

**At a meeting of the WASHINGTON AREA COMMITTEE held at the MILLENNIUM CENTRE, CONCORD, WASHINGTON on WEDNESDAY, 5<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2006 at 6.30 p.m.**

**Present:-**

Councillor Sleightholme in the Chair

Councillors Fletcher, Grey, MacKnight, Miller, Sleightholme, J. Stephenson, W. Stephenson, Timmins, Trueman, J. Walker, P. Walker, Whalen, L. Williams and Young.

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillor B. Williams.

**Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2006**

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2006 (copy circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

**Declarations of Interest**

Item 7 - The Development of Primary Care Centres in Sunderland

Councillor Timmins declared a personal interest in the above item as a Governor of City Hospitals Foundation Trust.

Item 8 - Housing and Council Tax Benefit Progress Report

Councillor Grey declared a personal interest in the above item as a Director of Washington Housing Group.

Item 10 - Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) : Regeneration Issues Report

The following Councillors declared personal interests in the item:-

Councillor Timmins as he was known to a member of staff at the Washington Asylum Seekers project.

Councillor Grey as a member of Glebe Bowling Club.

### **Crime Rates relating to the Washington Area from Northumbria Police**

Due to the Washington Police Community Forum being held that night, no Officers from Northumbria Police were in attendance.

2. RESOLVED that the Democratic Services Officer write a letter to Northumbria Police Authority on behalf of the Committee requesting that a representative attends all future meetings at which the Authority is presenting a report.

### **Variation in the Order of Business**

At this juncture the Chairman proposed that prior to Item 6 on the agenda, the Committee hear a presentation from Sheila Rooney, Trustee, Washington Citizens Advice Bureau.

The Chairman welcomed Ms. Rooney to the Committee and invited her to speak.

Ms. Rooney updated the Committee on the progress of the Arndale House Office development and Washington CAB website. The Committee were informed that the two projects supported by the Washington Area Committee have ensured that Washington CAB could continue to develop and extend services to the community.

In response to Members' questions Ms. Rooney informed the Committee that website interest and the telephone query service does record the demographics of enquirers. The Washington CAB can accept people from anywhere in the area and would never turn people away. The CAB would try and answer any question in the first instance and then refer the enquiry on to the appropriate CAB office should this be necessary.

3. RESOLVED that the progress report be received and noted.

### **Washington 'F' Pit**

The Director of Community and Cultural Services submitted a report (copy circulated) providing information to the Committee on the future of Washington 'F' Pit.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Chairman invited Jane Hall, Assistant Head of Culture and Tourism to give her presentation.

The Chairman emphasised the importance of increased awareness of the existence of 'F' Pit through support learning and the use of the CD-ROM.

In response to a question from Councillor MacKnight regarding Tyne and Wear Museums promotion of 'F' Pit, Ms. Hall confirmed that Tyne and Wear Museums send regular newsletters to educational establishments informing them of the local museums, galleries, exhibitions and heritage attractions available to visit. Councillor Linda Williams explained the need for local school children to be taught more about the history and culture of their own locality, and this should be addressed within the curriculum.

4. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) Members approve the report; and
- (ii) Members accept further reports, including SIB funding applications.

### **Presentation from Nexus**

The City Solicitor submitted a report (copy circulated) to receive a presentation from Nexus on two new community based transport services, TaxiLink and LinkUp.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Chairman introduced John Usher, Head of Transport Integration at Nexus and Vince Hills, District Bus Manager (Sunderland).

Mr. Usher informed Members that the current 'Care Service' is receiving a major overhaul with a new service promising to deliver more personal, convenient and efficient travel to users. The change, taking place on 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2006, will see the service replaced by 'TaxiLink' – wheelchair-friendly taxis. At the same time demand responsive transport will be replaced by a new LinkUp network of 'buses you can book' filling the gaps in the existing transport network. Together with TaxiLink this will mean more vehicles, more hours of operation and more personalised travel journeys, with bookings handled by call centre staff.

The Chairman commended John Usher and team for the hard work that had gone into developing the two services.

In response to a question from Councillor Linda Williams, Mr. Usher informed the Committee that the LinkUp service could be booked any time between 8 days and up to 45 minutes prior to a journey. The TaxiLink service requires 24 hours notice.

In response to a question from Councillor James Walker regarding the catchment areas for services, Mr. Usher advised that the transport was meant to be community based and could not cater for long distance journeys.

Mr. Usher went on to explain that TSETT – Tackling Social Exclusion through Transport – the Nexus grant funded programme of activity designed to reduce levels

of social exclusion either caused or worsened by problems of access to appropriate public transport was, in partnership with Sunderland Council, looking into the idea of community group booking and vehicle brokering. This would ensure that resources are pooled around the City and available to community groups etc. when necessary.

At this juncture, the Chairman reminded Members of the proposed changes to the Go North East bus services in the Washington Area. He advised the Committee that representatives from the Go-Ahead group would be present at the Washington Pride meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> July, 2006.

5. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

### **The Development of Primary Care Centres in Sunderland**

The Chief Executive, Sunderland Teaching Primary Care Trust submitted a report (copy circulated) for comment as the local Area Committee, on a 'Strategic Outline Case' for a third Primary Care Centre (PCC) at Washington.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Chairman invited Helen Steadman and Ken Richardson from Sunderland Teaching Primary Care Trust to give their presentation.

Ms. Steadman addressed the Committee.

Ms. Steadman informed the Committee of the proposals for Washington. These suggest the inclusion of locality-based services – such as GPs, minor injuries unit, outreach outpatient services and diagnostics and intermediate level services to provide a hybrid model of care based on local need. Mr. Richardson explained that a list of planned services would take into account local priorities identified by City Hospital and recommendations from the White Paper '*Our Health, Our Care, Our Say*' on six specialities leading the way in developments of models of care to be provided in a primary care setting. It was noted that some of the identified specialities are already being delivered from PCCs in Sunderland, i.e. Dermatology.

In response to a question from Councillor MacKnight regarding whether there would be the facility for an Out of Hours GP facility, Ms. Steadman advised the Committee that the contract with the existing provider would be maintained and any Out of Hours requests could be directed to the minor injuries unit.

Councillor Linda Williams was keen to establish whether the existing G.P services at The Galleries would remain. Ms. Steadman informed the Committee that two models of provision would be considered for potential services, these were:-

- (i) The Community Based Model – comprising of services for the locality in which a PCC is located.
- (ii) Services for a speciality, client group or disease category from one site to the whole City.

Ms Steadman stated that it is hoped that all the PCC's in Sunderland will have their own specialisms alongside core services.

In response to a question from Councillor Timmins regarding the provision of an on-site pharmacy, Ms. Steadman informed Members that staff at the PCC will have the ability to prescribe certain medicines.

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

6. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

### **Housing and Council Tax Benefit Progress Report**

The City Treasurer submitted a report (copy circulated) to inform Members of the performance of the Benefits Section in processing new claims for Housing and Council Tax Benefit in the Washington area for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2005 to 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2006.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

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

7. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

### **Regeneration Issues Report : Feedback on Projects Previously Funded Through Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB)**

The Director of Development and Regeneration submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide information to the Area Committee on expenditure from the Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) on projects it had previously funded.

- Usworth Park Bowls Pavilion Refurbishment

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Chairman introduced Steve Gales in respect of Usworth Park Bowls Pavilion and also advised Members that the Bowes Railway feedback item had been deferred to the next meeting.

The representative having answered Members questions in respect of his project, it was:-

8. RESOLVED that the presentation of the feedback report be received and noted.

## **Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) : Regeneration Issues Report**

The Director of Development and Regeneration submitted a report (copy circulated) outlining current expenditure from the SIB and applications for funding from this budget in order to support new initiatives to benefit the area:-

- (i) Sit 'n' 'b' Fit Limited;
- (ii) Fence extension at Washington FC;
- (iii) SAFC Washington Outreach project;
- (iv) Improvement of school grounds at Usworth Grange Primary School;
- (v) Gap funding contribution - Washington Asylum Seekers project;
- (vi) On Track project – Anti-Bullying Cards;
- (vii) Battle of the Bands project.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Lynn Summerside presented the application for Sit 'n' 'b' Fit; David Armstrong in respect of Washington FC; Lesley Spuhler in respect of SAFC Washington Outreach project; John Busfield in respect of Usworth Grange Primary School; Pauline Taylor and Elaine Harbron in respect of Washington Asylum Seekers; Alan Scott in respect of Anti-Bullying Cards and Kari Vickers in respect of Battle of the Bands. The representatives addressed questions Members had in respect of the applications.

9. RESOLVED that approval be given to the allocation of Strategic Initiatives Budget funding of:-

- (i) £3,120 from the 2006/07 budget as a contribution to improving the health and independent living of Sunderland's elderly people;
- (ii) £12,200 from the 2006/07 budget as a contribution to the fence extension at Washington FC;
- (iii) £22,015 from the 2006/07 budget and £17,157 from the 2007/08 budget, subject to budget approval, for the SAFC Washington Outreach project;
- (iv) £13,000 from the 2006/07 budget as a contribution to the improvement of school grounds project at Usworth Grange Primary School;
- (v) £6,676 from the 2006/07 budget as a gap funding contribution to the Washington Asylum Seekers project;

- (vi) £4,100 from the 2006/07 budget to fund the production of anti-bullying cards for the On Track project; and
- (vii) £2,000 from the 2006/07 budget for a contribution to the Battle of the Bands project.

### **Strategic Initiatives Budget Update**

The Director of Development and Regeneration submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide Members with an update on live projects for which the Washington Area Committee has previously approved funding through its Strategic Initiatives Budget.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

10. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

### **Strategic Initiatives Budget : 2006/07 Ward Based Community Chest**

The Director of Development and Regeneration submitted a report (copy circulated) on 15 proposals recommended for support from 2006/07 Community Chest in respect of Washington Central, East, North, South and West Wards.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

11. RESOLVED that approval be given to the 15 projects recommended for support from the 2006/07 budget with a total value of £7,550.00 as detailed in Annex 1 to the report.

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

(Signed) D. SLEIGHTHOLME,  
Chairman.