

**At a meeting of the WASHINGTON AREA COMMITTEE held at the SIXTH FORM STUDY ROOM, ST ROBERTS RC SCHOOL on THURSDAY, 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH, 2011 at 6.00 p.m.**

**Present:-**

Councillor Kelly in the Chair

Councillors Chamberlin, Cuthbert, Fletcher, Miller, Padgett, Scaplehorn, Snowdon, Timmins, D. Trueman, H. Trueman, P. Walker and Williams.

Ian Richardson	-	City Services
Mike Poulter	-	City Services
John Rostron	-	City Services
Vicky Medhurst	-	City Services
Kari Vickers	-	City Services
Brian Hodgkinson	-	City Services
Craig Wilkinson	-	City Services
Charlotte Burnham	-	Chief Executive's
Karon Purvis	-	Chief Executive's
Lorraine Hughes	-	Children's Services
Dawn Shearsmith	-	Children's Services
Neil Revely	-	Health, Housing and Adult Services
Andrea Seymour	-	Commercial and Corporate Services
Paul Wood	-	Commercial and Corporate Services
John Chapman	-	Gentoo
G. Gibson	-	Sunderland TPCT
Surann Valentine	-	Area VCS Network Representative
George Thompson	-	Area VCS Network Representative

Members of the Washington Community.

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors I. Richardson and Wake.

**Declarations of Interest**

Item 2b – Annex 2 – The Washington Heritage Centre and Washington Heritage Offer Feasibility Study

Councillor Miller declared a personal interest as Chair of Bowes Railway and Managing Director of TWEBLO.

#### Item 2c – Financial Statements and Proposals

The Chairman declared personal and prejudicial interests in the Community Chest application for Usworth Miners Banner as a Member of the Group and the SIB application for Usworth Grange Primary School as Chair of Governors for the School. The Chairman also declared a personal interest in the Washington Heritage Festival application as a Member of the Steering Group.

Councillor Miller declared personal and prejudicial interests in the Community Chest and SIB applications for Holley Park Primary School as Vice Chair of Governors for the School.

Councillor Padgett declared personal interests in the Community Chest applications as Governor of Fatfield Primary School and John F Kennedy School.

Councillor Cuthbert declared a personal interest in the Community Chest application for Fatfield Primary School as a Governor and that his daughter attended the School.

Councillor H. Trueman declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the Community Chest application for Columbia Grange School as a Governor of the School.

Councillor Snowdon declared personal interests in the Community Chest applications as a Governor of John F Kennedy School and her husband being a Governor at Columbia Grange School. Councillor Snowdon also declared a personal interest in the SIB application for Washington Heritage Festival as a Member of the Steering Group.

Councillor Walker declared personal interests in the Community Chest applications for Roseberry Court and Peacehaven Court as an employee for Gentoo. Councillor Walker also declared personal and prejudicial interests in the SIB applications for St. Bedes School and Albany School as he was a Governor at both Schools.

Councillor Williams declared personal interests in the Community Chest applications as a Member of the Glebe Banner Group and as a Governor of Wessington Primary School.

#### **Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2011**

In response to Councillor Miller's query on the timeframe for the report on the issues of access at Princess Anne Park, Karon Purvis, Area Officer, advised that she would look into the matter.

Councillor H. Trueman advised that he would take up the issue of excessive noise at Wessington Pub which was raised by Mr. Bill Craddock.

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2011 (copy circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

## **Community Action in Washington: Progress Review**

### **2011/12 Priorities and Workplan**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) updating Members on the progress of developing the 2011/12 Workplan and the priorities that had been identified for the Washington area through this process.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Purvis presented the report and informed Members of the progress to date.

2. RESOLVED that Members:-

- i) noted the update on the development of the 2011/12 Workplan and progress made; and
- ii) agreed to receive the final plan at the June Committee for agreement.

### **Workplan 2010/11 and Task Group Updates**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) providing the Committee with an update on progress against the agreed actions in the current year's (2010/11) Workplan and progress reports on the Task Group Updates.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Chairman introduced Surann Valentine who provided the Committee with an update of the work being undertaken by the Voluntary Community Sector.

The Chairman commented that Members may find it useful for Ms. Valentine to give an update on the VCS at each future meeting of the Committee, which was agreed by Members.

In relation to paragraph 3.2 of the report Kari Vickers, Arts and Creative Development Manager, gave an update on Job Linkage advising that they were negotiating with potential contractors to provide work programmes.

In relation to paragraph 3.3, Ms. Vickers informed the Committee that there had been complications in awarding the commission of the Skills and Employment Demand Study and they were now hoping to award the Contract the week commencing 11<sup>th</sup> April.

Ms. Vickers also advised that Ms. Purvis had been invited to the inception meeting so that the Study would be delivered to the Washington Area Committee's specifications.

In response to Councillor Miller's enquiry, Ms. Vickers advised that she would investigate if the draft business case for the Washington Managed Workspace had been sent to One North East.

