

At a Meeting of the WEST SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE, SUNDERLAND on WEDNESDAY, 21ST SEPTEMBER, 2011 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor P. Gibson in the Chair

Councillors Allan, Gofton, L. Martin, Morrissey, Oliver, Porthouse, P. Smith, Tye, D. Waller and A. Wilson.

Also Present:-

Karen Alexander	Employment and Training Manager	Sunderland City Council
Sarah Bate	Volunteer	Box Youth Project
Bill Blackett	Area Response Manager	Sunderland City Council
Jasmin Boyd	Volunteer	A690 Youth Initiative
Tanya Boyd	Young Youth Leader	A690 Youth Initiative
Joanna Bonar	Senior Solicitor	Sunderland City Council
Sarah Conlon	Youth Worker	Youth Almighty Project
Dannielle Dixon	Volunteer	Box Youth Project
Kevin Douglas	Media Officer	Sunderland City Council
Jane Eland	Children's Services Operational Manager	Sunderland City Council
Jim Ferry	Project Manager	A690 Youth Initiative
Gillian Gibson		South of Tyne and Wear NHS
Sophie Grant	Volunteer	Box Youth Project
Julie Gray	Head of Community Services	Sunderland City Council
Peter Iveson	Station Manager	Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service
Bill Leach		VCS Network
Julie Lynn	North Sunderland Area Officer	Sunderland City Council
Liam Morrison	Assistant Youth Worker	A690 Youth Worker
James Newell	Assistant Head of Street Scene	Sunderland City Council
David Noon	Principal Governance Services Officer	Sunderland City Council
Mark Overton	Consultant in Public Health	Sunderland TPCT
Victoria Page	Volunteer	Box Youth Project
Richard Parry	Area Officer	Sunderland City Council
Alison Patterson	Scrutiny and Area Arrangements Manager	Sunderland City Council
Colin Ranson	Assistant Head of Community Services	Sunderland City Council
Lisa Watson Riddell	Project Manager	Box Youth Project

Edna Rochester		VCS Network
Kim Searle	Volunteer	Box Youth Project
Danielle Shins	Volunteer	Box Youth Project
Tim Smith	Group Engineer	Sunderland City Council
Nikki Vokes	Project Manager	Sunderland North Community Business Centre
Cheryl Warcup	Inspector	Northumbria Police

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and those present introduced themselves.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Essl, Gallagher, P. Watson, S. Watson, A. Wright and T. Wright and on behalf of James Third, Angela Cousins and Anne Morrison.

Declarations of Interest

Joanna Bonar, Senior Solicitor having provided the Committee with a brief presentation on the Code of Conduct in relation to declarations of interest, Members declared interests in the agenda items as detailed below:-

Item 2: Youth and Play

Councillor Tye declared a personal interest as Volunteer Youth Worker and Chair of YAP.

Councillor Wilson declared a personal interest as a Council appointed Member of Lambton Street Fellowship Centre.

Item 2 iv: Community Chest

Councillor Tye declared a personal interest as an attendee of Plains Farm and Humbledon Residents Association.

Councillor Porthouse declared personal and prejudicial interests as a Governor of Farrington Primary School and a Trustee of Sunderland South Forum.

Councillor P. Smith declared a personal and prejudicial interest as a Member of the Board of Plains Farm and Humbledon Residents Association.

Correspondence received by the Chairman

The Chairman informed the Committee of a letter of thanks received by Councillor Oliver from Edward Green Trustee/Treasurer of St. Aidan's Community Group for the Committee's help in supporting the Group Summer School through the provision of a Community Chest Grant.

The grant had enabled 92 children and young people to attend over 180 sessions weekly on the Summer School's fishing, fitness and football coaching courses.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 6th July, 2011 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Community Action in Sunderland West – Progress Review – Health and Wellbeing, focusing on areas of Concern and Risk Taking Lifestyle Behaviour

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which briefed the Committee on the issues arising through its Health and Wellbeing Task and Finish Group and which presented the interim evaluation report on the West Health Champions project.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Richard Parry, Area Officer presented the report and introduced Gillian Gibson who updated Members on developments in relation to the 'Health Champions' project and provided a comprehensive presentation on its six month evaluation report.

Members having endorsed what they believed to be an extremely pleasing report, and congratulated Councillor Waller on becoming the Committee's first fully trained Health Champion, it was:-

2. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the progress of the Health and Wellbeing Task and Finish Group and the Health Champions project evaluation report be noted, and
- (ii) Councillors Allan, P. Gibson and Waller be appointed to sit on the Committee's Task and Finish Group for Health and Wellbeing (Councillor Allan's appointment to be subject to clarification that the appointment would not represent a conflict of interest in relation to his role as Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder).

Community Action in Sunderland West – Progress Review – Youth and Play Provision

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided feedback on the West Summer Activities Programme which had been supported through the allocation of £42,000 from the Committee's Strategic Initiatives Budget.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Jane Eland, Children's Services Operational Manager presented the report which also proposed actions to improve out of school activities for 8 to 12 year olds, the provision of Community Leader Training and the mapping and responding to youth anti-social behaviour.

In addition Jim Ferry, Project Manager of the A690 Youth Initiative, Lisa Watson Riddell, Project Manager of the Box Youth Project together with a number of young volunteers were present to provide feedback on the Summer Activities Programme.

