

At a meeting of the NORTH SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in the BUNNY HILL CENTRE, HYLTON LANE, SUNDERLAND on MONDAY, 6th JANUARY, 2011 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Bell in the Chair

Councillors Bonallie, Charlton, Copeland, Foster, G. Hall, MacKnight, Shattock, Stewart, J. Walton, L. Walton and D. Wilson

Also in Attendance:-

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| Ms. Estelle Brown | - Sunderland North Community Business Centre |
| Ms. Amanda Cattle | - Area Community Coordinator, Sunderland City Council |
| Mr. Les Clark | - Head of Streetscene, Sunderland City Council |
| Mr. Bill Forster | - Station Manager, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Services |
| Mr. Mike Foster | - Head of Schools and Learning, Sunderland City Council |
| Ms. Julie Lynn | - Area Officer (North), Sunderland City Council |
| Ms. Allison Patterson | - Area Co-ordination Manager, Sunderland City Council |
| Mr. Stephen Pickering | - Deputy Director City Services, ALE (Area Lead Executive), Sunderland City Council |
| Ms. Joanne Stewart | - Senior Democratic Services Officer, Sunderland City Council |
| Mr. Graham Wharton | - Co-Chair, The Salvation Army |
| Mr. Mike Wooler | - School Improvement Officer, Sunderland City Council |

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone, invited introductions around the room and opened the meeting.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Howe and N. Wright

Declarations of Interest

Item 3 – Community Action in Sunderland North – Progress Review : vi. Community Chest, Strategic Initiative Budget (SIB) and Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) – Financial Statements and Proposals for Further Allocation of Resources

Councillors MacKnight and Stewart declared personal and prejudicial interests in the SIB application towards the Ear 4 U project as members of the board of the Impact organisation and left the meeting whilst it was considered.

Councillors Bell and Foster declared personal interests in the Community Chest application for the SAFC Heritage Trail as season ticket holders of the football club.

Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 8th November, 2010

Councillor J. Walton referred to the minutes regarding the application for SIB funding from St Peter's Church and stated that he felt that they were inaccurate and did not contain a complete record of the proceedings as they had taken place at the meeting. The minutes did not refer to the fact that the application could have been considered as a special case for funding or that all Members of the opposition had spoken in support of the application, along with other Members of the Committee.

Discussions ensued and it was felt that the minutes had been correct in recording that it had been put forward that the item be deferred to seek further information and that a vote had been in agreement of this, and it was:-

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 8th November, 2010 (copy circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to the inclusion of Councillor Francis in the attendance.

Community Action in Sunderland North : Identifying New Issues and Agreeing Actions

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Members with information on the progress made in relation to its Work Plan and the priorities identified by the Area Committee for 2010/11.

(for copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Lynn, Area Officer, introduced the report and advised that new issues had been identified in relation to Motorcycle Disorder, Byelaws Review and Sunderland 'The Place'.

In relation to Motorcycle Disorder, Ms. Lynn advised that it had been identified and discussed at the LMAPS for a number of months and a problem solving meeting was being set up to focus on the issue and identify long term sustainable solutions to the problem. It has also been recognised as a citywide issue and the matter was being escalated to the Business Support Group of the Safer City Delivery Board to look at additional means of addressing the problem. Further updates would be submitted to future meetings of the Area Committee.

Councillor Copeland commented that it would be virtually impossible to seal off or police all entries to the quarry and asked if there was a way to run a

similar scheme to the one that the A690 project held whereby they purchased a number of mini moto's and marshalled the use of the at a weekly youth session. Councillor Shattock informed the Committee that the quarry was a site of specific scientific interest so would not be viable for this kind of scheme.

Ms. Lynn commented further that a number of sites had been looked at but found not suitable and the groups were not looking at other options to address the issue which were more proactive and preventative.

In relation to the Byelaws Review, Ms. Lynn informed the Committee that Law and Governance were leading on a review of City Byelaws. A team of Officers from across the Authority have formed a task and finish group which is undertaking a review of sites covered by old and dated byelaws. In addition, sites that were not currently covered by byelaws would also be considered in the review. Areas included in the review were cemeteries, resorts and foreshores, countryside, parks and rights of way.

She went on to advise that any specific queries could be taken back to the group for their formal response and in response to a query from Councillor Stewart she advised that updates would be provided through the online Ward Bulletin Service as the review continued.

Councillor Hall asked if waterways would be included as part of the review and Councillor Francis asked where residents could locate copies of the byelaws. Ms. Lynn agreed to approach the group for responses to the Members questions and report back to the Committee.

In relation to Sunderland 'The Place' Ms. Lynn advised that the Environment and Attractive City Scrutiny Committee was carrying out a policy review in relation to the topic with the overall aim of understanding the concept of Sunderland as a place and the associated issues around its identity and image, as well as the perceptions people have of Sunderland.

It was proposed that any members wishing to take part in this phase of evidence gathering be offered the opportunity to take part in an informal discussion in order to feed in key messages to the Area Chair who will attend a facilitated discussion group with the other Area Chairs and members of the Environment and Attractive City Scrutiny Committee. The discussion would be facilitated by the lead officers for the policy review.

Ms. Lynn agreed to send an invitation around to Members to propose dates for an informal discussion.

2. RESOLVED that:-

- the contents of the report be received and noted;
- updates and recommendations for action from LMAPS and the problem solving meetings regarding motorcycle disorder be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee;

- updates regarding the Byelaws Review be received via the online Ward Bulletin Service; and
- the information regarding Sunderland 'The Place' be noted and an informal discussion for Members who wish to participate be held prior to the 17th January, 2011.

