

At a meeting of the NORTH SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in the BUNNY HILL CENTRE, HYLTON LANE, SUNDERLAND on MONDAY, 20th JANUARY, 2014 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Bell in the Chair

Councillors Bonallie, Davison, Foster, Francis, Jackson, MacKnight, Shattock, D. Wilson, Wiper and Wright

Also in Attendance:-

Inspector Tony Carty	Northumbria Police
Ms. Vicki Casey	- Communications Officer, Sunderland City Council
Mr. Steven Graham	Station Manager, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service
Ms. Gillian Gibson	- Consultant in Public Health, 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	- SNYP, North VCS Representative
Ms. Allison Patterson	- Area Coordinator, Sunderland City Council
Ms. Ev Ripley-Day	- Head of Raising Standards, Foundation of Light
Mr. Alan Scott	- North Locality Manager, Sunderland City Council
Ms. Sue Stanhope	- Director of HR & OD, Sunderland City Council and Area Lead Executive (ALE)
Ms. Joanne Stewart	- Principal Governance Services Officer, Sunderland City Council
Mr. Ken Tearrs	- Development Director, Foundation of Light
Mr. Graham Wharton	- Salvation Army, VCS Network

Chairman's Welcome

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

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Copeland, Curran and Howe.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Bell made an open declaration in the Financial Statement and Proposals for further allocation of resources as a SAFC season ticket holder.

Minutes of the Last Ordinary Meeting of the Committee held on 16th September, 2013 and the Extraordinary Meeting of the Committee held on 17th October, 2013

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last ordinary meeting of the Committee held on 16th September, 2013, and the extraordinary meeting of the Committee held on 17th October, 2013 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Partner Agency Reports - Area Voluntary and Community Sector

Ms. Ruth Oxley and Mr. Graham Wharton, Area Network Representatives submitted a report providing an update with regard to the North Area Voluntary and Community Sector Network.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Oxley referred the Committee to paragraph 3 of the report which detailed the work the VCS Network was undertaking and the services and activities it was continuing to deliver to address concerns and challenges.

Concerns were raised over access to ICT equipment since the closure of some libraries in and around the North area and the extra pressure it was placing on VCS partners to help provide support to those seeking work and having to prove to Job Centre Plus that they were actively searching for jobs through the internet, etc. Members of the Area Committee felt that this was an area of work that could be forwarded to the People Board to investigate further and report back to the Area Committee their findings and/or solutions.

Having fully considered the progress report, it was:-

2. RESOLVED that the content of the report and the opportunities and issues raised by the Area Voluntary and Community Sector be received and noted and that the North Sunderland People Board be asked to look into the issue around ICT provision and support for the VCS networks further and report back at a future meeting of the Area Committee.

Partner Agency Reports – Northumbria Police

Neighbourhood Inspector Tony Carty, Northumbria Police gave a verbal update to the Committee on the current position with regards to crime and anti social behaviour data in the North Sunderland area.

Members asked if there had been any noticeable increase in shoplifting in the area over the past year. Concerns were raised that due to the current economic climate and the financial difficulties families were facing, local business may have found that cases of shoplifting were on the increase.

Inspector Carty advised that he did not have the figures to hand but could certainly look into the matter further and provide an update to Members.

Members having thanked Neighbourhood Inspector Carty for the work undertaken to reduce crime and antisocial behaviour in the area, it was:-

3. 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 monitoring details in relation to the local indicators for the North Sunderland Area Committee area for the six month period 1.06.13 to 31.12.13, in comparison with the same period in 2012/13, advising that there had been:-

- a 4% decrease in accidental dwelling fires;
- a 40% decrease in deliberate property fires;
- a 35% decrease in deliberate car/vehicle fires; and
- a 31% increase in deliberate secondary fires.

He explained that there had been hot spots identified for the deliberate secondary fires and that they were working with partners and other agencies in these areas.

He advised that at a meeting of the Fire Authority earlier that day it had been agreed that Sunderland Town Centre Fire Station was to close and that he would bring further information on this to the next meeting of the Area Committee.

