

At a meeting of the EAST SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE on MONDAY, 25TH OCTOBER, 2010 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Ball in the Chair

Councillors P. Dixon, Emerson, Errington, M. Forbes, E. Gibson, Kay, Maddison, McClennan and Vardy.

Also Present:-

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| Karen Alexander | - Acting Employment & Training Manager, Sunderland City Council |
| Kath Butchert | - Youth Development Group Manager, Sunderland City Council |
| Sgt Lee Butler | - NPT East Policing Team, Northumbria Police |
| Louise Butler | - Neighbourhood Relations Team Lead, Sunderland City Council |
| Chris Campbell | - School Improvement Officer, Children's Services, Sunderland City Council |
| Richard Cattle | - Senior Health and Safety Advisor, Sunderland City Council |
| Hazel Clark | - East Area Network Representative |
| Insp. John Connelly | - Northumbria Police |
| Insp. Neal Craig | - Northumbria Police |
| Victoria French | - Sport, Wellness and Partnership Manager, Sunderland City Council |
| Sgt Ken Robinson | - City Central Neighbourhood Team, Northumbria Police |
| Neil Harrison | - Watch Manager, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service |
| Paula Hunt | - VCS Network Representative |
| Carol Lewis | - Play Pathfinder Manager, Sunderland City Council |
| Dave Leonard | - Area Co-ordinator, Sunderland City Council |
| Vivienne Metcalfe | - Area Community Co-ordinator, Sunderland City Council |
| Ray Leonard | - Back on the Map |
| Julie McCann | - Principal Librarian-E Resources & Information Service, Sunderland City Council |
| Trina Murphy | - Business Development Manager, City Services, Sunderland City Council |
| Ron Odunaiya | - Executive Director of City Services |
| Jane O'Neill | - Reporter, Sunderland Echo |

Helen Peverley	Project and Service Development Manager, Sunderland City Council
Stephen Pickering	- Deputy Executive Director, City Services, Sunderland City Council
Julie Raine	- Director of Education, City of Sunderland College
John Ramsay	- Contracts Manager, Sunderland City Council
Janet Snaith	- Head of City Business and Investment Team, Sunderland City Council
Nicole Trueman	- Area Officer, Sunderland City Council
Jeremy Wicking	- Media Officer, Sunderland City Council

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Committee and invited all those present to introduce themselves.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Fairs, T. Martin and Wood, together with Julie Raine, Sunderland College, Dave Curtis, Area Network representative and Janet Johnson, Deputy Chief Executive.

Declarations of Interest

Item 3 – Community Action in Sunderland East: Progress Review – Increase Employment and Enterprise.

Councillor McClennan and Kay declared a personal interest in the item as they were active in WNF Specialist Service Provider network.

Item 3 – Community Action in Sunderland East: Progress Review – Interim Report

Councillor McClennan declared a personal interest in the item as a local authority representative on the CHANCE Management Committee.

Councillor Kay declared a personal interest in the item as a Governor of St. Aiden's School and as a Council representative on Deptford and Millfield Management Committee.

Item 3 – Community Action in Sunderland East : Progress Review – Annex 1b – Community Chest

Councillors Gibson, Kay, McLennan, Maddison, Mordey and Vardy declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the applications relating to East Area Forum as Members of the Forum and withdrew from the meeting prior to consideration of the item.

Councillor Errington declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the application in relation to the Doxford Park C.A. application as a member of the committee and withdrew from the meeting prior to consideration of the item.

Councillor Mordey declared a personal interest in the application relating to Sunderland East Voluntary and Community Centre Network as Co Chair of East Area Voluntary Sector Network.

Item 3 – Community Action in Sunderland East: Progress Review – Annex 1c – Strategic Investment Plan.

Councillor Mordey declared a personal and prejudicial in the item relating to East Community Association as a Council Appointed representative on the East C.A. and withdrew from the meeting prior to consideration of the item.

Councillor Emerson declared a personal interest in the item relating to Ryhope Colliery Welfare Football Club as the Chairman/ officials at the club were known to him.

Councillor M. Forbes declared a personal interest in the item relating to Sunderland Phoenix Project as a member of the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service.

Item 4 – Influencing Practice, Policy, Strategy – Play and Urban Games

Councillor M. Forbes and Maddison declared a personal interest in the item as member of the Friends of Barley Mow and Backhouse Parks.

Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 13th September, 2010

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 13th September, 2010 be confirmed and signed as a correct record subject to an amendment to the attendance which should read 'Jen McKeivitt' not 'Jon McKeivitt' as recorded.

