

At a meeting of the NORTH SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in the BUNNY HILL CENTRE, HYLTON LANE, SUNDERLAND on MONDAY, 28th MARCH, 2011 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Bell in the Chair

Councillors Bonallie, Charlton, Copeland, Foster, Francis, G. Hall, Howe, MacKnight, Shattock, Stewart, J. Walton, L. Walton and D. Wilson

Also in Attendance:-

Ms. Amanda Cattle	- Area Community Coordinator, Sunderland City Council
Mr. Les Clark	- Head of Streetscene, Sunderland City Council
Mr. John Fisher	- Housing Options Manager, Sunderland City Council
Mr. Mike Foster	- Head of Schools and Learning, Sunderland City Council
Mr. Dan Hattle	- Principal Planner, Sunderland City Council
Ms. Stacy Hodgkinson	- Senior Risk Management Advisor, Sunderland City Council
Ms. Claire Jones	- Senior Planner, Sunderland City Council
Ms. Julie Lynn	- Area Officer (North), Sunderland City Council
Insp. Lisa Musgrove	- Northumbria Police
Mr. Ron Odunaiya	- Executive Director City Services, ALE (Area Lead Executive), Sunderland City Council
Mr. Andy Old	- North Area Response Officer, Sunderland City Council
Mr. Paul Power	- Sports Development Delivery Manger, Sunderland City Council
Ms. Dawn Rugman	- Policy Officer (Diversity), Sunderland City Council
Mr. Raj Singh	- Extended Services & Attendance Group Manager, Sunderland City Council
Ms. Joanne Stewart	- Senior Democratic Services Officer, Sunderland City Council
Mr. Graham Wharton	- Co-Chair, The Salvation Army
Mr. Mike Wooler	- School Improvement Officer, Sunderland City Council

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone, invited introductions around the room and opened the meeting. He explained that it would be the last meeting for Councillors J. Walton and D. Wilson as they would not be standing in the forthcoming elections, and thanked them for their input as Members of the Committee and wished them well for the future.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillor N. Wright

Declarations of Interest

Item 3 – Community Action in Sunderland North – Progress Review : vi.
Community Chest, Strategic Initiative Budget (SIB) and Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) – Financial Statements and Proposals for Further Allocation of Resources

Councillor Foster declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the SIB application towards the Castletown Miners Banner as a member of the board of Castleview Academy and withdrew from the meeting during its consideration.

Councillors Charlton and MacKnight declared personal and prejudicial interests in the SIB application towards Redhouse Academy Lighting as members of the Board of Redhouse Academy and withdrew from the meeting during its consideration.

Councillor Hall declared a personal interest in the Community Chest application towards the Armed Forces Day as a member of the organising committee.

Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 6th January, 2011

Ms. Lynn, Area Officer, referred to page three, paragraph two of the minutes and asked that the statement 'the groups were not looking at other options' be amended to read 'the groups were looking at other options', and it was:-

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 6th January, 2011 (copy circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to the amendment above and the inclusion of Councillor Francis in the attendance.

Community Action in Sunderland North – Progress Review

Work Plan 2010/2011 : Community Philosophy

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Members with an update on the Creative Communities (Community Philosophy) project in the Southwick area.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Rugman presented the report advising of current activities that were being undertaken, including the Big Dinner which had been an event that had brought together people from the project with others from similar projects in the Pennywell and Hetton areas to share their experiences of community philosophy, how they had approached community concerns in their area and

given them the opportunity to talk about their own projects and opportunities for future work. Ms. Rugman advised that a DVD was in production of the Big Dinner event and would be shared with Members once finalised.

2. RESOLVED that:-

- the report be received and noted; and
- further update reports be received on the Community Philosophy project.

Work Plan 2010/2011 : The Greening of the North Area

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update of outstanding issues from the 2009/2010 work plan and showed progress against agreed actions in the current work plan with regard to the Greening of the North Area Task and Finish Group.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Copeland referred to paragraph 4.1 of the report and the River Rubbish Relay that had been held in January and what a success the event had been. She advised that another similar event was being considered for June 2011, prior to events being held in the area, which she hoped would be even more successful than the first.

Councillor Hall asked which events they were referring to and was advised that the International Oral History Conference was to be held at St Peter's Campus and the Glass Centre in early July.

He went on to comment that he had attended the event in January and was astounded by the amounts of rubbish they had cleared and suggested that it may be beneficial for a Council Officer to undertake a piece of work to evaluate the problems in the area and come up with some solutions to the issues, and it was:-

3. RESOLVED that:-

- the report be noted;
- the progression of the project on Sunderland Community North Complex as set out in the report be agreed; and
- the development of Roker Park Lodge as a community and educational facility, subject to further detail being provided, be agreed.

Work Plan 2010/2011 : Heritage Task and Finish Group

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Members with an update of outstanding issues from the 2009/2010 work plan and showed progress made against agreed actions in the current year's work plan with regard to the Heritage Task and Finish Group.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Lynn presented the report advising that the group had met and discussed the priorities of the Heritage Task and Finish Group and projects that may be developed to support the achievement of the priorities.

