

At a meeting of the NORTH SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in BUNNY HILL CENTRE, HYLTON LANE, SUNDERLAND on MONDAY, 7th DECEMBER, 2015 at 5.30p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Wilson in the Chair

Councillors Beck, Bell, Davison, Elliott, Foster, Francis, Leadbitter, MacKnight and Stewart

Also in Attendance:-

PC Samuel Brown	-	Northumbria Police
Ms. Wendy Cook	-	Youth and Community Lead, SNCBC
Mr. Steve Graham	-	Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service
Ms. Louise Hill	-	Head of Improvement, Sunderland City Council
Ms. Vivienne Metcalfe	-	Area Community Officer, Sunderland City Council
Mr. Andy Old	-	North Area Response Manager, Sunderland City Council
Ms. Ruth Oxley	-	Area Network Representative, SNYP
Ms. Allison Patterson	-	Area Coordinator, Sunderland City Council
Insp. Phil Smailes	-	Northumbria Police
Ms. Susan Stanhope	-	Area Lead Executive, Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development
Ms. Joanne Stewart	-	Principal Governance Services Officer, Sunderland City Council

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting, inviting introductions from those in attendance and advising of the process for recording meetings.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Copeland, Curran, Howe, Jackson and N. Wright and on behalf of Insp. Tony Carty and Mr. Graham Wharton.

Declarations of Interest

Matters Arising from the Minutes – Councillor Bell made an open declaration as a Council appointed Governor for Red House Nursery and Northern Saints Church of England Voluntary Aided School as they were discussed under matters which arose under the minutes from the previous meeting.

Minutes of the last meeting held on 5th October, 2015

Councillor Davison referred to the 20mph zone around North Saints School and advised that in her opinion they were not working as stand alone traffic calming measures. Councillor Stewart agreed with the comments made and raised further concerns as he was aware the school was looking to increase its admissions numbers in the future which would only exacerbate problems further. He advised that having looked at guidance, it was clear that without further works and a programme to set out larger zones it would be unlikely that the 20mph zones would ever work.

Ms. Patterson advised that the issue had been discussed at a previous meeting of the North Sunderland Place Board and that an Officer was expected to return to either the January or February meeting of the Board to provide further updates. She agreed to approach the Officer following these discussions so that they could address Members concerns and advise of any future planned programmes of work.

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 5th October, 2015 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Place Board Progress Report

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

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Foster presented the report which provided a summary of the key areas of influence / achievements of the North Sunderland Place Board up to 26th November, 2015.

Members having considered the progress report, it was:-

2. RESOLVED that the progress and performance update with regards to the North Sunderland Area Place Board Work Plan for 2015/16 be received and noted.

People Board Progress Report

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

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Metcalfe presented the report which outlined a summary of the key areas of influence / achievements of the North Sunderland Area People Board up to 26th November, 2015.

Councillor Foster referred to the last People Board and asked what the new bridge was to bring to the area in relation to job prospects and skills. Ms. Patterson advised that David Abdy, Project Director, New Wear Bridge had attended the last meeting of the People Board but had not entered into that level of detail. The Committee were informed that he would continue to attend other meetings of the Board in the future to keep Members up to date on the development.

In response to a query from Councillor Davison regarding progress on the Redhill playpark, Ms. Metcalfe advised that the Committee had aligned SIB funding to the provision of the park and that this would remain until the project was completed and officially recalled by the Committee. With regards to the potential to look at an external provider to undertake the works if the Council were not able to carry out the work in a timely fashion, Ms. Metcalfe proposed that it may be beneficial to meet with Victoria French and the Ward Members to discuss what options were available to them.

Councillor Davison referred to 3.4 of the Work Plan and asked if Officers could assure Members that the apprenticeships being offered to young people were meaningful and not Employees taking advantage of the opportunity. Ms. Metcalfe explained that they could look at the feedback from the project to see which apprenticeships had been secured as part of it.

Members having no further comments or questions, it was:-

3. RESOLVED that the progress and performance update with regards to the North Sunderland Area People Board Work Plan for 2015/16 be received and noted.

Partner Agency Reports – North Sunderland Area Voluntary and Community Sector Network

The Voluntary and Community Sector Network submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update with regard to the Network.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Oxley, Area Network Representative, took the Committee through the report providing an update on the work being undertaken by the North Sunderland Area VCS Network.

Ms. Oxley advised that the network had requested to be involved in engagement and networking opportunities in relation to the Seafront regeneration and asked how the Area Committee to consider how they could maximise this opportunity. Ms. Metcalfe proposed that the matter be referred to the North Sunderland Area Place Board to discuss at a future meeting.

Members having fully considered the report, it was:-

4. RESOLVED that the content of the report and the opportunities and issues raised by the North Sunderland Area Voluntary and Community Sector Network be received and noted.

