

At a meeting of the WASHINGTON AREA COMMITTEE held at the WASHINGTON LIBRARY on THURSDAY, 2ND JUNE, 2011 at 6.00 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Scaplehorn in the Chair

Councillors Fletcher, Kelly, Lauchlan, F. Miller, Padgett, Snowdon, Thompson, D. Trueman, H. Trueman, Wake and Williams

Ian Richardson	-	City Services
John Rostron	-	City Services
Zoe Channing	-	City Services
Brian Hogkinson	-	City Services
Helen Green	-	City Services
Karon Purvis	-	Chief Executives
Karen Alexander	-	Chief Executives
Lisa Jeffries	-	City Services
Mike Foster	-	Children's Services
Alan Scott	-	Children's Services
Paul Wood	-	Commercial and Corporate Services
Neil Revely	-	Health, Housing and Adult Services
Sarann Valentine	-	Area VCS Network Representative
Acting Sergeant Gary Foe	-	Northumbria Police
Sergeant Alan Pitchford	-	Northumbria Police
James Third	-	Nexus

Members of the Washington Community.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors G. Miller, I. Richardson and Walker.

Declarations of Interest

Item 2c – Financial Statements and Proposals for further allocation of Resources

Councillors Fletcher, Kelly, Lauchlan, Padgett, Scaplehorn, Snowdon, Thompson, D. Trueman, H. Trueman and Williams declared personal interests in the SIB application for the Education and Skills for Young People project as the Managing

Director of TWEBLO was a colleague. Councillor F. Miller declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the item as her husband was the Managing Director of TWEBLO and left the room during consideration of the application.

Councillor Thompson declared a personal interest in the Nature on the Doorstep SIB application as a volunteer worker at Washington Old Hall.

Item 2C – Annex 2 – Financial Statements and Proposals for further allocation of Resources – Community Chest

Councillor Kelly declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the PR Display Equipment application as civilian secretary to the organisation.

Councillor Thompson declared a personal and prejudicial interest as trustee of Oxclose and District Young People's project.

Councillor Williams declared a personal and prejudicial interest as a member of Oxclose and District Young People's project.

Minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 31st March, 2011

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 31st March, 2011 (copy circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record subject to the following amendment on page 4.

Councillor Miller commented that the fact the survey was mail orientated was not ideal either.

Community Action in Washington – Annual Report (2010/11)

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to enable the Committee to consider the Annual Report which provided a snapshot of the Committee's work over the 2010/11 municipal year.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Karon Purvis, Area Officer, presented the report with the Chairman then introducing Acting Inspector Alan Pitchford from Northumbria Police who gave the Committee an update on Operation Horizon and the positive results it had provided.

The Chairman then introduced Julie Parker who updated the Committee on the Washington Health Champions and the volunteers taking part in five different training modules. Ms. Parker gave a breakdown of the number of people participating and thanked the Area Committee for their funding and partnership working and also informed of a celebration event of which invitations would be sent out.

The Chairman introduced Helen Green, Creative Director, Arts Centre Washington who updated the Committee on the Remix project, which due to area funding

provided free access to a wide range of young people to use and helped in building confidence, not only in the arts but in life skills also.

Ms. Green advised that feedback from the participants of the project had been incredibly positive, with every Member wishing to continue for the second year and she also introduced Lisa Jeffries to the Committee as the new Co-ordinator of the project.

Louise Wiegand, Headteacher of Springwell Village Primary School, informed Members of the positive effects the Area Committee funding had achieved in implementing the new school curriculum.

Ms. Wiegand advised that the new curriculum had reinvigorated the children's love for learning, providing them with the skills to prosper in life outside of school and with the funding helping to install an Eco Garden, it was breaking down the barriers within the community and she felt that the children were growing into valuable members of the village and society as a whole.

Christine St. Clare, Chair of Governors for Barmston School, updated the Committee on the fantastic success of the Community Room/Wing which the Area Committee had helped fund and now included one-to-one working with parents, Sure Start and youth clubs.

Jacqui Reeves, Washington Mind, advised that their service had received over 1000 referrals and had moved away from the idea of a drop-in service and was more about enabling people to use the service as a stepping stone.

Ms. Reeves also advised that a great number of the people who volunteer at the project are people who have benefited from using the service in the past.

The Chairman commented that these updates were excellent adverts for the success of both the projects and the Area Committee and the partnership working.

Councillor Kelly commented that it had been a privilege to work with all the groups and it highlighted how much the Washington community cared and wanted to work together.

The Chairman informed of the recent volunteer awards and requested recognition be given to Bill Craddock, in attendance, who had won an award for his service.

2. RESOLVED that the Committee:-
 - i) note and agree the content of the Annual Report; and
 - ii) agree the progression of lessons learned for the future year.

Work Plan for 2011/12

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) requesting the Committee's approval of the work plan which clearly identified the key priorities for Area Committee to discuss, deliver options and monitor throughout the year, with the overall outcome to improve the quality of life for residents within the Washington area.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Purvis presented the report and ran through the key priorities before introducing Karen Alexander, Employment and Training Manager, who advised on paragraph 2.1 – Access to employment opportunities focusing on NEETs and links to learning, employment and training opportunities through Washington's heritage offer.

Ms. Alexander informed the Committee that a Citywide survey had been commissioned on employment demand and skill shortages with research on Washington based employers specifically around young people and what was stopping the recruitment of young people based in Washington.