The Chairman commented that he was a little bemused the business workspace survey had been carried out by a company in Warrington and not a company based in Washington.

Councillor Miller commented that the fact the survey was male orientated was not ideal either.

Ms. Vickers agreed that she would look at the issue and provide further background information.

The Chairman introduced Brian Hodgkinson, Washington Area Response Manager, who advised that the service was now live, with the structures including an Area Response Officer and five Ward Team Leaders.

Mr. Hodgkinson commented that there were a number of issues in Washington which were high priority such as dog fouling and littering which the team was using enforcement measures to combat.

In response to Councillor Scaplehorn's query Mr. Hodgkinson advised that Members could contact him directly as he would be the first port of call but he did want the five Ward Team Leaders to have a hands on role also.

Councillor Padgett wished to thank Mr. Hodgkinson for his efforts as all issues he had raised had been solved.

Councillor Chamberlin also wished to compliment Mr. Hodgkinson for the quick responses she had received and enquired if it would be feasible to get Ward specific statistics.

Mr. Hodgkinson advised that they did intend to log all intelligence and try to identify by Ward.

In response to Councillor Walker's query, Mr. Hodgkinson advised that should he be absent the Area Response Officer would take responsibility of any duties.

### Washington Heritage

The Office of the Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide the Committee with an update on the draft Washington Heritage Centre/Washington Heritage Offer Feasibility Study which was approved by Area Committee at its March 2010 meeting.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Graeme Bell, NE Civic Trust, presented the report and ran through the Conclusions and Recommendations of the Study.

Mr. Craddock wished to add Holy Trinity Church and Springwell Church to the list of venues available.

### **Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) – Deployment Programme**

The Executive Director of City Services submitted a report (copy circulated) to update the Committee about investigations carried out with respect to the prioritisation of sites for the deployment of VAS within Washington and to request the Committee's endorsement to implement the sites in Appendix 1 of the report.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Craig Wilkinson, Senior Project Engineer, presented the report and was on hand to answer Members' queries.

Councillor Cuthbert commented that the results were based on accidents that had been reported yet there were incidents which would not have been reported. Councillor Cuthbert also queried the definition for close vicinity of schools.

Mr. Wilkinson advised that the vicinity of schools was based on geographical location rather than a specific distance and enquired if Councillor Cuthbert felt there were sites missing.

Councillor Cuthbert commented that he had concerns over Vigo Lane and Fallowfield Way and he was surprised that they had scored so low.

Councillor Cuthbert also commented that his main concern was that there were only 20 possible locations with only one sign on average per Ward and perhaps this was not enough.

Mr. Wilkinson referred to paragraph 2.2 of the report which advised on how the available funding had been used and stated that if Members wished for additional signs, more funding would be required.

The Chairman advised that they had used the funding that was available and could look at the subject again, should future funds become obtainable.

Councillor Chamberlin suggested that the Crowther Road priority be reconsidered.

Councillor Miller commented that both Emerson and Crowther Road were not near residential areas and they had asked for that to be looked at, but acknowledged speeding was an issue, especially at Crowther.

Councillor Chamberlin suggested that Castle Road be given special consideration as it had three schools located on it.

The Chairman advised that if a particular issue arose then the signs could be moved but the current recommendations were based on speeding figures and if Members decided against Officers' advice on the location of signs, should an accident occur Members may be held responsible.

Councillor Miller agreed and commented that it had been considered in great depth and he was happy with the rankings although there may be issues with Crowther. Councillor Miller also stated that the signs were expensive and if we could obtain funding for more, it would be great, but five signs at present was better than nothing.

Councillor H. Trueman commented that the signs had a limited time of effectiveness so they should be moved to different areas and we had five to use and let's see how they work.

Councillor Snowdon wished to clarify that Parkway, mentioned in Appendix 1, was actually two separate roads, Parkway East and West.

In response to Councillor Miller's enquiry, Mr. Wilkinson advised that the delay in the process was due to a level of manufacturing involved once the signs were procured.

As Councillor Chamberlin disagreed with the proposed locations/rankings, the recommendation was put to the vote, with nine voting in favour and one voting against, it was:-

3. RESOLVED that Members:-
  - i) note the progress report of the Health and Wellbeing Task and Finish Group;
  - ii) note the progress reports for the Employment and Business Task and Finish Group;
  - iii) note the progress with regard to the Call for Projects for the Education and Skills programme for Young People in Washington;
  - iv) note the Washington Heritage Centre/Washington Heritage Offer Feasibility Study Overview as detailed in Section 5.1 of the report and to receive further detailed information from NE Civic Trust in respect of the findings;
  - v) note the report and content of the draft Washington Heritage Centre/ Washington Heritage Offer Feasibility Study (February 2011);
  - vi) approve Working in Collaboration to make progress with regard to proposed recommendations and ways forward as detailed in the draft Washington Heritage Centre/Washington Heritage Offer Feasibility Study (February 2011);
  - vii) note the recommendation in Community Action in Washington: Progress Review 3e Financial Statements and Proposals, to allocate a nominal budget

of £76,840 to commence delivering the recommendations of the draft Washington Heritage Centre/Washington Heritage Offer Feasibility Study;

- viii) note that the Executive Director of City Services be requested to implement the Washington Area Committee's deployment programme for Vehicle Activated Signs, at the locations ranked 1 to 20 in Appendix 1 of the report (Annex 3) and that the site at Manor Road be a reserve site should problems occur with the establishment or use of a VAS sign at any of the sites ranked 1 to 20.

