area Lead Executive	Sunderland City Council
Bill Leach	Representative	VCS Area Network
Julie Lynn	Area Community Officer	Sunderland City Council
Chris Marshall	Head of Operations	Gentoo
David Noon	Principal Governance Services Officer	Sunderland City Council
Julie Parker	Public Health Lead	Sunderland City Council
Helen Peverley	Area Co-ordinator	Sunderland City Council
Dave Pickett	Inspector	Northumbria Police
Edna Rochester	Representative	VCS Area Network
Kieran Skye	Representative	Youth Almighty
Lawrence Snowball	Representative	Youth Almighty
Berni Whitaker	Enterprise Manager	Sunderland City Council
Jeff Wilkinson	Station Manager	Tyne & Wear Fire & Rescue Service

**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 Essl, Porthouse, Turton and Waller and also from Anita Heskett-Saddington of the VCS Area Network.

**Declarations of Interest**

Item 5, paragraph 6.5 SIB allocation to support the delivery of work placements for young people –

Councillor Tye made an open declaration of interest in the report as Chairman of the Youth Almighty Project. Councillor Atkinson made an open declaration as a Council appointed member of the Youth Almighty Project. Councillor A. Wilson made an open declaration as a Member of the Board of Pallion Action Group. All three members left the room during the consideration of the item and took no part in the consideration or decision thereon.

### **Minutes of the Last Meeting**

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last ordinary meeting of the Committee held on 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2013 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

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

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)

Edna Rochester of AVCSN and Julie Lynn, Area Community Officer presented the report highlighting:-

- i) the continued support from the network in relation to health partnership working. In this regard the Network had received presentations from Sunderland CCG and the Council's Public Health team highlighting health issues in West Sunderland,
- ii) the forthcoming attendance of the Council's Procurement Team at a Network meeting to offer advice following concerns raised by VCSN as part of the transition project that funding and resources were becoming an issue
- 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 projects within the West Area which had received funding from the Big Lottery 'Do a Lotta Good Fund'

Edna Rochester having praised the work undertaken by Sainsburys in the dispatch of the food parcels, the Chairman thanked her for her report, and it was:-

2. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

### **Report of the Northumbria Police – Sunderland West**

Dave Pickett 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 1<sup>st</sup> April to 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2013 and the percentage increase / decrease against the previous reporting period. 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.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Members were informed that all crime as an overall figure was slightly over the average figure for West Sunderland. Key Challenges remained violent crime, burglary from dwelling and crimes against motor vehicles. With regard to violent crime and in particular domestic violence, Inspector Pickett advised that in addition to the work being undertaken with the Probation Service and Wearside Women in Need to tackle the issue, the programme had also been extended to Gentoo.

Excessive alcohol consumption was also a recurring problem. The Pub Watch Scheme had recently been launched in Sunderland with 7 pubs signed up to date and hopes that it would expand significantly.

Northumbria Police were also piloting a body worn video camera trial with 17 cameras currently being worn by Officers whilst carrying out their duties.

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)

Councillor A. Wilson noted that shoplifting had increased noticeably in a number of the West Wards. She asked whether the perpetrators were new, known to the Police or perhaps people on benefits driven by desperation following changes to the system. Inspector Pickett advised that there was no particular evidence to suggest that they were crimes of desperation however economic factors could not be ruled out as a contributing factor. In the main, the shoplifters were a mixture known and new offenders the latter being mainly young people stealing on a whim.

Councillor Gofton welcomed the body worn cameras as offering protection for both the Police and the public and expressed an interest in hearing the results of the pilot when they were available.

Councillor Oliver stated that he was interested in Inspector Pickett's comments regarding domestic violence and was aware that it was a priority of the Police and Crime Commissioner, he noted however that the figures were not recorded separately. Inspector Pickett confirmed that for the purposes of statistical reporting they were recorded within the category of Violent Crime and represented 50% of that total.

Councillor Allan advised that he had received an increase in concerns raised by elderly residents regarding distraction burglaries. He asked if there was any evidence of this or was it just a perception. Inspector Pickett advised that there was no evidence. The increase in fear amongst the elderly was perhaps a side effect of a recent burglary awareness campaign. Although distraction burglaries were not unknown the vast majority of burglaries were opportunist crimes against an unsecured property.

The Chairman having thanked Inspector Pickett for his attendance it was:-

3. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

### **Change in the Order of Business**

The Chairman advised that he was aware that Jeff Wilkinson of the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service was running late and therefore his report would be moved down the running order of the agenda to accommodate his attendance.