Councillor Howe referred to paragraph 2.10 of the report and asked how it had been decided which community groups in Fulwell and St Peter's be contacted with regards to the work in Seaburn and St Peter's Stations as none of the Ward Councillors had been made aware of this. Ms. Cattle advised that initial groups had been provided through the Friends of Fulwell Society but that the work was still being progressed and nothing was finalised yet. Ms. Lynn also commented that the names of any community groups wanting to be involved in the work would then be submitted to Nexus for agreement.

Councillor Hall asked in the Monkwearmouth History Group, who were based at Monkwearmouth Library, had been contacted and also asked if there were plans to link with the Heritage Fair that was to be held at the Seaburn Centre, and Ms. Lynn agreed to make contact with the group and follow this issue up.

Councillor Stewart referred to paragraph 2.3 of the report and was interested to see which school had identified which heritage site it wished to adopt, and Ms. Lynn agreed to provide details of these to Members directly.

4. RESOLVED that:-

- the report be received and noted;
- the work of the schools within the Living History North East Conference, be agreed; and
- the community projects at the Metro platforms within the North area be agreed.

2011/12 Priorities and Workplan

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) updating Members on the progress of developing the 2011/12 Workplan and the priorities that have been identified for the North Area through this process.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Lynn presented the report, advising that a meeting had been held with Members of the Committee where discussions had taken place regarding issues for the area and the initial priorities for a one year work plan had been provisionally agreed as:-

- Activities for Young People;
- Attractive and Cared for Environment;
- Housing; and

- Anti Social Behaviour.

The following priorities would be carried over from the existing work plan:-

- Heritage;
- Greening (to be incorporated into attractive and cared for environment);
- Motorcycle Disorder (to be incorporated into Anti Social Behaviour);
- Community Philosophy; and
- Byelaw Review.

Councillor Copeland referred to the work around motorcycle disorder and was advised by Ms. Lynn that areas of concern had been identified and work was ongoing with Northumbria Police to address the issues. The rights of way Officer had attended sites to try and make access more difficult but there was no simple suggestion to combat the issue overall.

In response to a query from Councillor Francis regarding the crushing of vehicles, Inspector Musgrove explained that the police could seize the vehicle if it was used twice as they would receive a warning for the first incident.

The Chairman agreed that it was an issue for the area and was pleased to see that the Council and Northumbria Police collectively were doing their best to address the difficult issue, and it was:-

5. RESOLVED that:-

- the updated process on the development of the 2011/12 workplan and progress made be received and noted;
- a final design of the plan for input and comment be agreed to be received; and
- the final plan be agreed to be received at the Committee meeting to be held in June, 2011.

Lettings Policy for Schools

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided a copy of the current lettings policy for community use of school buildings.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Lynn presented the report, advising that an issue had been raised against the Learning Priority in the 2009/2010 work plan regarding the availability of specialist and generalist youth provision in all wards in the North Area. One of the actions to resolve the issue was to review the current policy for community use of school buildings.

Members discussed the issues around community use of school buildings and surrounding grounds and how they could be more accessible, especially out

of school hours and during school, holidays. Mr. Foster commented that it was the intention that facilities should be used as much as possible but that there were challenges around finances. Work was being undertaken to try and standardise charges but the Governing Body was able at any time to reduce the charges to increase use if they wished.

Mr. Singh commented that extended schools had a policy to promote the use of facilities and all schools in the city were signed up to the policy. It would normally come down to looking at the practicality of accessing facilities out of school hours and the overall cost to the Governing Body this would cause.

Mr. Odunaiya commented that if there were concerns how a school was being operated they could be influenced by speaking with them directly or through the Governing Body, if Members were not a Governor at the school. Mr. Foster also commented that all correspondence concerning lettings and charges would be circulated to all Governors to be addressed and agreed at their meetings.

6. RESOLVED that:-

- the contents of the Lettings Policy be received and noted;
- the Lettings Policy be promoted to Governing Bodies; and
- Headteachers and Governing Bodies be encouraged to review their current hire agreements and make any necessary amendments to ensure the interests of their School and the Council are protected.

Work Plan 2010/2011 : Seaburn Public Realm Improvements

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Members with an update of outstanding issues from the 2009/2010 work plan and showed progress made against agreed actions in the current year's work plan with regard to the Seaburn Public Realm Improvements.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Mr. Hattle presented the report providing Members with an update on the ongoing improvements which were south of Seaburn Shelter and included new street furniture, such as seating and litter bins, and a new granite edge to the grass banks to act as informal seating. He explained that works had been due for completion April, 2011 but that due to extreme weather during November and December 2010 works were behind schedule.

Councillor J. Walton appreciated the works that were being carried out but brought the Officers attention to the area behind the Seaburn Centre where there was graffiti and burnt seating and generally needed addressing.

