

**At a meeting of the SOUTH SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE on MONDAY, 7<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2008 at 5.30 p.m.**

**Present:-**

Councillor Tye in the Chair

Councillors Errington, E. Gibson, P. Gibson, Oliver and P. Smith

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Blyth, M. Dixon and L. Scott.

**Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 29<sup>th</sup> October, 2007**

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 29<sup>th</sup> October, 2007 (copy circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

**Declarations of Interest**

Item 13 – Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) Regeneration Issues Report

Councillor Errington declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the item as a Governor of Portland School and withdrew from the meeting prior to consideration of the item.

Councillor Peter Gibson declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the item as Chairman of the Silksworth Community Association Management Committee and withdrew from the meeting prior to consideration of the item.

Councillor Pat Smith declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the item as Vice Chairman of the Silksworth Community Association Management Committee and withdrew from the meeting prior to consideration of the item.

## **Crime Rates Relating to the South Sunderland Area – Presentation from Northumbria Police**

Inspector Lisa Musgrove presented the report (copy circulated) detailing crimes committed in each Ward of the South Sunderland Area for the period 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2006 – 31<sup>st</sup> October 2007 in comparison with the same period 2004/05 and 2005/06.

(For copy statistics – see original minutes)

Councillor E. Gibson referred to drug related offences in the Doxford Ward and queried whether the figures cited related to people who were found in possession on the street and stopped and searched or whether the figures related to house raids. Inspector Musgrove stated that the majority of cases were people who had been stopped and searched and subsequently given cannabis warnings.

Councillor Smith queried the definition of damage in relation to the report and asked whether the figures were general incidences. Inspector Musgrove advised that damage related to graffiti, arson, damage to bus shelters etc.

In response to a further question from Councillor Smith regarding drug dealing in certain pubs, Inspector Musgrove advised that the Police would need more information from the public to carry out further investigations.

Councillor Oliver referred to recent incidences of petrol theft from garage forecourts. Inspector Musgrove stated that there had been an increase in the number of 'bilking' incidents before Christmas along with a rise in shop lifting.

In response to a question from Councillor Peter Gibson regarding the nature of burglary dwelling, Inspector Musgrove stated that the majority of dwelling thefts were from sheds and garages with such items as tools and motorbikes being stolen.

2. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

## **Minutes of the Meeting of the Local Multi-Agency Problem Solving Group**

The Local multi-Agency Problem Solving Group submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with the minutes of the last meetings held on 23<sup>rd</sup> October and 27<sup>th</sup> November, 2007.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Inspector Musgrove advised that the theft of lead highlighted at the last meeting had suddenly stopped in early December. It was unclear why this was the case.

Councillor Tye asked Richard Parry, Area Regeneration Officer, to update the Committee on the current situation regarding the CCTV cameras at the ski slope. Mr. Parry advised that the initial planning application had been objected to by officers. A revised application had been submitted, however, given the planning process this was likely to take 8 weeks.

Councillor Peter Gibson reported that the disruptions in the Newport area (Somerset Street) had started again. Inspector Musgrove advised that the CCTV camera had been relocated to Lincoln Avenue due to the building works, however, the camera still monitored the same area and actually had a better viewing scope of the area.

The Chairman thanked Inspector Musgrove for updating the Committee.

3. RESOLVED that the minutes of the LMAPS meetings held on 23<sup>rd</sup> October and 27<sup>th</sup> November, 2007 be received and noted.

### **Area Committee Representation on Local Multi-Agency Problem Solving Groups**

The Director of Development and Regeneration submitted a report to request that the Area Committee nominate a representative to become a core member of the Local Multi-Agency Problem Solving (LMAPS) Group for the South area.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Richard Parry, Area Regeneration Officer, presented the report and advised the Committee that Councillor Tye had sat on the Group in its pilot stage. Councillor Peter Gibson having nominated Councillor Tye to take up the membership and it having been duly seconded by Councillor E. Gibson, it was:-

4. RESOLVED that Councillor Tye be appointed as a core member of the Local Multi-Agency Problem Solving (LMAPS) Group for the South area.

### **Progress Report – Silksworth Environmental Improvements**

Keith Hamilton, Development and Regeneration, gave a powerpoint presentation on the environmental improvement proposals and work that had taken place in Silksworth.

(For copy presentation – see original minutes)

Councillor P. Gibson thanked Mr. Hamilton for the hard work that had been carried out prior to Remembrance Day on 11<sup>th</sup> November.

Councillor P. Gibson commended the proposal to relocate Silksworth Memorial. This would give the monument more focus and would give local people greater ownership. The proposal would also allow for space around the memorial to enable people to gather around it following the Remembrance Day parade.

