

At a meeting of the EAST SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE, SUNDERLAND on MONDAY, 22nd APRIL, 2013 at 5.30p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Ball in the Chair

Councillors Emerson, Errington, Farr, Forbes, E. Gibson, Kay, Maddison, McClennan, T. Martin, Mordey, Price, Scanlan and Wood

Also Present:-

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| Niall Benson | - | Heritage Coast Officer, Heritage Coast Partnership |
| Charlotte Burnham | - | Head of Scrutiny and Area Arrangements, Sunderland City Council |
| Paula Hunt | - | VCS Network Representative |
| Matthew Jackson | - | Governance Services Officer, Sunderland City Council |
| Trish Lynn | - | Performance Manager, SNCBC |
| Chris McCaul | - | Scrutiny and Area, Sunderland City Council |
| Jen McKeivitt | - | VCS Network Representative |
| Keith Moore | - | Area Lead Executive and Executive Director of Children's Services, Sunderland City Council |
| Nicky Rowland | - | Area Response Manager, Sunderland City Council |
| Nicol Trueman | - | Area Officer, Sunderland City Council |

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received on behalf of Councillor Marshall along with Alan Duffy, Claire Fisher, Bill Hodgson, Chris Marshall and Helen Peverley.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 21st January, 2013 and the Extraordinary Meeting held on 20th March, 2013

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 21st January, 2013 and the extraordinary meeting on 20th March, 2013 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Annual Report 2012/13

The Chair of the East Area Committee submitted a report (copy circulated) which requested the Committee's approval of the Annual Report which would be presented to Council as part of the combined Area Committees Annual Report 2012/13.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

The Chairman introduced the report and advised of the work that had been done by the Committee and the Place and People Boards over the course of the last year.

Councillor T. Martin referred to the work that had been done around opening up school facilities for community use. There were playing fields at the schools in Hendon which people wished to use but were not open for community use. Mr Moore advised that the People Boards would be looking at this as part of their ongoing work.

Councillor E. Gibson commented that since the introduction of the walk and talk sessions it was noticeable that the area was cleaner and tidier. She also hoped that the parking issues around schools would improve now that the council had introduced the camera car for identifying nuisance parkers.

Councillor Forbes commented that there were still problems with litter in the area. Ms Rowland stated that she would provide the figures showing the enforcement action taken; the action taken was not just the issuing of fines but included the education of offenders.

Councillor Forbes then asked whether parents were encouraged to get involved with the activities for children and young people. Councillor Emerson stated that parents were encouraged to get involved however it was sometimes difficult to engage with parents. Mr Moore added that there were a number of parents who did volunteer.

Councillor Errington added that at the Box Youth Project it was difficult to get parents involved. There was the issue that anyone who wanted to volunteer needed to be CRB checked and there was a cost involved in this.

2. RESOLVED that the annual report be approved for inclusion in the Area Committees Annual Report 2012/13.

Place Board Progress Report

The Chair of the Place Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update on the progress against the Place Board's Work Plan for 2012/13.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Scanlan, Chair of the Place Board, presented the report and advised that annex 1 contained all of the actions from the years work. All of the actions had been completed apart from those which were to be carried forward into the work plan for next year. There had been delays on the coastal path due to difficulties with contacting land owners. The responsive local services and streetscene work would be carried over every year.

Annex 2 of the report detailed the work plan for the upcoming year. It was proposed that the board would look at improving the local shopping centres such as Hylton Road.

Councillor Price stated that the condition of the local shopping centres had been raised at the state of the area event. Hylton Road had a lot of empty shops which made the area look neglected and unappealing; there was a need to attract new businesses to the area. Councillor Wood agreed that there was a need to look at local shopping centres; there had been work done in the city centre and the same principles now needed to be applied to the local shops.

Councillor Errington commented that it was important to consider public transport while looking at the local shopping centres as there was a need to provide residents with a means of accessing the shops.

Paula Hunt stated that the VCS network were happy to support the priorities. There was a lot of experience within the VCS network and they had been assisting with the work around the coastal path.

Councillor Mordey suggested that the river corridor be looked at; it had been briefly mentioned during the last year and he felt that it was important that work was done to improve the appearance of the river.

Councillor Forbes referred to the problems with parking in the area and the lack of free parking around some of the local shopping areas.