Ms. Alexander advised that opportunities for apprenticeships would also be looked at and interviews with 40-50 key stakeholders would be undertaken. The survey would be carried out over the month of June and they expected Washington businesses to be invited to an event in August for feedback to see if they were on the right track.

Ms. Alexander also advised that they anticipated the findings and results to be presented to the September meeting of this Committee.

At this point Ms. Purvis requested nominations for the Employment Task and Finish Group and Councillor Kelly commented that as this had been a Task and Finish Group last year, those same Members carry on with the addition of Councillor Lauchlan.

Members agreed that Councillors G. Miller, Snowdon and Lauchlan would form the Employment Ask and Finish Group.

In relation to paragraph 2.2 of the report the Chairman introduced Alan Scott who advised Members that they were looking for support on engaging youths during holiday times and the proposed £30,000 would help provide activities at night times and holiday times which would also help reduce levels of anti social behaviour.

Councillor Kelly enquired if Children's Services were looking for Area Committee to add additional funding when they had already financed a great deal of money for play provision and did not want to pre-determine the work that needed to be done.

The Chairman commented that it seemed reasonable for the Task and Finish Groups to consider the areas of work that needed investigating.

Councillor Kelly suggested that partners be included in the Task and Finish Group and that investigations would need to be carried out promptly so that plans were in

place for the upcoming holidays. Councillor Kelly also commented that he would like to see some of the youths that benefit, volunteering to help in the community.

Ms. Purvis commented that Mr. Scott could also be included in the Task and Finish Group. The Young Carer's would also be represented on the group.

It was agreed that Councillors Fletcher, F. Miller, Thompson and Williams would be representatives of the Young People's Task and Finish Group.

In relation to paragraph 2.3 – Tackling Health Inequalities, Councillor Kelly informed the Committee that he had been made aware of issues around day care and dementia and requested that this be included in the work of a Task and Finish Group.

Ms. Purvis advised that she would check to see if the issues were not already being investigated by a Scrutiny Committee.

In relation to paragraph 2.4 – Attractive Neighbourhood, Brian Hodgkinson, Area Response Manager for Washington, advised that they now had officers set up in Parsons, should Members wish to contact the Team with any issues. The Team were now fully set up and were working with partners such as Gentoo.

Mr. Hodgkinson also gave an update on the wildlife corridor, natural wildlife habitats and the efforts to increase the biodiversity which could attract more tourism to the area.

In response to Councillor Kelly's enquiry, Mr. Hodgkinson confirmed that the efforts were part of a planned event involving local farming to bring in partnership working and were not at all part of cost cutting plans.

In relation to the alignment of SIB funding against priorities, Members agreed that should a suitable project arise that was not aligned to the current priorities that consideration would still be given, as per previous years.

3. RESOLVED that Members:-

- i) agreed Annex 1 on the Area Committee's Workplan for 2011/12;
- ii) agreed the Call for Projects protocol to be used in the allocation of SIB funding during 2011/12;
- iii) agreed and confirmed membership of Task and Finish Groups to develop and deliver workstreams and key priorities as detailed in the report;
- iv) with reference to paragraph 2.2.3 above and in the Workplan attached, considered previous activities delivered and described for young people;
- v) considered other priorities for enhanced youth activity, either at a universal or targeted level which the Area Committee would request are progressed;

- vi) noted the use of £3,000 of the funding to provide activities during school holidays as set out in the report and in Annex 2;
- vii) considered allocating a proportion of SIB 2011-12 budget, in line with Children's Services area funding of £30,000 to deliver positive activities for children and young people living in Washington once the Task and Finish Group had investigated all options;
- viii) agreed to receive a further report on the programme of activities to be delivered following Committee considerations as well as a later report to evaluate the success of the programme;
- ix) agreed to receive regular updates and reports as detailed in the report.

Financial Statements and Proposals

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 would benefit the area.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

In relation to the SIB application for the Nature on the Doorstep project, Councillor F. Miller enquired how the project differed from the Wetland Trust service.

The representative for the project advised that this would provide a free resource similar to the Wetland Trust service that would work on a smaller scale to highlight aspects of the area and providing an appreciation of what nature is about whilst also helping to teach social skills.

In response to Councillor Wake's enquiry, Ms. Purvis advised that £12,488 was the cost of the overall project and not the amount being requested for funding from the Area Committee.

4. RESOLVED that Members:-

- i) note the financial statement set out in Section 2.1 of the report;
- ii) approve £25,821 as a contribution from the 2011/12 SIB budget for the Operation Choice project;
- iii) approve £3,000 as a contribution from the 2011/12 SIB budget for the Sunderland Festival project;
- iv) approve £15,000 as a contribution from the 2011/12 SIB budget for the Washington Christmas Event project

- v) approve £6,000 as a contribution from the 2011/12 SIB budget for the Aircraft Museum project;
- vi) approve £3,450 as a contribution from the 2011/12 SIB budget for Friends of the Old Hall project;
- vii) approve £30,000 as a contribution from the 2011/12 SIB budget for the Education and Skills Programme;
- viii) approve £76,840 to deliver the recommendations of the Washington Heritage Offer Feasibility Study from the 2010-11 budget for Washington Heritage Memorial project as detailed in Annex 1 to the report;
- ix) approve £997 as a contribution from the SIP budget for the Bowes Railway Trust project as detailed in Annex 1 to the report;
- x) approve all 21 proposals for support from the 2011/12 Community Chest, all projects totalling £12,962 as detailed in Annex 2 to the report.

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

(Signed) B. SCAPLEHORN,
Chairman.