In response to a question from Councillor P. Smith, Mr. Hamilton advised that the Memorial would be moved in front of the park gates in a new public square.

Mr. Hamilton advised that it was hoped that the band stand would be refurbished to make it more of a stage for general entertainment. The design would be worked up in consultation with the local community.

The Chairman thanked Mr Hamilton for his report.

5. RESOLVED that the contents of the presentation be received and noted.

### **Consultation on Sunderland Parenting Strategy**

Ms. Janet Newton, Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Manager, Children's Services, provided the Committee with a powerpoint presentation on the Sunderland Parenting Strategy. Copies of the draft strategy were tabled for Members' information.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Newton advised Members of the background to the development and delivery of the Strategy following Government Policy and Guidance, the visions of the Children's Trust and the parenting Board, how parenting support would be provided at three levels (specialist, targeted and universal) and over four age bands (pre-birth, 0 to 5, 5 to 11 and 11 to 28), the key features of the Sunderland Parenting Model, consultation and of the proposed parenting programmes in Sunderland and the challenges facing the Sunderland Parenting Strategy.

Ms. Newton then asked Members the following questions:-

- (i) What makes good parenting?
- (ii) What makes it hard to be a good parent?

Suggestions were offered as follows:-

- (i) What makes good parenting?
  - parents taking responsibility for their children
  - family network

- knowing where children are at all times
  - love and care
  - ground rules/ boundaries
- (ii) What makes it hard to be a good parent?
- commercial pressure
  - absent parents
  - income / deprivation
  - background and experiences of parents
  - peer pressure
  - expectations and aspirations of parents

The Chairman thanked Ms. Newton for her presentation.

6. RESOLVED that Members' comments on the initial draft parenting strategy be received and noted.

### **Services to Help People Living at Home – December 2007**

The Director of Health, Housing and Adult Services submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide area-based information to Members about services to help people to live in their own homes.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Pauline Blyth, Health, Housing and Adult Services, advised that the report looked at information covering the services provided to individuals to assist them to remain in their own homes and therefore promoting independence. In the longer term some of the work would be integrated into the Area Profile Reports previously discussed at the Committee.

Councillor P. Gibson commented that he had visited an extra care housing scheme at Gateshead which was an excellent community facility and gave a great feeling of independence. Silksworth was getting the first of three extra care schemes and Councillor P. Gibson queried whether their impact would be immediate or longer term. Ms. Blyth advised that the impact should be felt straight away.

Councillor Errington queried whether the receipt of the Telecare service was included as 'equipment' and if so whether it was available in all properties. Ms. Blyth advised that Telecare was available if someone had an assessed need. Most Telecare systems were in registered social landlord properties but the scheme was being rolled out across the private sector.

Councillor E. Gibson stated that it was pleasing that Sunderland was one of very few local authorities that continued to provide services to all assessed individuals through the Fair Access to Care Services (FACS) – from 'Low' to 'Critical' Risk.

The Chairman thanked Ms. Blyth for her report.

7. RESOLVED that the contents of the report be received and noted.

### **Sunderland Remembering Slavery Evaluation of the Bi Centenary of the Abolition of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade**

The Director of Community and Cultural Services submitted a report (copy circulated) which updated Members on the events held to mark the anniversary of the abolition of the Slave Trade.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Mrs Ann Scott, Culture and Tourism presented the report.

Councillor P. Gibson commented that he was delighted that Sunderland had hosted commemorative activities but felt they could have been disseminated more widely into primary schools. Mrs Scott advised that the report did not fully reflect the amount of work done in schools, but would take Councillor Gibson's comment back to the department.

The Chairman having thanked Mrs Scott for her report, it was:-

8. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted for information.

### **Heritage Open Days 2007**

The Director of Community and Cultural Services submitted a report (copy circulated) updating Members on Heritage Open Days 2007.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Mrs. Ann Scott, Culture and Tourism presented the report.

Members having considered the report, it was:-

9. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

### **Regeneration Issues Report : Feedback : Feedback on Projects Previously Funded Through Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB)**

The Director of Development and Regeneration submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide information to the Area Committee on expenditure from the Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) on projects it had previously funded.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Mrs. Karen Todd, Head Teacher, was present on behalf of the Richard Avenue Primary School Building Learning Power bid and provided Members with feedback on the project and answered Members' enquiries thereon.

The Chairman thanked Mrs. Todd for attending the meeting.

10. RESOLVED that the feedback report be received and noted.

### **Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) : Regeneration Issues Report**

The Director of Development and Regeneration submitted a report (copy circulated) on the proposed allocation of SIB funding to support the following initiatives of benefit to the area:-

- (i) Chelmsford Street Residents' Group Community Safety initiative;
- (ii) Portland Café Development Project;
- (iii) Silksworth Community Centre Safety Works Project;
- (iv) Silksworth Churchside Allotments Environmental Improvements Project;
- (v) Durham County Show.