Councillor Howe referred to the ramp opposite to the Marriot Hotel and the fact that it had been concreted over, Mr. Hattle explained that due to savings made in the cost of the initial works it was now possible to install an additional

section of granite steps that would include this area, which was shown in photograph 5 of the report.

The Chairman thanked the Officer for his report and the work undertaken at the seafront, and it was:-

7. RESOLVED that the content of the report and progress of works be received and noted.

Reviewing Progress

Ms. Lynn presented the table to the Committee which set out a review of the progress against issues and the update position and any actions taken.

The Committee were introduced to Mr. Andrew Old who had recently taken up the position of Area Response Manager for the North Sunderland Area, who gave a verbal update with regard to issues around litter, graffiti, refuse, dog fouling. He advised the Committee that he would be dealing with all aspects of the Responsive Local Services (RLS) and general environmental issues to help to improve the level of community satisfaction and target resources to the areas which needed them the most.

Councillor Copeland thanked the department for the level of service they provided as she always found them excellent in their quick responses. Mr. Old advised that they now had committed teams working in areas to ensure timely responses to any issues and hoped that improvements would continue to be seen.

Councillor Francis seconded the improvements of late and asked of the fixed penalty notices that were served how many were successful in being fully paid. Mr. Old informed Members that as far as he knew all notices were recuperated but advised that he would gather further information and circulate the statistics to Members directly.

8. RESOLVED that the table be received and noted.

Child and Family Poverty Strategy 2011-2013

The Executive Director of Children's Services submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Members with a progress report on the Child and Family Poverty Strategy 2011-2013.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Mr. Singh presented the report providing Members with an update on the Child and Family Poverty Strategy 2011-2013, advising that Phase 2 of the Strategy and the Child Poverty Needs Assessment carried out in Autumn 2010 had been approved by Cabinet on 1st December, 2010 and could now be accessed on www.sunderland.gov.uk/childpoverty .

In response to a query from Councillor Copeland, Mr. Singh advised that 71% of families in the Southwick area had free school meal entitlement which was an important indicator in child poverty but that they were able to breakdown further levels of poverty for each lower super output area and more detail was included in the strategy for Members information. Mr. Singh also advised that if a family was claiming Child Tax Credits in the lower bracket than this was also a good indicator.

Councillor Shattock commented that families may find they have even less financially once the cuts made by Central Government took effect. Mr. Singh informed her that the Child Poverty Working Group would be undertaking an assessment of the effect that policy changes may have on families.

Councillor Hall asked for the percentage of families not taking up their free school entitlement and was informed that the service were working across the city to get a better idea of how many families were eligible for them but not taking up free school meals. Mr. Singh explained that they were looking at a better process for families to register for free school meals.

Mr. Foster went on to explain that there was a time when there may have been a stigma attached to children in receipt of free school meals but that thanks to the introduction of cashless systems in school canteens, pupils could no longer tell who was paying for meals or not.

The Chairman thanked Officers for their report, and it was:-

9. RESOLVED that the progress of the Sunderland Child and Family Poverty Strategy 2011-2013 be received and noted and how Members can be engaged in the action planning and the neighbourhood modelling be considered.

Community Chest, Strategic Initiative Budget (SIB) and Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) – 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), the Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) and Community Chest to support initiatives that will benefit the area.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor J. Walton commented that some of the balances for the Community Chest allocations did not match with paragraph 2.4.1 of the report and Ms. Lynn agreed to realign the figures and circulate the correct amounts to Members.

10. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the financial statement as set out in section 2.1 of the report be noted;
- (ii) approval be given to the allocation of SIB funding from the 2010/2011 budget as a contribution towards the Miners Banner Restoration of £12,500;
- (iii) approval be given to the allocation of SIB funding from the 2010/2011 budget as a contribution towards Sunderland North Community Sports Complex of £55,503;
- (iv) approval be given to the allocation of SIB funding from the 2010/2011 budget as a contribution towards the St Peter's Heating project of £37,876.25;
- (v) approval be given to the allocation of SIB funding from the 2010/2011 budget as a contribution towards the Crossing the Line project of £3,200;
- (vi) the allocation of SIB funding from the 2010/2011 budget as a contribution towards Bexhill Outdoor Learning Area of £17,800 be rejected;
- (vii) approval be given to the allocation of SIB funding from the 2010/2011 budget as a contribution towards the Redhouse Academy Floodlighting project of £4,227.65
- (viii) approval be given to the allocation of SIP funding from the 2010/2011 budget as a contribution towards the Fulwell Library Garden project of £12,995.62 from the Fulwell Ward;
- (ix) approval be given to the allocation of SIP funding from the 2010/2011 budget as a contribution towards the Castletown Environmental Improvements project of £7,300 from the Castle Ward; and
- (x) approval be given to the 28 proposals for funding from the Community Chest totalling £13,964 from the 2010/2011 budget, as set out in annex 1c of the report;

The Chairman then thanked the Committee, Officers and Partners for their worthwhile contributions and closed the meeting.

(Signed) R. BELL,
Chairman.