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

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

Place Board Progress Report

The Chairman of the Place Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update of progress against the current year's (2013/14) Place Board Work Plan.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Vivienne Metcalfe, Area Community Officer presented the report drawing Members' attention to the Area Governance Arrangements detailed in paragraph 3 and the key areas of influence and achievements of the Place Board detailed in paragraph 4 in relation to Responsive Local Services,

Greenspace and Shopping Centre Improvements, Accessibility of services, facilities, events and information and Heritage.

Following full discussion on the report and matters raised, it was:-

5. RESOLVED that the progress and performance update with regard to the North Sunderland Area Place Board's Work Plan for 2013/14 be received and noted.

People Board – Progress Update

The Chairman of the People Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update of progress against the People Board's Work Plan for 2013/14.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Metcalfe, Area Community Officer presented the report drawing Members' attention to the key areas of influence and achievements of the People Board detailed in paragraph 4 in relation to Influencing Core Services Devolved to the Area Committee, Early Intervention and Locality Based Services and Job Prospects and Activities for Young People.

Councillor MacKnight referred to the proposed £10,000 SIB budget to be aligned to the provision of ward based events which would address childhood obesity and asked who would have responsibility for the project. Ms. Metcalfe advised that it was proposed that a call for projects would be prepared and that agencies within the VCS network would be asked to submit projects for consideration by Members.

Councillor MacKnight advised that one of the Scrutiny Panels had undertaken a piece of work in a similar area and following some of the findings from these investigations she raised concerns over duplicating projects and services that were already being providing in the city.

The Area Committee were advised that discussions would be had by the People Board on the brief for the call for projects that would be put out to the VCS Network to submit their proposals. Proposals would then be considered by the Board who could then ensure that they were not duplicating any projects or schemes already underway. Following these considerations the Board would then submit proposals to the Area Committee for agreement.

Full consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

6. RESOLVED that:-
 - i) the progress and performance update with regard to the North Sunderland Area People Board's Work Plan for 2013/14 be noted;

- ii) the proposal to support the delivery of the health and wellbeing strategy be agreed:-
 - to align £30,000 SIB to support the delivery of services and activities which address social isolation subject to a brief developed and agreed by People Board and a call for projects;
- iii) the proposal to support strengthening families – family focus projects be agreed:-
 - to align £10,000 SIB for the provision of ward based events showcasing services and activities and volunteering opportunities which address childhood obesity subject to the development of a full project brief and call for projects agreed by the People Board.

Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB), Community Chest and Healthy Cities Investment Fund (HCIF) – Financial Statement and Proposals for Further Allocation of Resources

The Chief Executive 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, Healthy City Investment Fund 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 at paragraph 5.

Members considered the report and it was:-

7. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the financial statements as set out in paragraphs 2.1, 3.1 and 4.1 of the report be noted;
- (ii) approval be given to the allocation of £4,500 from the SIB budget for 2013/14 to support the Hylton Sports Centre – Access to Sports project;
- (iii) approval be given to the allocation of £25,000 from the SUB budget for 2013/14 to support the Southwick Neighbourhood Youth Project – Improving the Employability of 16-25 year olds;
- (iv) approval be given to the allocation of £20,000 from the SIB budget for 2013/14 to support the Wheatsheaf Gyrotory Clock;
- (v) approval be given to the allocation of £50,000 from the SI budget for 2013/14 to support the Environmental Improvements project;

- (vi) approval be given to the allocation of £89,766 from the SIB budget for 2013/14 to support the Back on Track – Foundation of Light project;
- (vii) approval be given to the allocation of £30,000 from the SIB budget for 2013/14 to support the delivery of services and activities which address social isolation, subject to a brief developed and agreed by the People Board and a Call for Projects;
- (viii) approval be given to the allocation of £10,000 from the SIB budget for 2013/14 to support the provision of ward based events showcasing services and activities and volunteering opportunities which address childhood obesity, subject to the development of a full project brief and Call for Projects as agreed by the People Board; and
- (ix) the twenty four approvals for Community Chest support from the 2013/14 budget as set out in Annex 2 to the report be noted.

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

(Signed) R. BELL,
Chairman.