### **Place Board Progress Report.**

The Chairman of the West Sunderland Area Place Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update of progress against the current year's Place Board Work Plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

The Chairman presented the report drawing Members' attention to the initiation of action towards achieving key priorities as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report together with a summary of key areas of influence and achievements of the Place Board in relation to Responsive Local Services, Highways Capital Maintenance, Shopping Centres, Public Protection and Regulatory Services and Environment and Street Scene Improvements as at 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2013. The Chairman then introduced Bill Blackett, Area Response Manager, who briefed members on the improvement scheme at Bishopwearmouth Cemetery following a meeting he had attended with the friends of the cemetery that afternoon.

With regard to the Shopping Centres aspect of the report, Councillor Gofton placed on record her thanks to the Officers concerned in assisting the Board to deliver the Business Support Offer to the traders in Pallion Shopping Centre. Helen Peverley, Area Coordinator advised that she would pass on Councillor Gofton's thanks to the officers involved, especially those in the Business Investment Team.

Councillor Tye having commended the prompt action taken to carry out resurfacing work to Newport Grove, it was:-

4. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted

### **People Board Progress Report.**

The Chairman of the West Sunderland Area People Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update on progress against the current year's People Board Work Plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Atkinson presented the report drawing Members' attention to the initiation of action towards achieving the key priorities as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report, together with a summary of key areas of influence and achievements of the People Board in relation to Early Intervention and Locality Based Services, Youth Contracts, Welfare Reform, Transformation of Adult Social Care, Job Prospects, Health and Well Being and Libraries as at 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2013.

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

5. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

**Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB), Community Chest and Healthy Cities Investment Fund (HCIF) – 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 including an update on the allocation of Community Chest, SIP and SIB funding, together with details of 21 approvals for support from the 2013/14 Community Chest budget as detailed in Annex 7 of the report together with details of further funding requests.

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

6. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the Area Committee's funding statement as detailed in paragraphs 2.1, 3.1, 4.1, and 5.1 be received and noted,
- (ii) approval be given to the allocation of £26, 973 SIB funding from the 2013/14 budget, to Plains Farm Community Centre (as Lead Organisation) towards the development of the West Area Hub as detailed in paragraph 2.2 and Annex1 of the report,
- (iii) approval be given to allocation of £10,600 SIB funding from the 2013/14 budget, to Gentoo as match funding in respect of the creation of 18 car parking spaces at Lakeside Towers subject to full application, consultation and appraisal, with Gentoo funding 50% of capital costs and covering the on going maintenance costs as detailed in Annex 2 of the report,
- (iv) approval be given to the allocation of £48,000 (£8,000 per ward) SIB funding from the 2013/14 budget to support the extension of the Walk and Talk programme to incorporate People and Place issues, as detailed in Annex 3 of the report and subject to full application, consultation and appraisal,

- (v) approval be given to the allocation of £45,000 SIB funding from the 2013/14 budget to each of the following three applicants, Farringdon Jubilee Centre, Youth Almighty / Pallion Action Group Partnership and Community Opportunities (SNCBC) (£135,000 in total) to support the development and delivery of a work placement programme for NEET young people resident in West Sunderland, as detailed in annex 4 to the report
- (vi) approval be given to the allocation of £11,000 SIB funding from the 2013/14 budget to support the development and delivery of a pilot enterprise scheme to establish 10 new businesses in the West Sunderland Area as detailed in annex 5 to the report,
- (vii) approval be given to the allocation of £54,400 SIP funding to provide for capital improvements at Bishopwearmouth Cemetery, Barnes Park extension and North View Playing Fields as detailed in Annex 6 to the report subject to full application, consultation and appraisal,
- (viii) the approval of the 21 Community Chest applications as detailed in Annex 7 of the report be noted.

### **Report of the Tyne and Wear Fire Service**

Jeff Wilkinson of the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service (TWFRS) presented a report (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with an update on the Service's performance indicators for the period 1<sup>st</sup> October to 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2013 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 were none),
- iii) accidental fires in domestic properties (1),
- iv) deliberate property fires (1),
- v) deliberate vehicle fires (1)
- vi) the number of secondary fires not involving property or road vehicles started deliberately (71)

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Mr Wilkinson advised that the decrease in Anti Social Behaviour fires was particularly pleasing. Members were also advised that the consultation document in respect of the review of the Fire Services Operational Response was available on the TWFRS web site.

Councillor T Wright having congratulated the Services at having achieved 8<sup>th</sup> place in the top 100 companies in the 2014 Stonewall Equality Index, the Chairman thanked Mr Wilkinson for his report and it was:-

5. RESOLVED the report be received and noted.

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

(Signed) P. GIBSON,  
Chairman.