

**At a meeting of the EAST SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in RAICH CARTER SPORTS CENTRE, COMMERCIAL ROAD, HENDON on MONDAY, 19<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2011 at 5.30p.m.**

**Present:-**

Councillor Ball in the Chair

Councillors Emerson, Forbes, E. Gibson, Kay, Maddison, McClennan, T. Martin, Scanlan and Wood

**Also Present:-**

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Meg Boustead        | - Head of Safeguarding – Sunderland City Council   |
| Sgt. Craig Briggs   | - Northumbria Police   |
| Hazel Clark         | - East Area Voluntary and Community Sector Representative                                    |
| Insp. John Connolly | - Northumbria Police   |
| Tim Ducker          | - Cycle Network and Public Rights of Way Officer, Sunderland City Council                    |
| Paula Hunt          | - East Area Voluntary and Community Sector Representative                                    |
| Matthew Jackson     | - Governance Services Officer, Sunderland City Council                                       |
| Vivienne Metcalfe   | - Community Development Co-ordinator, Sunderland City Council                                |
| Keith Moore         | - Executive Director of Children’s Services and Area Lead Executive, Sunderland City Council |
| Helen Peverley      | - City Centre Area Response Manager, Sunderland City Council                                 |
| Nicky Rowland       | - East Area Response Manager, Sunderland City Council  |
| Liz St. Louis       | - Head of Customer Service and Development, Sunderland City Council                          |
| James Third         | - Community Relations Officer, Nexus   |
| Nicol Trueman       | - Area Officer, Sunderland City Council  |
| Pauline Tsentas     | - Youth Development Group Acting Head – Sunderland City Council                              |
| Jeremy Wicking      | - Media Officer, Sunderland City Council   |
| Gary Yates          | - Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service  |

**Chairman’s Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

## **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for Absence were received on behalf of Councillors Errington, Mordey and Vardy together with Ms. Janet Johnson and Ms Sarah Woodhouse

## **Declarations of Interest**

The Head of Law and Governance delivered a presentation which reminded Members of the rules around the declaration of interests and when a personal interest should also be prejudicial.

### Community Chest

Councillor Forbes declared a personal interest as she knew someone who was involved with Sunderland Floral Art Club.

Councillor T. Martin declared a personal interest as a Member of the Royal British Legion.

## **Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 4<sup>th</sup> July, 2011**

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> July, 2011 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

## **Community Action: Reviewing Progress and Agreeing Next Steps**

### Cleaner and Greener Streets

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Members with an update on the progress made against the agreed actions in the work plan for 2011/12.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Helen Peverley and Nicky Rowland, Area Response Managers for the City Centre and East Area, presented the report and advised of the progress that had been made on the various campaigns which were underway to improve the quality of life for residents.

Ms Peverley introduced the update from the City Centre and advised that on the Walk and Talk session there had been a number of issues raised including the roundabout at Sans Street which was in a poor visual condition; and the number of derelict buildings in the area. Both of these were due to be addressed as part of the 'Quick Wins' project which would see the roundabout redressed and a property on Villiers Street being repainted to remove the graffiti which covered the building.

It was intended that Blandford Street would be de-cluttered with the fences and bollards removed along with the phone boxes at the bottom end of the street as this would help to improve the feeling of space and combined with the repainting of the lamp posts and repairs to the fencing around the flower beds would help to improve the appearance of the street.

In Park Lane the grates around the trees were to be replaced as the existing grates got clogged up with discarded cigarette ends. The bins were also to be replaced with more visually attractive bins. The removed bins were to be used to improve the routes into the city centre such as Hylton Road.

The Green Street Arcade which ran between Marks and Spencer's and British Home Stores on High Street and which provided access to the St. Mary's Way Multi Storey Car Park was in a poor condition and needed improvement work to be carried out. On High Street there would be benches replaced and the pavement would be evened out to remove dips and other imperfections.

