

At a meeting of the WEST SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL, on WEDNESDAY 28TH JUNE 2023 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Laverick in the Chair

Councillors, Ayre, Burnicle, Crosby, Dunn, Edgeworth, Haque, Hunter, Mullen, Nicholson, Peacock, G. Smith, P. Smith, Tye and Watson.

Also Present:-

Vicky Gamblin	Head of Operations, Gentoo
David Noon	Principal Governance Services Officer, Sunderland City Council
Steven Passey	Neighbourhood Inspector, Northumbria Police
Gilly Stanley	Partnership & and Community Resilience Manager, Sunderland City Council
Liz St. Louis	Director of Smart Cities and Enabling Services
Scott Wilson	Station Manager, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Haswell, O'Brien and Watson.

Declarations of Interest

Item 2b Report of the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service.

Councillor Tye made an open declaration in the item as Chair of the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 14th March, 2023 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Report of Northumbria Police

Inspector Passey provided the Committee with a verbal report on behalf of Northumbria Police which updated members on key performance information in relation to the Sunderland West area.

Inspector Passey informed the Committee that there had been a 34% increase in anti-social behaviour compared to the previous reporting period. This was largely down to

the onset of the lighter nights and when compared to the same reporting period for last year represented only an 8% increase. Hotspots included Thorney Close, Eden Vale, Ford Estate and Pennywell. Motorcycle disorder had increased by 54% with hotspots in Thorney Close, Ford Estate and Pennywell. There had been no significant rise or fall in figures for general crime with rates remaining fairly constant. A 13% decrease in theft and a 22% decrease in vehicle crime being balanced out by rises in other crime categories. Priorities for the summer included tackling motorcycle disorder, shoplifting in Pennywell and ASB in King George's Park.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Mullen regarding his definition of 'Eden Vale', Insp. Passey replied that he was referring to the corner of the West Area that bordered Ashbrooke. The ASB had taken the form of congregations of adults and young people and instances of drug dealing. The issue had been tackled but there was always the prospect that it had been simply displaced elsewhere.

Councillor Tye highlighted issues in respect of garages at Cambridge Road and Hill Street which he had referred to LMAPS with a view to seeking a partnership approach in developing a solution.

Councillor Peacock welcomed that the Police had identified King George's Playing Fields as a priority moving forward. He placed on record that local Councillors had historically been active in looking for solutions to the problems in the park, seeking to make improvements to security gates and the installation of CCTV but progress had been slowed through the time taken to receive quotes back from Council Officers.

There being no further questions or comments, the Chair thanked Inspector Passey for his report and it was:-

2. RESOLVED the report be received and noted.

Report of the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service

Station Manager Scott Wilson presented a report of the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service (TWFRS) (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with an update on the Service's performance indicators for the period 1st April, 2023 to 4th June 2023 with particular reference to the L133 Incidents (all deliberate fires).

(For copy report – see original minutes)

The Chair thanked Mr Wilson for his report and invited questions from Members.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor P. Smith regarding which street in Silksworth had been the location for the recent attack on Fire Officers, Mr Wilson advised that he would investigate following the meeting and report back.

Councillor Tye stated that it would be remiss of him not to mention the work undertaken on behalf of the Committee by Mr Wilson's predecessor Station Manager Andy Nelson and asked that a letter of thanks was sent to Andy on behalf of the Committee. With regard to the issue of attacks on Fire Fighters, he suggested that the use of peer

pressure could help address the issue and cited the successful use of the tactic in tackling ASB in the skate park.

Councillor Ayre referred to the Ward Breakdowns detailed in paragraphs 3.2 and 3.3 and stated that the figures in relation to St Chad's appeared to be missing.

Councillor Peacock referred to discussions at previous meetings regarding the site of the former Farringdon Hall Police Station and advised that the Council's Planning and Highways Committee had recently approved proposals to develop the site.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Haque, Mr Wilson confirmed that Members could contact him via the contact details outlined at the foot of the report.