## **Financial Statements and Proposals**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to request the Committee's consideration of proposals for the allocation of the Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB), the Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) and Community Chest to support initiatives that would benefit the area.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

As the Chairman declared personal and prejudicial interests in the Community Chest Item and the SIB application for Usworth Grange Primary School, Councillor Scaplehorn took the Chair during consideration of those items.

In relation to the Community Chest applications for Washington East Ward, Councillor Padgett requested that the Harraton & District CA contribution be deferred and the Harraton Centre Sunderland Futures Contribution be increased to £700, which was duly agreed.

In relation to the SIB application for the Remix Project at Washington Arts Centre, Councillor Cuthbert commented that it was a worthy project that he was willing to support but had concerns this would become an annual request.

Mr. Purvis advised it had been made clear that this was a new project.

In response to Councillor Chamberlin's query, it was advised that the project was separate but would be built on from the previous project.

Councillor H. Trueman commented that he backed the project 100%.

In relation to the Usworth Grange Primary School application, Councillor Cuthbert requested clarification on the existing security system and if the requirements had changed.

A representative from the school advised that the current installation did not meet the current standards, with particular reference to safeguarding and that the proposal also included an extension of the system to cater for areas of the school that were not covered.

In relation to the SIB application for a Learning Landscape at Albany Primary School, Councillor Chamberlin queried the large amount of funding requested.

The representative for the project advised that there would be a variety of areas, including an allotment which would develop children's wellbeing. Once they had the garden, they were looking for it to be self sustainable.

In response to Councillor Chamberlin's query, the representative of the project advised that an architect based in Sunderland would be commissioned to design the plans for the commercial landscapers.

Councillor H. Trueman felt that these facilities were fantastic and was delighted to see them going ahead and advised Members to visit for themselves.

Councillor Chamberlin commented that Councillors still had a duty to scrutinise spending.

In relation to the allocation of £11,880 to the Phoenix Project, the Chairman advised that this was a request for a second year of funding for a project which was agreed at the November 2009 Committee meeting, dependent on how much of the project would be based in the Washington area.

In response to Ms. Purvis advising that there was evidence that they had targeted the Washington area, Councillor Chamberlin commented that it would have been preferable to see a report on the matter.

Councillor Cuthbert proposed the decision be delegated to the Chairman once he had seen a report evidencing the work carried out in the Washington area.

The Chairman agreed and commented that he felt an officer should have been present at the meeting to answer any queries.

4. RESOLVED that Members:-

- i) note the financial statement set out in Section 2.1 of the report;
- ii) approve 43 of the 44 proposals for support from 2010/11 Community Chest as detailed in Annex 1a with the Harraton and District CA proposal being deferred and the Harraton Centre Sunderland Futures proposal being altered to £700;
- iii) approve the seven proposals for support from the 2011/12 Community Chest as detailed in Appendix 1b (subject to budget approval of 2011/12 allocation);
- iv) approve £4,000 as a contribution from the 2010/11 SIB budget for the All about Learning Project at St. Bedes Primary School;
- v) approve £11,000 as a contribution from the 2010/11 SIB budget for the School Security at Usworth Grange Primary School;



- vi) approve £13,000 as a contribution from the 2010/11 SIB budget for the Facilities to Ride at Strong Riding Centre for the Disabled;
- vii) approve £25,000 as a contribution from the 2010/11 SIB budget for the Washington Heritage Festival 2011;
- viii) approve £24,780 as a contribution from the 2010/11 SIB budget for the Remix project at Washington Arts Centre;
- ix) approve £14,600 as a contribution from the 2010/11 SIB budget for the Learning Landscape Project at Albany Primary School;
- x) approve £25,000 as a contribution from the 2010/11 SIB budget for Community Facilities at Holley Park Primary School, dependent on the school confirming match funding being in place no later than March 2012. Should match funding not be confirmed, the SIB grant of £25,000 would be recouped back to the budget allocation;
- xi) confirm the allocation of the second year funding to the Phoenix Project as detailed in Section 2.3.4 of the report subject to sufficient evidence being provided;
- xii) agree to allocate a nominal budget of £76,840 to deliver the recommendations of the Washington Heritage Offer Feasibility Study as detailed in Section 2.3.5 of the report.

Before closing the meeting the Chairman wished to thank those Councillors standing down, Councillors Chamberlin and Timmins for their support and service which was most appreciated and wished them well for the future.

(Signed) J. KELLY,  
Chairman.