With regards to enforcement action in the city centre Ms Peverley advised that there had been 4 Fixed Penalty Notices issued for littering in July with a further 4 in August and 6 in September. Bins which were left out had been stickered with warning notices and persistent offenders were issued with enforcement notices requiring them to move their bin to within their property or be issued with a fixed penalty notice.

Ms Rowland then provided the update for the rest of the Area and advised that enforcement had been concentrated around bins which were left out and there had been a reduction in the number of bins left in the back lanes around Hendon and Millfield. New litter bins had been installed on Hylton Road and there had been work to remove graffiti in Hendon. Dog fouling was still an issue across the area.

Councillor Scanlan stated that the Walk and Talk sessions had been excellent; there had been a lot of things identified that needed work and there had been very positive feedback from residents.

Councillor Emerson queried whether there was an update available from the Ryhope Walk and Talk session and was advised by Ms Rowland that there was a spreadsheet which was updated all the time and detailed the progress made, she would check this and then report back to Councillor Emerson.

Councillor T. Martin advised of a bin which was regularly left out in the back lane between Belford Road and the Cedars. He also stated that the Sans Street roundabout was a barrier for residents of the East End to access the city centre on foot.

Councillor McClennan advised of concerns which had been raised by the RNIB regarding the number of obstacles which were in streets which made it difficult for blind and partially sighted people to find their way around. Ms Peverley stated that this would be taken on board and advised that the new

trees would be in large bright red planters to help make them more eye catching.

Paula Hunt thanked all of the volunteers who had taken part in the litter picking as part of the Love Where You Live Campaign.

2. RESOLVED that the updates be noted and consideration be given to the benefits of the Walk and Talk programme and the Love Where You Live Campaign.

### Coastal Path

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) on behalf of the Coastal Task and Finish group which provided the Committee with an update on the progress made against the actions detailed in the work plan for 2011/12.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Tim Ducker, Cycle Network & Public Rights Of Way Officer, presented the update and advised the Committee of the next steps which were detailed in paragraph 3.1 to the report. He also stated that access at Ryhope was an issue as part of the proposed route currently did not have any public access. The stretch of the route through the East Sunderland Area was a straightforward stretch and the land owners had been agreeable to the path crossing their land.

Councillor T. Martin stated that it was excellent to see proposals which would encourage people to visit the coastline. He was however concerned by the lack of lifesaving equipment at Hendon Beach; an issue he had raised several times.

Councillor Wood agreed that there were serious issues at Hendon Beach and there was a need to look into what could be done to resolve the issues. He requested that a report on the situation be brought back to a future meeting of the Committee.

Ms Trueman advised that the Task and Finish group had walked along the proposed route for the path. She also advised that Natural England had a limited budget and the Task and Finish group had looked into the added value for the city that would be provided if there was higher quality signage installed.

Mr Ducker added that work was being done nationally to decide how the path would be marked.

Councillor Emerson queried whether the authority had any influence over Natural England regarding the alignment of the route. Mr Ducker advised that the route was strictly prescribed; where it was possible to follow the coastline then the path needed to follow the coastline; however where the path moved

up the river to the bridge and where it passed the port and couldn't follow the coast there was more discretion in what route could be followed.

Councillor Emerson then stated that the path went through some areas which it would not be appropriate to send visitors to the area through.

Hazel Clark added that there were parts of the proposed path that local residents would not be willing to walk along.

Mr Ducker stated that where the scheme was varied from the prescribed route there was a need to look at the desirability of the alternate routes. He suggested that the task and finish group could look into this and devise a set of recommendations as to where the route may need to be varied.

3. RESOLVED that the updates on the Coastal Path priority be noted.

### Employment, Enterprise and Welfare Rights

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Members with an update on the progress made against the agreed actions in the work plan for 2011/12.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Liz St. Louis, Head of Customer Service and Development, presented the update and advised Members of the work that had been done around the Community Spirit Summer Survey 2011, there had been over 1100 responses received from residents and the preliminary results were detailed in the table set out in the report; the final report would be available soon. The internet was growing in popularity as a means of finding information and residents had requested that there be more self serve zones where they can access information online from within public buildings. There was a weekly surgery at the Community Link Shop on Villette Road which allowed people to access information around benefits. Age UK also ran advice surgeries.

