

At a meeting of the COALFIELD AREA COMMITTEE held at the BETHANY CHRISTIAN CENTRE, HETTON ROAD, HOUGHTON-LE-SPRING, DH5 8PF on THURSDAY, 21ST JUNE, 2012 at 6.00 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor D. Richardson in the Chair

Councillors Anderson, Blackburn, Ellis, Heron, Lawson, Rolph, Scott, D. Smith, Tate and Wakefield

Also in Attendance:-

Ron Barrass	Member of the Public	
Beryl Bowden		SOC
Frank Bowden		SOC
Mel Caldwell	Head of Operations	Gentoo
Les Clark	Head of Streetscene	Sunderland City Council
Wendy Cook	Youth and Community Co-ordinator	SNCBC
Edith Corney	Treasurer	Friends of Rectory Park
John Corney	Vice Chair	Friends of Rectory Park
Dave Ellison	Area Response Manager	Sunderland City Council
Pauline Hopper	Area Officer, Coalfield	Sunderland City Council
Amelia Laverick	Member of the Public	
Malcolm Page	Executive Director of Commercial and Corporate Services & Area Lead Executive	Sunderland City Council
Nancy Partington		SOC
Alan Pitchford	Acting Inspector	Northumbria Police
Ethel Richardson		Hetton Town Council
Pat Robson	Chair	SOC
Kay Rowham	Member of the Public	
Bob Scott		SOC
Gemma Taylor	Member of the Public	
Christine Tilley	Governance Services Team Leader	Sunderland City Council
Lee Wardle	Voluntary and Community Services Representative	Easington Lane Community Access Point

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Speding together with Susan Brown, Area Community Co-ordinator, John Chapman, Head of Neighbourhoods, Gentoo and Emma Frew, ShARP.

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited everyone to introduce themselves.

Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared.

Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 25th April, 2012

City of Sunderland Local Development Framework : Core Strategy Revised Preferred Options and Supporting Evidence Papers

In relation to the Philadelphia Site, it was noted that to say the site was 'no longer used for employment' was incorrect as there were still people employed on the site.

It was, subject to the above amendment:-

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 25th April, 2012 (copy circulated), be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Matters Arising

Community Action in Coalfield: Progress Review

Annual Report

It was noted that Emma Frew had reported at the last meeting, that ShARP had provided assistance to 102 people who had been seeking advice. The Committee asked that Members be provided with a breakdown detailing where the above mentioned people lived to ensure that the advice centre was providing a service which covered the whole of the Coalfield Area.

Setting the Scene – Strengthening the Area Governance Arrangements

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which outlined improved changes to the City Council's Area Governance Arrangements and supporting

practices, as part of the wider review of the Executive and Committee arrangements agreed by Council on 16th May, 2012.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Pauline Hopper, Area Officer, presented the report which outlined the enhanced governance structure and improved ways of working for the Area Committee and which also sought approval for the proposed memberships of the Place and People boards as detailed in paragraph 3.3. Ms Hopper pointed out that the Chairman of the Area Committee was not a Member of any of the Boards and might wish to attend both to observe what was happening.

Ms Hopper advised that the work being undertaken by the Task and Results Groups would continue. It was intended that the Area Committee would set the Area priorities and the Place and People Boards would support the Committee in delivering against the agreed priorities.

The Chairman highlighted that it was intended that the Boards were inclusive and open to any Members to attend in a non-voting capacity. The Boards were not decision making bodies and their work/recommendations would be presented to the Area Committee for endorsement.

A discussion ensued as to how the proposed Memberships of the Boards had been determined during which the Chairman and Vice Chairmen together with Ms Hopper explained the process. This had consisted of an email being sent to all Members of the Committee inviting them to express a preference with the final decisions being made by the above Members. Some Members of the Committee expressed their dissatisfaction as to how this had been done or which position they had been allocated.

Ms Hopper proceeded to draw attention to paragraph 7 of the report concerning the impact of the new arrangements on the allocation of Strategic Initiatives Budget and Community Chest Grants. In relation to paragraph 7.2 concerning the Community Chest Grant, Ms Hopper advised that in line with the Leader and Councillor Gofton's promise to help make Community Chest more responsive and in line with strengthening the Area Governance arrangements, the 3 Members from each Ward would be required to agree all Ward applications and sign the Ward Schedule to confirm their support. This would then go forward to the Head of Scrutiny and Area Arrangements, Charlotte Burnham, to process the decision.

Current Community Chest guidelines and protocols would remain in place. Panel meetings would be scheduled monthly to allow a more responsive service. A report would then be submitted to the July Council to amend the delegation process.