Partner Agency Reports – Northumbria Police

Neighbourhood Inspector Phil Smails of Northumbria Police gave an update to the Committee on the current position with regards to crime and anti-social behaviour data and of any on-going issues in the North Sunderland area.

Members were circulated crime figures in relation to the North Sunderland Area for the period up to 30th November, 2015 and their comparison to the same period in 2014, with particular reference to:-

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| - Burglary Dwelling | - | 7 fewer offences (down 9%) |
| - Burglary Other than Dwelling | - | 74 fewer offences (down 39%) |
| - Vehicle Crime | - | 71 fewer offences (down 34%) |
| - Shoplifting | - | 54 fewer offences (down 21%) |
| - Youth ASB | - | 240 fewer offences (down 35%) |

Members referred to the increase in wheelie bin thefts and asked if it was in any particular area. The Officers advised that there was no apparent pattern to how and where wheelie bins were going missing but that it was an issue city wide and since the Council had changed the process for getting a new wheelie bin, whereby the resident had to provide a crime number, then obviously the numbers of recorded crimes would increase.

With regards to the issues at Hylton Castle from youths throwing mud and rocks, the Officers advised that they had patrolled the area recently and managed to identify a number of children who had been involved and their parents would be getting visited shortly.

Councillor Bell asked that a letter of thanks be forwarded to Mr Bruce Wild who he was aware had recently left the service but had worked in the North Sunderland Area for a number of years. He also asked if new Officers contact details for the area could be forwarded to Members.

Councillor Foster having thanked Inspector Smails and PC Brown for their report and continued excellent work in the North Sunderland Area, it was:-

5. RESOLVED that the update from the Northumbria Police be received and noted.

Partner Agency Reports – Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Services

Mr. Steven Graham, Station Manager, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Services provided a verbal update to the Committee, on performance in relation to the local indicators for the North Sunderland Area Committee area.

Members were advised of the current figures in relation to the North Sunderland Area, with particular reference to:-

- i) the number of deaths from accidental / all dwelling fires – none;
- ii) the number of injuries from accidental / all dwelling fires – none;
- iii) accidental fires in domestic properties – 2;
- iv) deliberate primary fires – 3; and
- v) deliberate vehicle fires – 1.

He advised the Committee that the main focus of the service's attention was secondary deliberate fires which had increased with fourteen incidents in Southwick and thirteen incidents in Redhill in the last month alone. When working out the cost of these fires on the service it had been approximated at £2,000 per incident.

Mr. Graham informed the Committee that the new station, Marley Park, was officially opened on 23rd October, 2015 and had two community rooms which could be used and Members were more than welcome to contact him directly if they wished to undertake a visit.

In response to a question from Councillor Davison regarding the bases for the smaller vehicles, Mr. Graham advised that they were based in the city centre but could be on site in the North Sunderland Area within 12 minutes, quicker if the emergency lights were used.

Councillor Francis asked if he could be provided at some point in the future with the comparative number of fires in the Fulwell area for when the station in Fulwell had been open and for the same timeframe once the station had been relocated.

The Chairman having thanked Mr. Graham for his report, it was:-

6. RESOLVED that the update from the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service be received and noted.

Financial Statement and Proposals for Further Allocation of Resources

The Head of Scrutiny and Area Arrangements submitted a report (copy circulated) which requested Members to give consideration to a financial statement as an up to date position in relation to the allocation of Strategic Initiatives Budget and Community Chest and presented proposals for further funding requests.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Metcalfe, Area Community Officer presented the report drawing attention to the recommendations detailed within the report.

Having fully discussed the application and those in attendance having answered Members questions; it was:-

7. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the financial statements as set out in paragraphs 2.1 and 3.1 of the report be noted;
- (ii) the delegated decision to correct the allocation of SIB funding to Southwick CA to Redhouse CA from the previous meeting be noted;
- (iii) approval be given to the allocation of an additional £7,000 from the SIB budget for 2015/16 to support the Downhill Wheeled Sports Park;
- (iv) approval be given to the allocation of £4,000 from the SIB budget for 2015/16 to support the Village Atlas Project;
- (v) approval be given to the allocation of an additional £4,116 from the SIB budget for 2015/16 to support the Wheatsheaf Clock Phase 2 project, along with the £3,651 previously approved and the underspend from Phase 1 of £2,229 so that SIB available for the project is £9,996;
- (vi) approval be given to the Call for Projects to deliver School Holiday Activities in Easter and Summer 2016; and
- (vii) the twelve approvals for Community Chest supported from the 2015/16 budget as set out in Annex 3 to the report be noted.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.

(Signed) D. WILSON,
Chairman.