Community Action in Sunderland East: Identifying New Issues and Agreeing Actions (2010/11 Work Plan)

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided information on the progress made in relation to its Work Plan and the priorities identified by the Area Committee for 2010/11.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Mrs. Trueman, Area Officer introduced the report and advised that a new issue had been identified in relation to Ryhope Beach Access/ Egress and invited Mr Steven Pickering, Deputy Executive Director, City Services to address the Committee.

Mr. Pickering, advised the Committee that due to erosion and a lack of maintenance over a number of years the condition of the access and egress to and from the beach via concrete steps had deteriorated and become unsafe.

In December 2009 the condition of the structure reached a point where it was considered to be in a dangerous condition and emergency demolition works were undertaken. This left a section of the NW outfall exposed and unsupported above the beach.

Access to and from the beach at this location had remained closed in the interests of safety pending the provision of revised access/egress arrangements.

Further technical details have been sought from Northumbrian Water in order to allow options for pedestrian access/egress to be considered. Agreement in principle to the Council and Northumbrian Water working together to provide a new pedestrian access/egress had been made. Details were being formulated, but most likely this would provide steps/and or ramp. It is proposed that this would be undertaken as part of the outfall works, with the Council making an appropriate contribution.

The report also detailed progress on Hendon Beach which Mr. Pickering outlined with regard to railings remedials, cleansing and signage.

Councillor Emerson offered his congratulations to the team responsible for the work at Ryhope Beach; there had been a long and difficult history associated with this piece of the coastline and a lot of good work had been achieved in the short term.

Councillor McClennan also congratulated officers on the installation of litter bins along the promenade in Hendon. However, Councillor McClennan expressed concerns regarding two meetings that had been attended by Councillors and residents in July regarding the refurbishment works. She advised that following these meetings, residents had not been kept informed of progress and had not received the notes of the meetings as promised.

Councillor McClennan queried how often the cleansing regime to remove algae from the ramps would take place, particularly in the bad weather. She enquired whether the steps would be reinstated half way along the promenade and whether the remaining groyne would be capped in the near future.

Mr Pickering agreed to arrange for the minutes of the July meetings to be circulated. He also agreed to ascertain how often the algae would be removed from the steps and timescale for the groyne.

Referring to Ryhope Dene, Ms Paula Hunt, East VCS Network commented that the foliage had been cut back there, however the footpaths needed attention.

Mrs. Trueman invited Members to raise any further new issues. Councillor P. Dixon raised concerns about the number of off licenses in certain parts of the East area and advised that the root cause of the problem needed to be tackled with closer cooperation between the Council, police and off licenses.

Mrs Trueman advised that the issue had been discussed at the Joint Police and Councillors meetings, and that Licensing Applications will now be shared with Members and Inspectors allowing for any objections to be feed to the relevant Committee before agreeing the application request. In addition, Communities and Safer City Scrutiny Committee are currently looking at this issue. Updates from the Scrutiny Committee will be feed into the Joint Police and Councillors meetings.

2. RESOLVED that

- i) Northumbrian Water and Officers to provide regular progress reports to local Ward Councillors,
- ii) The joint initiative regarding the new pedestrian access/egress is publicised at the appropriate time, and
- iii) Further consideration is given to the problem of large concentration of off license premises in the East area

Community Action in Sunderland East: Progress Review

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update on progress against agreed actions in the current year's (2010/11) work plan.

(For copy reports – see original minutes).

- **Identification of Gaps in Youth and Play Provision**

Mrs. Nicol Trueman, Area Officer introduced the report and drew the Committee's attention to two amendments in paragraph 3.1 of the report. The number of hours currently being delivered across the East Area should read £15,550 with the Council investing £388,254. Mrs Trueman then invited Ms. Kath Butchert, Youth Development Group Manager to present the report.

Ms. Butchert provided details of current contracted and non contracted youth provision that would cease after March 2011 along with the provision that would continue.

Councillor Emerson advised that the potential cuts in provision were extremely worrying given the time and money spend on developing services. Councillor E. Gibson endorsed Councillor Emerson's comments and stated that she was extremely worried about the future of youth and play provision for the area.

Councillor Kay stated that Hendon would be one of the worst hit wards, therefore it was important resources were prioritised appropriately. Councillor Emerson was thanked for his efforts in chairing the task and finish group.

Councillor McClennan noted that across the east area the mobile bus only appeared to be providing 21.5 hours per week. She stated that it was important to look at the provision where young people had been most engaged and maximise the resources that were available.

Ms. Butchert advised that there would be greater opportunities for the voluntary sector and to work together more closely and develop new opportunities.

Councillor McClennan suggested that the Task and Finish Group should identify how many public sector and third sector groups were established in the East Area.