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

2. RESOLVED that:-

- i) the report be received and the improved changes to the Area Committee's operating framework be noted; and
- ii) the memberships of the Coalfield Area Place Board and Coalfield Area People Board, as detailed in paragraph 3.3 of the report, be approved.

Determining the Area Committee's Priorities for 2012/13

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which sought to determine the Area Committee's key areas of priority for the year ahead, which would form the basis of the Committee's Local Area Plan for 2012/13.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Pauline Hopper, Area Officer, presented the report which highlighted the following proposed priorities :-

- 1) Healthy life choices for children and young people.
- 2) Positive activities for young people focusing on holiday and under 13 provision.
- 3) Support for older people, vulnerable adults and their carers.
- 4) Improvement of areas of neglected land.
- 5) Improvement of allotments and community gardens.
- 6) Support for local shopping centres.

Ms Hopper informed that the priorities had emerged from the members' workshop held in May and had subsequently been shared with residents at the State of the Area Debate and with the voluntary and Community Sector through the VCS Network. She added that if the priorities were endorsed at that evening's meeting, it was proposed that a further members' workshop be arranged to determine the detail of the Coalfield Area Committee Local Area Plan work plan for 2012/13.

Councillor Rolph commented that there was a need to work cross border with County Durham to maximise opportunities as there are residents of Durham who attend the City Council's schools and events in Sunderland for example.

Councillor Lawson commented that the State of the Area Debate had been very successful and well attended.

In response to Councillor Lawson's enquiry as to where attendees lived in the Coalfield Area, Ms Hopper advised that people were asked to sign in but not for their home address and therefore this information was not available.

Councillor Lawson stated that it was her understanding that the majority of those in attendance were from the Houghton or Copthill wards. She asked that a different location for the next event be selected in order to encourage attendees from the other two Coalfield Wards.

Ms Hopper advised that the feedback from the event had been very good with members of the public commenting that they had waited a long time to take part in such an event and had welcomed the opportunity to comment and ask Councillors and Officers questions direct.

Councillor Ellis commented that in her opinion, the notes of the State of the Area Debate were not dealt with adequately in the report.

Ms Hopper advised that a summary of what was discussed at the Area Debate had been included in the report for information. The outcomes were not detailed in the report, however everything that had been raised would be addressed and those people who had asked for feedback would receive it.

Councillor Rolph added that the issues raised at the State of the Area Debate would be taken forward to the State of the City Debate and she felt that the detail included in this report provided an accurate summary of the issues discussed at the State of the Area Debate.

Full consideration having been given to the matter it was:-

3. RESOLVED that:-

i) the following issues be approved as the Committee's key priorities for 2012/13 and form the basis of the Area Committee's Local Area Plan:-

- a) Healthy life choices for children and young people.
- b) Positive activities for young people focusing on holiday and under 13 provision.
- c) Support for older people, vulnerable adults and their carers.
- d) Improvement of areas of neglected land.
- e) Improvement of allotments and community gardens.
- f) Support for local shopping centres.

and

ii) a Members' workshop to determine the detailed Coalfield Area Committee Local Area Plan work plan for 2012/13 be arranged; the provisional date of the workshop to be 9th July, 2012.

Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) and Community Chest – Financial Update and Proposals for Further Allocation of Resources

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) requesting the Area Committee to consider proposals for the allocation of the Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) and Community Chest to support initiatives that will deliver activity against priorities for 2012/13.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Pauline Hopper, Area Officer, presented the report highlighting the financial statement and advising that the application for SIB funding in respect of 'Lighting of Burnside skate park' had been withdrawn as the Council did not own the land and there had been some complaints about the skate park which needed to be investigated first. Ms Hopper drew attention to the 15 requests for Community Chest funding from the 2012/13 budget.

Councillor Wakefield queried whether the street lighting at Broomhill and Homelands could be re-located to the Cove at Shiney Row in order to save some money on the project.

Les Clark, Head of Streetscene and Pauline Hopper, Area Officer agreed to raise the above issue with the City Council PFI Lighting Contractor, Aurora.

4. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the Area Committee's funding statement be received and noted,
- (ii) approval be given to the granting of SIB funding of £6,600 to Project 1 – Street Lighting, the Cove, Shiney Row, as detailed in Annex 1 of the report;
- (iii) approval be given to the granting of SIB funding of £10,000 to Project 3 – Houghton War Memorial, as detailed in Annex 1 of the report;
- (iv) approval be given to the granting of SIB funding of £3,458 to Project 4 – Allotments Watering Project, as detailed in Annex 1 of the report;
- (v) the withdrawal of the application for SIB funding of £2,920 in respect of Project 2 – Lighting at Burnside skate park be noted; and
- (vi) approval be given to the granting of the 15 Community Chest applications as detailed in Annex 3 of the report.

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

(Signed) D. RICHARDSON,
Chairman.