There being no further questions or comments for Mr Wilson, it was:-

3. RESOLVED the report be received and noted

Report of Gentoo

Vicky Gamblin, Head of Operations, Gentoo Group presented a report, (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with an update on current Gentoo developments, projects and priorities for the period April 2023 to June 2023 together with a schedule of the planned property development programme for 2023/24

(For copy report – see original minutes)

The Chairman thanked Ms Gamblin for her report and invited questions and comments from the Committee.

In response to enquiries from Councillor Crosby Ms Gamblin described the upgrade to the Gentoo fire alarm systems and explained the operation of the waiting list in respect of the allocation of bungalows with adaptations for the disabled.

Councillor P. Smith welcomed the work of the Gentoo Money Matters Team as described in paragraph 3.3 of the report and commended the Team for the support they provided for families in crisis.

There being no further questions or comments, the Chairman thanked Ms Gamblin for her attendance and it was:-

4. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Report of the West Area Voluntary and Community Sector Network

The Network submitted a progress report (copy circulated) which briefed members on issues pertinent to the Committee and the Voluntary and Community Sector.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

The Chair advised that in the absence of a member of the network to present the report, the Committee were asked to note the information it contained and that if they had any questions, they should be directed to Ms Stanley, in the first instance, who would seek an answer from the Network and report back.

Councillor Peacock having asked to receive an update in respect of the Hub in King George's Park, it was:-

5. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

West Area Committee Delivery Plan 2020-2023

Ms Gilly Stanley, Partnership & and Community Resilience Manager, presented a report of the Assistant Director of Housing and Communities, (copy circulated) which presented for the Committee's consideration and approval, the West Area Committee Area Plan for 2023-26 together with an update on the Area Committee Area Plan Governance arrangements and the terms of reference for the Neighbourhood and Community Board.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Edgeworth referred to the final bullet point on page 10 of the Area Plan ("Receive updates on Walk and Talk Projects and consider opportunities for multi ward working") and moved a minor amendment to the wording so it would now read "Delivering a Walk and Talk programme and consider opportunities for multi ward working." This was agreed accordingly.

The Chairman having thanked Ms Stanley for her report, it was:-

6. RESOLVED that:-

i) the draft Area Committee Area Plan for 2023 – 2026 – External Priorities (as amended) be agreed for referral to Cabinet for approval.

ii) the Internal priorities, as discussed and agreed at the Area Committee Workshop in May, be shared with Council Service Leads and Partners to consider the feasibility of delivery and provide feedback. (the priorities are currently proposals where Area Committee wish to influence/add value to existing service provision).

iii) discussions on Service Plans continue with Sunderland City Council Service leads, and a list of Area Priorities for the West area be developed (and to be appended to the Area Committee Area Plan) and that arrangements are made for quarterly updates.

iv) collaboration be continued with key partners (currently including Gentoo, Police, TWFR, West VCS Network and the Voluntary Sector Alliance) to provide their plans for future activity in the West area (and to be appended to the Area Committee Area Plan) and that arrangements are made for quarterly updates; and

v) the Terms of Reference for the Neighbourhood and Community Board as detailed in Annex 2 of the report be noted.

West Area Budget Report

The Assistant Director of Housing and Communities submitted a report (copy circulated) in respect of the above matter.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Gilly Stanley, Partnership & and Community Resilience Manager, presented the report highlighting the Committee's financial statement, together with details of projects approved under delegated powers for support from the 2022/23 and 2023/24 Community Chest budgets.

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

7. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the Area Committee's funding statement as detailed in paragraphs 2.1 and 3.1 of the report be received and noted; and
- (ii) the approval of the Community Chest applications from the 2022/23 and 2023/24 budget as detailed in Annex 2 of the report be noted.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting having thanked everyone for their attendance and contributions.

(Signed) J. LAVERICK,
Chairman.