3. RESOLVED that:-

- i) Members endorse the membership of the East Youth Task and Finish group as follows –

East Area Committee: Cllr Ball, Cllr Mordey, Cllr Gibson, Cllr Emerson, Cllr Fairs and Cllr Dixon

Northumbria Police: Sgt Lee Butler

East Area VCS Network: Richy Duggan, Lisa Wilson and Susan Mileson,

Sunderland City Council: Kath Butchert, Sarah Woodhouse, Andrea Baldwin, Louise Bulter, Billy Hall and Nicol Trueman

Chair: Cllr A Emerson, East Area Committee

Lead Agent: Kath Butchert, Youth Development Group Manager

And the inclusion of Lisa Wilson Box Youth Project

- ii) Agree for the Task and Finish group to consult, engage and involve Directorates via Executive Management Team meetings and Partners via the Local Strategic Partnership, on behalf of the Area Committee, to address the key considerations outlined in the report.
- iii) A feedback report is presented to a future meeting.

- **Increase Employment and Exercise**

The Chairman invited Karen Alexander, Acting Employment & Training Manager, Sunderland City Council to present the report.

Councillor Kay advised that the ideas could not be faulted however he did raise concerns about how the unit costs would be identified. Councillor Mordey advised that additional details would emerge through further discussion.

4. RESOLVED that Agree to a further report to be presented outlining the project details and costing for both the Family Themed Initiative and the Employment Support Project, with a view of selecting a preferred project to commission activity at the January 2011 Area Committee.

- **Reduce Antisocial Behaviour and Increase Confidence Levels**

Sgt. Butler, Inspector Craig and Sgt Robinson were in attendance and Members were briefed on crime rates and initiatives relating to the East Sunderland Area. Overall there had been a drop in crime.

Inspector Craig advised that the taxi marshalling and dedicated officer at Mowbray Park projects were working extremely well. In response to a question from Councillor Kay, the Committee were advised that the people that went out drinking on a Monday night comprised of a significantly younger demographic than on a weekend and violence was proportionally higher.

Councillor Emerson stated that Ryhope was currently experiencing problems with metal being stolen from private back yards and was advised that the Police had been carrying out sting operations and a great deal of work was being carried out to address the problem. In response to a question from Councillor Vardy, Sergeant Robinson confirmed that the removal of scrap metal from a property and its cartilage did constitute theft.

Councillor M. Forbes expressed concern regarding burglary, particularly as it appeared that criminals were being accommodated in Sunderland from elsewhere due to the number of probation hostels that had closed in other areas. There was clearly an issue regarding the Council refusing to accept people from outside of the area.

In response to a question from Councillor Emerson, Sgt Robinson confirmed that designated controlled areas would be available for people to build bonfires on the run up to 5th November.

The Police Officers having been thanked for their report it was:

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

- **Responsive Local Services**

The Chairman welcomed Helen Peverley, Project and Service Development who outlined the report and drew Members' attention to the service request tables.

Councillor Emerson was pleased to note that a dedicated enforcement officer was in position.

Councillor McClennan congratulated staff on the excellent level of response to service requests. She advised that people also needed to have pride in their area if there was to be a positive impact on problem service areas.

Referring to paragraph 2.7 of the report, Councillor Forbes enquired whether service request standards were also operated by the street lighting contractors Aurora. Ms. Peverley advised that Aurora used the same logging system as the Council and therefore should be working to the same targets.

In response to a further question from Councillor Forbes, regarding winter maintenance and specific criteria for the provision of salt bins, Mr. Pickering advised that the Council were fully stocked and should it be necessary provision for restocking was in place. Bins were primarily located on a significant incline providing

access to a major road, or adjacent to any other incline likely to be dangerous in icy conditions.

Councillor Mordey queried how the experience of the severe winter last year had affected the planning for this year. Mr. Pickering advised that there had been no additional budgeting for salt as there were limited physical constraints regarding storage etc. However there was the ability to flex resources if necessary. Mr Odunaiya, Executive Director of City Services advised that last year chipping had been mixed with salt to prolong supplies.

Councillor Vardy enquired whether the winter maintenance updates on the web would be live or static as it was important for people to know whether bus routes were open or not.

Ms. Peverley advised that a live feed was being developed and would be used in conjunction with the staff reporting line and contact centre.

Referring to the problem of dog fouling, Councillor Dixon enquired what action was being taken to publicise that enforcement action would be taken against people caught offending. As it was difficult to catch offenders in the first instance he queried whether those people caught were named and shamed.

Ms. Peverley advised that there was a great deal of information sharing around enforcement issues and the Communications Team understood the kind of messages that need to be conveyed. She advised this would include encouraging local people to report incidents they witness.

5. RESOLVED that the contents of the report be received and noted and the Committee receive further updates of any issues arising from the intelligence group.