Members having welcomed the report and in particular the collaborative effort and spirit of working together displayed across the West area, it was:-

3. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the evaluation of the West Summer Activity programme be noted and that the Committee's thanks to all involved in its delivery be placed on record,
- (ii) approval be given to the commitment of £26,400 Children's Services budget to future holiday activity programmes utilising the partnership approach developed for the summer programme,
- (iii) approval be given to the consideration of the Community Leader Training within the 'Jobs Prospects' Framework,
- (iv) the Children's Services Locality Operational Manager be requested to investigate options for the Committee to tackle the lack of out of school activity for 8 to 12 year olds,
- (v) the proposals to respond to youth anti-social behaviour be noted and that a further report on their effect be submitted in due course,
- (vi) Councillors Tye and Essl be nominated to serve as the Committee's representatives on the West Area LMAP, and
- (vii) Councillors P. Gibson, Allan, Porthouse and Waller be nominated to sit on the Committee's Youth and Play Task and Finish Group.

Community Action in Sunderland West – Progress Review – Job Prospects

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) in respect of the establishment of a Job Prospects Task and Finish Group to deliver the Committee's key issues of:-

- (i) increasing employability,
- (ii) support to increase the job skills of the most vulnerable and hard to reach, and
- (iii) accredited training for volunteers to improve skills and confidence.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Richard Parry, Area Officer introduced the item and welcomed Karen Alexander, Employment and Training Manager who provided Members with a comprehensive presentation on the Principles and Options for Employability Support in the West Area as detailed in Annex 1b to the report.

Detailed discussion ensued with Members highlighting:-

- the need to be constructive and find positives in a bleak situation.
- the difficulty of taking decisions over the allocation of scarce resources and the need to ensure that once allocated funding was controlled and monitored centrally.
- concern that the Government's Work Programme models were city centre based and not tailored to provide a local service.
- the need to support NEETs into work or training coupled with a recognition of the effect on the rest of the family if this resulted in a loss of benefits.

4. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) a Job Prospects Task and Finish Group be established to consider the options identified in Annex 1b to the report with a view to identifying a preferred option or a range of options as a way forward, and
- (ii) Councillors Wilson, Tye, Porthouse, L. Martin, Allan and P. Gibson be appointed to serve on the Job Prospects Task and Finish Group.

Community Action in Sunderland West – Environment and Street Scene Improvements

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which briefed the Committee in respect of the above matter.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Bill Blackett, West Area Response Manager, briefed the Committee on issues arising from the 'Ward Walks'. A number of project ideas had emerged and work was being done with Northumbria Police to design out Anti-Social Behaviour at an early stage.

In addition Members were briefed on the 'Love where you live' campaign which had been launched in the West Area that morning at 14 different events involving 12 different organisations. It was estimated that 130 people had participated at the events.

5. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the Environmental and Street Scene Improvements Briefing provided by Mr. Blackett be received and noted, and
- (ii) Councillors Waller, Morrissey and P. Gibson be appointed to serve on the Committee's Task and Finish Group for Environmental and Street Scene Improvements with any further expressions of interest to be submitted to Richard Parry, Area Officer.

Community Action in Sunderland West – Traffic and Highways

James Newell, Assistant Head of Street Scene and Tim Smith, Group Engineer presented Members with a comprehensive power point presentation on the Area Committee's Prioritisation Programme for 2012/13 with regard to Traffic and Highways, including repairs, speeding and dangerous driving.

Members were advised of:-

- the criteria and programmes for 20 mph zones.
- prioritisation for safety and speed reductions schemes.
- a 2011-2012 Highway Maintenance Programme Update in respect of the West Area.
- area and zonal approaches to routine and minor maintenance works.
- budget allocations within the Local Transport Plan 3.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Martin, Mr. Smith advised that the filling of potholes was carried out as an emergency repair, patching work was a larger scale item of work.

Councillor Tye referred to the study by Jacobs into pedestrian / traffic accidents commissioned by the Environmental and Attractive City Scrutiny Committee and suggested that its implications for Silksworth either be reported to this Committee or be considered by the Traffic and Highways Task and Finish Group.

Councillor Porthouse stated that there was no mention made in the report of school crossing patrols and suggested that they did not seem to be a priority where safety was concerned. Mr. Newell reassured the Committee that he was passionate about getting school crossing patrols in place. At the very least they were a visible deterrent to speeding motorists. There was a practical problem in that it was not seen as an attractive job and recruitment was proving difficult. The Chairman requested that a report into this matter be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

The Chairman having thanked, Mr. Newell and Mr. Smith for their presentation, it was:-

6. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the presentation be received and noted, and
- (ii) a report into the provision of school crossing patrols be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

West Area Committee 2011/12 Work Plan

Richard Parry, Area Officer drew Members attention to the Committee's Work Plan as detailed on pages 54 to 56 of the agenda.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Mr. Parry having briefed the Committee on the current position in relation to the Eden Vale Action Plan advised that with regard to the issue of Diversity, Members were being asked to nominate a West Area Diversity Champion. Consideration having been given to the matter and Members having requested the reintroduction of the crime and fire statistics to the Committee's Work Plan, it was:-

7. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the Work Plan be received and noted,
- (ii) Councillor Waller be nominated to serve as the West Area Committee's Diversity Champion, and
- (iii) the Northumbria Police Crime Statistics together with the performance figures from the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service be considered at the next meeting of the Committee.

Community Chest, Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) and Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) – Financial Statement and Proposals for Further Allocation of Resources

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) in respect of the above matter.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Richard Parry, Area Officer, presented the item highlighting the financial statement for 2011/2012 together with details of one application for SIB funding and 35 proposals for support from the Community Chest budget.

Consideration having been given to the report and the funding requests, it was:-

8. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the Area Committee's funding statement for 2011-2012 be received and noted,
- (ii) approval be given to the granting of SIB funding of £3,400 to Sunderland Pride in respect of its Sunderland Pride Carnival, and
- (iii) approval be given to the granting of the 35 Community Chest applications as detailed in Annex 1b of the report.

The Chairman then closed the meeting having thanked everyone for their attendance and wished them a safe journey home.

(Signed) P. GIBSON,
Chairman.