

**At a meeting of the WASHINGTON AREA COMMITTEE held at THE MILLENNIUM CENTRE, CONCORD on THURSDAY, 26<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2012 at 6.00 p.m.**

**Present:-**

Councillor Scaplehorn in the Chair

Councillors Fletcher, Kelly, Lauchlan, F. Miller, G. Miller, Padgett, Snowdon, Thompson, D. Trueman, H. Trueman, Walker and Williams.

John Rostron	-	City Services
Brian Hodgkinson	-	City Services
Karen Alexander	-	Chief Executives
Karon Purvis	-	Chief Executives
Lorraine Hughes	-	Children's Services/Sunderland PCT
Jim Kennedy	-	Children's Services
Jane Eland	-	Children's Services
Neil Revely	-	Health, Housing and Adult Services
Andrea Seymour	-	Commercial and Corporate Services
Paul Wood	-	Commercial and Corporate Services
James Third	-	Nexus
Inspector Paul Stewart	-	Police
Colin McCartney	-	Gentoo
Phil McAloon	-	ODYPP

Members of the Washington Community.

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors I. Richardson and Wake. Mike Poulter.

**Declarations of Interest**

Item 02a – Annual Report

Councillor Fletcher declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the item as her husband was the Education Officer for TWEBLO

Councillor G. Miller declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the item as Managing Director of TWEBLO.

Councillor F. Miller declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the item as her husband was the Managing Director of TWEBLO.

Councillor Fletcher declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the item as her husband was the Education and Heritage Officer.

Item 03b – Community Chest and Strategic Initiative Budget (SIB) – Financial Statement and Proposals for further allocation of Resources

Councillor Kelly declared personal and prejudicial interests in SIB application No 2, as a Board Member of Washington Trust and in the Community Chest item as a member of Usworth Banner Group and left the room during consideration of those items.

Councillor Scaplehorn declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the Community Chest as a member of Springwell Residents Association and left the room during consideration of the item.

Councillor Snowdon declared personal and prejudicial interests in the Community Chest applications as a Member of Glebe Residents Association and a Governor of Biddick Comprehensive School and left the room during consideration of those items.

Councillor Thompson declared personal and prejudicial interests in SIB Application No 1 as a Local Authority Representative on the Oxclose District Young People's Project Board of Trustees and in the Community Chest item as a member of the North East Goldfish Society and left the room during consideration of those applications.

Councillor Walker declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the Community Chest as a member of the Washington F Pit Banner Group and left the room during consideration of this item

Councillor Williams declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the Community Chest as a governor of Oxclose Community School and left the room during consideration of this item

Councillor Williams declared a personal interest in the Community Chest as a member of Glebe Miners Banner Group.

### **Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2012**

Councillor Snowdon referred to Page 5 Paragraph 8 of the minutes and that it was Councillor G. Miller who provided the update.

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2012 (copy circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record subject to the above amendment.

### **Community Action in Washington: Annual Report**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) informing Members that at the June 2011 meeting, the Committee agreed the work plan for 2011/12. It was agreed that the April 2012 meeting would consider the Committee's 'Annual Report'.

The Annual Report provided a snapshot of the Committee's work over the 2011/2012 municipal year. There had been some major achievements and success throughout 2011/2012 and changes implemented in the way the Committee operated with a greater alignment with priorities and a clearer focus on delivery.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Karon Purvis, Area Officer presented the report and introduced Jim Kennedy, Training & Accreditation Officer who updated the Committee on the work carried out in relation to helping local people access employment opportunities with a focus on Washington young people not in Employment Education and Training (NEETs)

Mr Kennedy wished to thank the Area Committee for their continued support, with the work being extremely successful in Washington. The target had been to engage with 250 young people, yet had ended up working with 600 people, involving them in a wide range of activities.

Mr Kennedy advised that the take up for 8-12 year olds had started slowly but through Quarter 4, this began to pick up and by the end of Quarter 4 the target of 107 sessions had been reached and exceeded with 143 sessions held in total.

Mr Kennedy informed of the collaborative work carried out with partners such as Northumbria Police (Operation Choice) and the Oxclose & District Young Peoples Project which has seen a 14% reduction in Anti Social Behaviour.

Mr Kennedy also advised that he would like to see the issue of the media's negativity towards young people to be tackled.

Councillor Kelly wished to congratulate all the groups on the work they had done with the Youths of Washington

The Chairman agreed and also wished to congratulate all groups/officers which had participated in the work carried out.

The Chairman introduced Alan Fletcher, Education Officer for TWEBLO who gave a short presentation on the work carried out and the visits undertaken. Mr Fletcher requested the Area Committees consideration for continued support of the programme to enable it to pursue efforts of achieving sustainability.

Councillor H. Trueman commented that there was a great deal happening in relation to this priority and hoped this would continue.

The Chairman wished to thank Mr Fletcher for the sterling work he had provided throughout the year which the Community Associations had greatly benefited from.

The Chairman also wished to highlight the work of Brian Hodgkinson, Area Response Manager who had been exceedingly good in his role and great for the Washington Area. The Chairman requested that thanks be given to Mr Hodgkinson and his team.

In relation to page 34 of the Agenda and the Monument Park Waiting Restrictions, Councillor Kelly enquired if there were any dates envisaged for completion.

Ms Purvis advised that they were expecting the project to be complete before the summer.

Mr Bill Craddock commented that the report was very good and requested copies be provided for a wider distribution.