- **Old Grangetown Primary School Site**

Mrs Trueman presented the report and advised that at its last meeting Committee agreed to investigate the feasibility of opening up the site of the old Grangetown Primary School to members of the public to access as a local greenspace. A meeting was held on the 18 October 2010 with representation from the Area Committee, East Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Area Network and Officers from Sunderland City Council. Mrs. Trueman advised that the principle of opening the field was not the major issue. Concerns related to the fact that the boundary wall parallel to the railway line posed Health and Safety issues. An audit would be undertaken and Network Rail would be contacted if work needed to be carried out.

Mrs. Trueman advised that should the field be opened up to members of the public, a mini Olympics was being considered as a future event to hold on the site.

Mrs. Trueman referred the Committee to Annex 1A to the report – Progress Review and updated the Committee on each priority in turn.

Mrs. Trueman highlighted the Financial Statement detailing all Community Chest, SIP and SIB approvals up to September 2010, as set out in Annex 1b and Annex 1c to the report to the Committee.

Mrs. Trueman referred Members to Annex 1c detailing two SIP proposals from the 2010-11 budget: £21,178 to improve officials changing rooms at Ryhope Colliery Welfare Football Club and £1,128 to renew two front doors to improve security at East Community Association. Members were also asked to consider two SIB proposals from the 2010-11 budget at a reduced cost to pump prime the following projects: £10,442 for Victim Support to employ a worker to support victims of crime, and £13,200 to Family Impact Services to employ a worker to support children and young people who are victims of bullying.

Members expressed their support for the applications.

Consideration was given to the 27 proposals for support from the 2010/2011 Community Chest.

Councillor Vardy voiced his concerns in respect of the application received in respect of Doxford CA. Councillor E. Gibson voiced her support for the application.

There being no further objections the Committee agreed the project.

Full consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

6. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the financial statement as set out in section 2.1 of the report be noted;
- (ii) approval be given to the 27 proposals for funding from the Community Chest totalling £10,682 from the 2010/2011 budget, as set out in annex 1b of the report;
- (iii) approval be given to the allocation of SIP funding from the 2010/2011 budget as a contribution towards addressing room upgrade at Ryhope Colliery Welfare Football Club of £21,178 from the Ryhope Ward;
- (iv) approval be given to the allocation of SIP funding from the 2010/2011 budget as a contribution towards improving security at East Community Association of £1,128 from the Hendon Ward;
- (v) approval be given to the allocation of SIB funding from the 2010/2011 budget as a contribution towards Ear for You, Impact Family Services project of £13,200 ;
- (vi) approval be given to the allocation of SIB funding from the 2010/2011 budget as a contribution towards Victim Support Outreach Worker of £10,500;

Influencing Practice, Policy and Strategy

- Play and Urban games

The Executive Director of City Services submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide the Committee with further information they had previously requested with regard to the Play and Urban Games Strategy (PUGS) 2007-2012 review.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Carol Lewis, Play Pathfinder Manager was in attendance and briefly provided further information in relation to the following issues:

- (i) 'To identify the preferred location for play development in the Burdon Lane area'.
- (ii) 'Refurbish and add value to play facilities in Backhouse Park'.

With reference to the proposed housing development at Cherry Knowle, Councillor Errington advised that there were some issues with developing amenity open space in this area due to its proximity to the hospital.

Councillor Forbes advised that Backhouse Park was in a unique natural setting and she made a plea that it would not be ruined. She was advised that the friends of the park would be involved in any plans that went ahead.

The Committee were requested to agree two areas of land identified (J35) at Burdon Lane near to the Ryhope Engine Museum and (J19) at Blyton Avenue/Wraith Terrace to assess feasibility and suitability. Members were also asked to consider examples of the type of work that could be achieved via particular funding arrangements and agreed that a budget of £31,315 via section 106 was preferable.

Accordingly it was:-

7. RESOLVED that
- i) The contents of the report be received and noted,
 - ii) the areas of land at at Burdon Lane near to the Ryhope Engine Museum and (J19) at Blyton Avenue/Wraith are agreed for further work to take place to assess feasibility
 - iii) Option 2 - that a budget of £31,315 via section 106 was the preferred budget.

- Draft Community Assets Policy

Ms. Vivienne Metcalfe, Area Community Co-ordinator referred the Committee to the the report and invited Members to engage in the consultation. She advised that the full document could be accessed at www.sunderland.gov.uk/communitydevelopment with a deadline for views to be submitted by 26th November, 2010.

8. RESOLVED that the consultation process on the draft Community Assets Policy be noted.

The Committee noted that the next meeting of the Area Committee was to be held on Monday, 10th January, 2010 at 4.30 p.m. in Committee Room number 2 at the Civic Centre, Sunderland.

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

(Signed) E. BALL,
Chairman.