Councillor McClennan thanked Ms St. Louis for taking on board the concerns which had been raised in relation to access to services. She also praised Age UK for the good work they did. Alison Aisbett agreed to forward Councillor McClennan's praises to Age UK.

The Chairman asked that if Members had any nominations for groups who may wish to assist with the development of the new ways of accessing services that they contact Ms St. Louis. It was then:-

4. RESOLVED that the update on the consultation to date be noted and nominations for organisations who may wish to work with the Council to further develop access to information be submitted to Ms St. Louis.

## Public Transport

Nexus in collaboration with the East VCS Network submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Members with an update on the progress made against the agreed actions in the 2011/12 work plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

James Third, Nexus Community Relations Officer, presented the report and advised Members that the first consultation meeting had been held at Ryhope C.A. and the consultation would now be taking place across the area. He advised of the dates and venues of the meetings which would be held for the other Wards within the area.

Ms Trueman advised that the feedback from the meeting was good and it had been much more successful than had been expected with approximately 45 people attending. There was a request for SIB funding to cover the cost of holding the meetings and if Members were agreeable to this then the funds would be ringfenced pending a full application.

Councillor Wood queried what the format of the meetings would be; would they be public meetings or drop in sessions. He was advised by Mr Third that they would be public meetings, consideration had been given to the different formats and it was felt that this would be the most suitable course of action.

Councillor Forbes then queried how the meetings would be advertised and was informed by Mr Third that there had been meetings with the Area VCS Network and the Council's Corporate Communications department and it had been agreed that there would be posters displayed in bus shelters, shops and other public places and there would also be information on the Council's Twitter feed.

Councillor Wood stated that given how soon the first meeting would be taking place the adverts would need to be displayed by the end of this week to ensure that enough publicity was given to the meetings. Mr Third agreed to ensure that this was done.

Councillor Emerson stated that residents had completed a petition relating to the Number 38 bus and he would be presenting this petition to the November meeting of the Integrated Transport Authority.

5. RESOLVED that the report be noted and £500 of SIB funding be approved (subject to full application and approval) to deliver public consultation meetings on public transport in each ward within the area.

## Youth and Teenagers

The Executive Director of Children's Services submitted a report (copy circulated) which updated Members on the progress made against the actions set out in the work plan for 2011/12.

(For copy report –see original minutes)

Pauline Tsentas, Youth Development Group Acting Head, presented the report and advised Members that the pilot scheme had been started in November 2010 and had been very successful with 74 young people attending the meetings. There had been a large number of issues raised by the young people and these were detailed in the report.

Councillor Kay raised concerns over the timescales involved in the pilot; the scheme had been announced in November and the sessions had taken place in March however there was only feedback being provided now; he felt that it was possible that the scheme may have lost momentum because of these delays. He agreed that the work had been excellent and he felt that the session should become more regular. He suggested that whether the same groups were used or whether different groups should be worked with be looked into.

Ms Tsentas advised that each area would have a Team Leader who would co-ordinate the sessions.

Councillor E. Gibson advised that in Doxford Ward the young people had asked that the MUGA be illuminated at night as they wanted to be able to play football there through the evenings and in the winter and were currently unable to do so given that there was no lighting.

Ms Trueman advised that this issue was on the work plan and there had been 5 sites identified as being potential sites for lighting works to be undertaken; it was estimated that it would cost approximately £10,000 per site for the works.

Councillor McClennan stated that she had attended a session at Thornhill School and during the session had not spoken to any young people who were residents of Hendon Ward; if sessions were held in secondary schools it was highly unlikely that the groups would be made up of young people from one particular ward due to the large catchment areas of the schools.