2. RESOLVED that Members noted and agreed the content of the Annual Report.

### **Community Chest and Strategic Initiative Budget (SIB) – 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) and Community Chest to support initiatives that would benefit the area.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

In relation to the Community Chest and the application for Oxclose Community Table Tennis Club, Councillors H. Trueman and Williams advised that the figures should read £500 from both Washington Central and South Wards, with £200 each from Washington East, North and West.

3. RESOLVED that the Committee

- i) Noted the financial statement set out in Section 2.1 of the report.
- ii) Agreed the recommendations set out in Annex 1 with reference to the SIB applications
- iii) Approved £9,298 as a contribution from the 2011/12 SIB budget for the Young Peoples Activities Programme;

- iv) Approved £65,000 as a contribution from the 2011/12 SIB budget for the Washington Trust project,
- v) Approved £4,000 as a contribution from the 2011/12 SIB budget for the Pheonix Project
- vi) Agreed the allocation of £100,000 SIB to deliver a programme of work in 2012 which addresses an identified gap with regard to work with schools, training providers and employers (subject to receipt of detailed SIB application, assessment and consultation)
- vii) Approved the 42 proposals for support from the 2012/13 Community Chest as detailed in Annex 3 (amended at meeting).
- viii) Noted the allocation of budget for the Business Breakfast, the 2012 Washington Heritage Festival and the 2012 Concord Illuminations Event as detailed at 2.2.6 and 2.2.7 and Annex 2 of the report.

## **Influencing Practice, Policy and Strategy**

### **Provision of XL Village Youth Activity**

The Executive Director of Children's Services submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Members with information on the current position in relation to the XL Youth Village provision both countrywide and specifically in the Washington area. It highlighted proposals for amendments to the delivery model in order to provide better value for money and sought approval for the intended summer sites as proposed by the Washington Task and Finish Group.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Lee Ferry, XLYV Co-ordinator presented a report and powerpoint presentation informing Members of the recommendation to change the model of provision in the Washington area.

Mr Ferry advised that they would like to extend from 3 Blocks to 7 and 192 Youth sessions in the summer.

This would give a total of 280 youth work hours in Washington and Mr Ferry requested the proposed increase be considered and approved by Members for the process to go forward.

Councillor Williams commented that the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee had visited the project and it had been most encouraging to see the children engaged and wished to congratulate the group.

4. RESOLVED that Members
- i) Noted the proposed changes in the delivery model
  - ii) Considered the sites for the XL Village locations for summer 2012 as recommended by the Washington Task and Finish Group
  - iii) Agreed to receive a further report on the progress and outcomes of the project

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

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) and powerpoint presentation offering Members the opportunity to be consulted on plans and strategies relevant to the area.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Neil Cole, Lead Policy Officer for Planning presented the report and was on hand to answer Members queries.

In response to Councillor H. Trueman's query, Mr Cole advised that the 'mismatch' of Industrial Estates and retail was a big issue which was difficult to address.

Councillor H. Trueman agreed and commented that it would have been good if these industrial estates could have been used for housing.

The Chairman commented that there was not much provision in the Strategy for Housing.

Mr Cole advised that there was considerable green space and employment land in Washington which provided constraints, but the amount of green space was also a reason why Washington was a popular place to live and the 900 houses mentioned in the Strategy would be the minimum figure.

In response to the Chairman's request for considering the dilapidated Industrial Estates for housing, Mr Cole advised that it was an option.

Councillor Kelly commented that he was in favour of retaining the green belt and that executive housing was important but his main concern was in relation to affordable housing and the long waiting list for accommodation.

Councillor Kelly also commented that whilst he did not want to lose the green belt, there did need to be serious consideration given to affordable housing.

Councillor Snowdon also wished to protect the green belt and raised concerns over what could be done to stop neighbouring authorities such as Gateshead Council from building up to our boundaries.

Councillor Snowdon also commented that in terms of retail, she believed the Galleries Shopping Centre was at full capacity.

Councillor G. Miller commented that there were several issues with housing, including our need to get developers to build where we required them to and not just where they wanted to.

Mr Cole advised that the plan would serve to influence developers on where to build but in terms of viability and in the current economic climate we had to strike a careful balance on the nature of sites we released.

In relation to the Council's duty to co-operate with other authorities, Mr Cole advised that there was more guidance being released and it was a huge issue now as we had to show how we would co-operate to meet the strategic priorities. This was a very long process but they were beginning to 'get to grips' with it and dealing with adjacent authorities.

Councillor Williams commented she was rather surprised by the statement that the Galleries Shopping Centre was 'punching above its weight' and also raised concerns over the issue of the number of school places available for residents when any new homes were built, which needed to be taken into consideration.

Councillor Williams also referred to the high usage of cars in Washington and the major issue of parking problems in the estates.

Mr Cole commented that in relation to school places they did look at infrastructure when considering housing and the Infrastructure Development Plan had been sent out to external utility providers as well as the Councils internal providers such as the Education department.

The next piece of work would focus at a micro level, considering if 900 homes were to be built, where the clusters of growth would be and which schools would come under pressure from this.

Mr Cole also advised that the new Community Infrastructure Levy would allow the authority to tax developers so that they could secure the money required for the infrastructure that could be needed.

Councillor Thompson commented on the road traffic accidents involving cyclists and enquired if there were plans to extend the cycle ways out of town, into Tyneside for example, to link to other authorities.

Mr Cole advised that under the duty to co-operate with other authorities, connecting areas was an issue being looked at.

5. RESOLVED that the Committee had considered the content of the LDF and it's relating documents.

The Chairman wished to draw to the attention of the Committee, the State of the Area Debate due to be held at Washington Multi Purpose Centre, which everyone

was welcome to attend. The Chairman then thanked everyone and closed the meeting.

(Signed) B. SCAPLEHORN,  
Chairman.