Martin Wright presented the application in respect of Portland Café Development, Pat Burn in respect of Silksworth Community Centre Safety Works, Ralph Wilkinson in respect of Environmental Improvements at Silksworth Churchside Allotments and Ms. Penman on behalf of Chelmsford Street Residents' Group's Community Safety Initiative. Richard Parry updated Members with regard to additional funding to the previously agreed Durham County Show.

In respect of the application regarding Chelmsford Street Community Safety Initiative, Councillor Oliver commented that there had been a number of petitions and requests that had been turned down by the Director of Development and Regeneration relating to similar requests for private 'gated' streets and wondered how this project differed.

Mr. Parry explained that the road was not being closed per se, rather a fence and gate were being installed at either end of the non adopted highway at Chelmsford Street. If a rights of way issue was subsequently challenged then the Council would be duty bound to follow it up.

Councillor Oliver queried how long the scheme would last given that a formal experiment was occurring on the North side in gaining closing orders to combat anti-social behaviour.

Mr Parry advised that the Chelmsford Street gate would be a permanent closure whereby every resident would hold a key.

The Chairman having thanked everyone for their presentation, it was:-

11. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) £7,224 as a contribution to the Chelmsford Street Residents' Group Community Safety Initiative be approved;
- (ii) £12,500 as a contribution to the Portland Café Development Project be approved;
- (iii) £20,000 as a contribution to the Silksworth Community Centre Safety Works Project be approved;
- (iv) £3,176 as a contribution to the Silksworth Churchside Allotments Environmental Improvement Project be approved; and
- (v) £1,417 additional funding to the previously agreed Durham County Show be approved.

### **Strategic Initiatives Budget Update**

The Director of Development and Regeneration submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide Members with an update on live projects for which the Area Committee has previously approved funding through its Strategic Initiatives Budget.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

12. RESOLVED that the contents of the report be received and noted.

### **Strategic Initiatives Budget : 2007/2008 Ward Based Community Chest**

The Director of Development and Regeneration submitted a report (copy circulated) on six projects recommended for support from the 2007/2008 Community Chest Scheme in respect of the Doxford, Silksworth and St. Chad's Wards.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

The Chairman stated that an application from the A690 Midnight Football League had been submitted in relation to the St. Chad's Ward requesting funding of £750 which he had asked to be tabled at the meeting. Councillor Oliver stated that there had also been a request for £100 to the Mayor's Charity Concert. It was noted that there would not be another opportunity to consider these proposals until the next meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2008.



In accordance with Section 100(B) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Chairman agreed by reason of the special circumstances that the applications be considered as a matter of urgency. Accordingly it was:-

13. RESOLVED that approval be given to:-
- (i) the six projects recommended for support from the 2007/08 budget with a total of £3,355 as detailed in Annex 1 to the report; and
  - (ii) the granting of £750 Community Chest funding from the St. Chad's Ward to the A690 Youth Project as a contribution to the Midnight Football League; and
  - (iii) the granting of £100 Community Chest funding from the St. Chad's Ward as a contribution to the Mayor's Charity Concert.

### **Impact of the Youth Work Commissioning Strategy**

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report (copy circulated) to consider feedback regarding progress of the restructure of the Youth Development Group which was implemented in August 2004 and facilitated a shift from a delivery model to a Commissioning Model of Youth Services that retained Strategic and Corporate responsibilities in the control of Sunderland Council.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Andy Neal, Acting Youth Development Group Manager, gave a powerpoint presentation on how the strategy was performing in the South Sunderland Area.

The Chairman queried how the number of contacts were measured and was advised that it was based on the number of young people who registered on youth projects.

In response to a question from the Chairman relating to what was happening with the TYE Initiative, Mr. Neal agreed to find out what would happen when NRF funding ended.

The Chairman stated that it was extremely important that youth provision was advertised and requested that Mr. Neal liaise with Jane Gatiss, Communications and Marketing Co-ordinator, to market the service.

Councillor Peter Gibson stated that since commissioning, youth provision in Silksworth was not as good. He asked whether any of the contracts in the area were failing.

Mr. Neal explained that some projects might not be hitting all four performance indicators, but all projects had passed the required targets and standards. The Box Project had fallen short in the initial years due to staffing problems.

The Chairman thanked Mr Neal for his report, it was:-

14. RESOLVED that the contents of the report be received.

The Chairman thanked Members and Officers for their attendance and closed the meeting.

(Signed) P.M. TYE,  
Chairman.