Community Action in Sunderland North – Progress Review

Work Plan 2010/2011 : Heritage Task and Finish Group

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Members with an update of outstanding issues from the 2009/2010 work plan and showed progress made against agreed actions in the current year's work plan with regard to the Heritage Task and Finish Group.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Lynn referred to paragraph 2.3 of the report and advised that if any Members wished to have a copy of the information collated on heritage sites and areas of interest they could contact her directly and she would provide it, and it was:-

3. RESOLVED that:-

- the report be received and noted;
- the engagement of local schools and development of the curriculum to include heritage be agreed;
- the development of an 'Adopt a Heritage Site' be agreed;
- consultation with children and young people on what they would like to see or develop with heritage be agreed;
- the development of the use of the MAC to support youth provision and improved access for schools and visitors be agreed;
- the development of a city angling club at various sites throughout the North be agreed; and
- the proposal to support local history / friends groups to participate in the International Oral History Conference be agreed in principle pending an SIB application.

Work Plan 2010/2011 : The Greening of the North Area

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update of outstanding issues from the 2009/2010 work plan and showed progress against agreed actions in the current work plan with regard to the Greening of the North Area Task and Finish Group.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Mr. Clark presented the report, advising that the application for SIB funding as set out in paragraph 2.1 of the report had been for £40,000 and not £57,050 as stated.

He drew Members attention to the River Rubbish Relay event which had been arranged to take place on 23rd January, 2011 and how, if it was successful it was hoped it could become an annual event. He thanked Amanda Cantle and those who were going to be involved from the Community and Voluntary Sector for the help and support they would be giving, and it was:-

4. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the report be noted;
- (ii) the proposed sites on which Community Allotments could be developed of the Downhill Primary School site, 8 unlettable sites at Summerbell Allotments and 4 sites on Shields Road Allotments be agreed;
- (iii) SIB funding to support the development of Community Allotments pending the full application being submitted be agreed;
- (iv) the proposal to work with private landlords to achieve the cleansing of private land be agreed; and
- (v) the investigation into the feasibility of the River Rubbish Relay be agreed.

Responsive Local Services (RLS)

The Executive Director of City Services submitted a report (copy circulated) to inform the Committee of the current scope of Responsive Local Services covering service areas such as litter, graffiti, refuse, grass cutting and dog fouling. It also provided the opportunity for a wider range of issues to be considered within a context of local problem solving.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Mr. Clark presented the report and advised that four of the six Area Response Managers had now been appointed and that they would hope to be able to introduce the North Sunderland Area Response Manager at the next meeting of the Committee.

5. RESOLVED that the report be noted and further updates regarding any issues arising from the intelligence group be submitted to future meetings of the Committee.

Reviewing Progress

Ms. Lynn presented the table to the Committee which set out a review of the progress against issues and the update position and any actions taken.

7. RESOLVED that the table be received and noted.

Community Chest, Strategic Initiative Budget (SIB) and Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) – Financial Statement and Proposals for further allocation of Resources

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 will benefit the area.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Shattock referred to the application for the River Rubbish Relay event from the Community Chest budget and asked if there was bad weather on the day if it would be rescheduled. Ms. Cattle advised that they would be looking not to have to cancel the event and it would be more a case of ensuring volunteers and those involved were wearing appropriate clothing for the weather. There was some community transport provided who may be able to transport those who were not able to take part to the end of the route.

8. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the financial statement as set out in section 2.1 of the report be noted;
- (ii) approval be given to the 13 proposals for funding from the Community Chest totalling £3,798 from the 2010/2011 budget, as set out in annex 1c of the report;
- (iii) approval be given to the allocation of SIB funding from the 2010/2011 budget as a contribution towards the Community Allotments of £40,000;
- (iv) approval be given to the allocation of SIB funding from the 2010/2011 budget as a contribution towards SMCT of £5,000;
- (v) approval be given to the allocation of SIB funding from the 2010/2011 budget as a contribution towards the Ear 4 U project of £13,2000;
- (vi) approval be given to the allocation of SIP funding from the 2010/2011 budget as a contribution towards the Castletown Community Heritage Monument of £945 from the Castle ward;
- (vii) approval be given to the allocation of SIP funding from the 2010/2011 budget as a contribution towards perimeter fencing at Rainbow Tots of £2,000 from the Castle ward;

- (viii) approval be given to the allocation of SIP funding from the 2010/2011 budget as a contribution towards the Dene Lane footpath of £6,050 from the Fulwell ward; and
- (ix) approval be given to the allocation of SIP funding from the 2010/2011 budget as a contribution towards the Studio IT project of £7,548 from the Southwick Ward.

Influencing Practice, Policy and Strategy

Refreshing North Sunderland Local Area Plan

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to consider refreshing the LAP. To support the Committee throughout the process, information had been provided on four main elements; what people are telling us, developments to be considered, proposed framework for managing the refresh and recommendations including terms of reference.

(for copy report – see original minutes.)

Ms. Lynn presented the report and took Members through the proposed consultation framework.

Councillor Copeland raised an issue around the closure of the Southwick Sports Hall in March 2011 when there were still community and voluntary groups and members of the public wanting to use the facilities. Ms. Lynn agreed to have further discussions with the Councillor outside of the meeting, and it was:-

9. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) it be agreed that LAP Task and Finish Group be established and that the terms of reference as outlined in Annex 1 of the report be noted;
- (ii) the membership of the group be agreed as Councillors Bell, Copeland, Foster, Bonallie, MacKnight, Francis and J. Walton and Mr. Wharton, Salvation Army;
- (iii) the proposed consultation framework outlined in Section 4 of the report be agreed; and
- (iv) the findings of the report be noted and a further report be agreed to be received in March, 2011.

The Chairman then thanked the Committee, Officers and Partners for their worthwhile contributions and closed the meeting.

(Signed) R. BELL,
Chairman.