Ms Tsentas agreed with this and advised that it was an issue which had been highlighted within the report.

Councillor T. Martin referred to an event he had attended at the Stadium of Light which had seen young people from all of the schools in the city in attendance; the young people had worked in groups with pupils from other schools and this had been an excellent opportunity for the relationships between schools to be improved.

6. RESOLVED that:-
- a. Feedback sessions between elected Members, SYP members and young people who participated in the first wave be organised
  - b. Future events to be organised in partnership with the Members and Sunderland Youth Parliament members
  - c. The Youth Team Leaders be given responsibility for arranging the events with the support of the Participation Officer and in conjunction with the Ward Members
  - d. The protocol on who pursues issues raised be agreed
  - e. The feedback procedure be agreed.

### Tackling Crime

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Members with an update on the progress against the actions in the work plan for 2011/12 on behalf of the Crime Task and Finish Group.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

The representatives of Northumbria Police, Inspector John Connolly and Sergeant Craig Briggs, presented the crime statistics and advised that overall crime had reduced however there had been an increase in 'other thefts' which was related to the increase in the number of metal thefts which were taking place. £3,500 of SIB funds had been spent during the summer holidays to target youth antisocial behaviour.

Councillor E. Gibson queried whether it would be possible for the figures relating solely to Doxford Ward be provided rather than it being included in the wider area figures. She was informed by Inspector Connolly that it could take between 6 months and a year for the figures to be separated out; where possible the figures for Doxford would be presented separately.

Gary Yates then presented the update on behalf of Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service. He advised that there had been a reduction in the number of fires across the area and since the last update there had been 12 wheelie bin fires. He thanked the partner organisations for their hard work in reducing the number of fires through the Championing the East project.

Councillor T. Martin referred to a recent fire at Barley Mow Park and advised that there had been issues caused by vehicles being parked over the fire hydrant on Ryhope Road, there had now been signage installed to make people aware of the location of the hydrant.

Ms Trueman then advised that the boundaries were changing for the LMAPS groups and in the East Area there would now only be one group instead of the previous 4. Councillor Forbes had previously expressed an interest in joining the new group and she asked whether any other Members wished to be

involved in the group. Councillor T. Martin expressed an interest in joining the group.

Ms Trueman then referred to the traffic calming measures which were set out in the report and advised of the findings from the feasibility studies. Andrew Jackman, Interim Assistant Head of Traffic Road Safety, would be speaking to the Ward Members to get their views and preferred option for Glenesk Road.

It was then:-

7. RESOLVED that:-
  - a. The updates from Northumbria Police and Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue service be noted
  - b. Councillors Forbes and T. Martin be assigned to the new LMAPS group
  - c. The submission of an SIB funding application for £10,700 be invited to carry out traffic calming measures at Glenesk Road and St. Mark's Road North.

#### Work Plan

Ms Trueman introduced the Committee's Work Plan for 2011/12 and advised that a new issue had been added following a meeting of the Youth Task and Finish group. Sport and Leisure funded people to become sports coaches or referees and there was the possibility of developing a package which would target residents of the East Area to provide them with the skills to become coaches or referees and then be able to gain employment.

Councillor McClennan stated that it was necessary to ensure that this work did not duplicate the work that the SAFC Foundation was already involved in.

8. RESOLVED that the work plan and the progress made be noted.

#### Community Chest and Strategic Initiative Budget (SIB) – Financial Statement and Proposals for Further Allocation of Resources

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which allowed Members to consider the allocation of SIB and Community Chest funding to support initiatives which would deliver activities against the priorities for 2011/12.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Nicol Trueman, Area Officer presented the report, taking Members through each application and answering questions from Members upon them.

9. RESOLVED that:-
  - a. the financial statement as set out in annex 1 and 3 of the report be noted;
  - b. approval be given to the 17 proposals for funding from the Community Chest totalling £8,414 from the 2011/2012 budget as set out in annex 2 of the report;

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

(Signed) E. BALL,  
Chairman.