Councillor Scanlan stated that parking was being looked at, especially the area surrounding the hospital where there were proposals to increase the size of the parking management area.

Councillor Price commented that it was a shame that there was a need for parking restrictions to be imposed and that it was a minority of inconsiderate

drivers who parked on junctions and causing obstructions that lead to problems for everyone.

Councillor Mordey referred to the recently introduced camera car for catching people who were parked unlawfully outside of schools; he suggested that the camera car could be used elsewhere at other times to tackle nuisance parking across the area.

3. RESOLVED that:-
 - a. The annual performance update with regard to the East Sunderland Area Place Board's Work Plan for 2012/13 be given consideration.
 - b. The Work Plan for 2013/14 be agreed.

People Board Progress Report

The Chair of the People Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Members with an end of year performance update on the 2012/13 People Board Work Plan and sought approval of the proposed refresh of the priorities for the 2013/14 work plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Emerson, Chair of the People Board, presented the report and advised that the work plan for 2012/13 was included at annex 1 of the report. There had been delays in the work around opening school facilities for community use and Mr Moore would be following up on this to ensure that responses were received from the schools.

The issues around People were difficult to address as they were so complex. The proposed work plan for the coming year was included at annex 2 of the report.

Councillor Wood expressed concerns over the limited number of responses which had been received from schools with regard to what facilities they had; there were a number of Councillors who were school governors and he felt that if the difficulties with communication continued then these councillors should be informed so that they can raise the issue with the board of governors.

Mr Moore advised the Committee that there had already been a number of positive responses from schools relating to opening up of facilities. He agreed that governors should be contacted when there is no response from the school. Victoria French was working to get information from the schools.

Councillor Forbes commented that there was a need for public transport to be looked at as part of the work into supporting older people and reducing social isolation. Councillor Emerson agreed that there was a need for this to be looked at to identify where there were gaps in the services.

Councillor Kay advised that he had recently attended an event with Neil Revely, Executive Director of Health Housing and Adult Services, and organisations who worked with older people. There was a desire to develop Sunderland as an age friendly city and the Sunderland Business Investment District project would be including work around accessibility and ensuring that shops were age friendly. There was the possibility of developing a scheme to identify which shops were age or dementia friendly.

Councillor E. Gibson advised that in Doxford there had been a meeting with the community leaders about social isolation and there would be more meetings taking place.

Nonnie Crawford stated that there was a need to ensure that the city was age friendly for both the young and old. There was a need to provide facilities for young people and to provide more facilities for parents with young children.

Jen McKevitt stated that Community Groups and the VCS Network wanted to be involved in the work of the board. She also referred to the creation of a snapshot of the network and stated this would be useful as it would show people what organisations there were in the area and what work they were able to do.

Councillor Mordey commented on the success of the boards; he felt that they had worked well and that the good work done by everyone involved had been successful in influencing services.

4. RESOLVED that:-
 - a. Consideration be given to the Annual Performance Update relating to the East Sunderland Area People Board Work Plan for 2012/13.
 - b. The Work Plan for 2013/14 be agreed.

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

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Members with the financial statement for the allocation of Community Chest and SIB.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

The new allocation of Community Chest for 2013/14 had been approved and £10,000 had been made available for each Ward. There had also been a carry over from 2012/13 of £14,922 which had been added to the budget for 2013/14. The amounts available for each Ward were detailed in the table at paragraph 2.1 of the report.

SIB funding of £277,456 had been allocated to the Committee for 2013/14 and with the remaining budget of £145,222 from 2012/13 carried forward the total amount of SIB available for 2013/14 was £422,678. There was one application for SIB funding of £50,000 for the Coastal Path project. The details of the project were set out at annex 2 of the report.

Niall Benson presented the proposals for the Coastal Path project which would include the provision of improved signage, information boards and other features to improve the appearance of the coastal path. There would be consultation carried out to identify what information needed to be provided along the route.

5. RESOLVED that:-
 - a. The financial statements for Community Chest, SIB and HCIF be noted.
 - b. The 13 approved Community Chest applications set out in Annex 1 be noted.
 - c. £50,000 of SIB funding be aligned to the Coastal Path project as detailed in Annex 2.

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

(Signed) E. BALL,
Chairman.