

At a Meeting of the COALFIELD AREA COMMITTEE held at BETHANY CHRISTIAN CENTRE, HETTON ROAD, HOUGHTON-LE-SPRING, DH5 8PF, on WEDNESDAY, 15TH OCTOBER, 2014 at 6.00 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Scott in the Chair

Councillors Allen, Anderson, Blackburn, Cummings, Ellis, Lawson, D. Smith, Speding, Taylor, W. Turton and Wakefield

Also in Attendance:-

Kath Bailey	Locum Consultant in Public Health	Sunderland City Council
Ron Barrass	Member of the Public	
Charlotte Burnham	Area Lead Executive for the Coalfield Area Committee and Head of Scrutiny and Area Arrangements	Sunderland City Council
Melanie Caldwell	Head of Operations Houghton/Hetton	Gentoo Ltd.
Wendy Cook	Youth and Community Co-Ordinator	Sunderland North Community Business Centre
Pauline Hopper	Area Community Officer, Coalfield	Sunderland City Council
Amelia Laverick	Member of the Public	
Kay Rowham	Member of the Public	
Christine Tilley	Governance Services Team Leader	Sunderland City Council
Gill Wake	Area Co-ordinator	Sunderland City Council
Jeff Wilkinson	Station Manager	Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited all those present to introduce themselves. The Chairman reminded everyone of the protocol for addressing the Committee in that they should indicate to him that they wanted to speak and then wait to be invited to do so by him.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Susan Brown (Area VCS Representative), Debby Hall (Area Response Manager) and Rachel Putz (Coalfields Operational Manager, Early intervention and Locality Services).

Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 18th June, 2014 (copy circulated), be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Change in the Order of Business

The Chairman advised that item 3 on the agenda, The People Board Progress report would be considered at this juncture to allow the Chairman sufficient time to deliver her report and be present for any discussion before having to leave for another engagement later that evening.

People Board Progress Report

The Chair of the People Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update of progress against the current year's (2014/15) People Board Work Plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Lawson referred the Committee to paragraph 4.1 detailing the key areas of influence/achievements of the People Board to date. She highlighted that a meeting was to be arranged for all Members in order for their views to be shared on the services currently being provided and taken into account in the Review of Youth Contracts and future provision. In the meantime she encouraged all Members to complete the questionnaire which had been sent to them. Councillor Lawson added that the Youth Excel meetings were a good way of seeing how the services were being delivered in the Coalfield.

Councillor Lawson highlighted the grants awarded to three groups of young people from the CAN DO fund as part of the Healthy Life Choices area priority and that another round of applications was going to be considered at the next meeting of the People Board in November.

Councillor Lawson referred to the 'Early Action' Initiative where a number of partners were working with ShARP, the lead agent, to support residents in the Coalfield area whose emotional and mental wellbeing is affected by financial hardship. She advised that a funding application to Comic Relief was going to be submitted in support of a pilot 'advice in GP surgeries' project offering financial and debt advice within health settings.

Councillor Lawson also pointed out the pilot project to design and implement a Dementia Friendly Shopping Centre in Houghton.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Speding regarding the pilot project around dementia friendly shopping centres, Councillor Lawson advised that for the moment this was only taking place in Houghton shopping centre as a six month pilot and was being led by multi agencies. However at the end of the period the project would be reviewed and consideration given as to how to roll it out to other shopping centres in the Coalfield area until eventually the initiative and issues addressed within it were mainstreamed across all areas and services so that they became dementia and age friendly.

Under the area priority to support events and celebrations in local communities, Councillor Lawson advised that the life size model of a soldier which was the centrepiece of the opening ceremony for Houghton Feast, had now been placed in Houghton Library and she recommended people to go and see it. Councillor Lawson thanked Ms. Pauline Hopper, Area Community Officer, Coalfield for leading on the project.

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

2. RESOLVED that the progress and performance update with regards to the Coalfield Area People Board's Work Plan for 2014/15 including proposals for future delivery be approved and adopted.

Place Board Progress Report

The Chair of the Place Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update of progress against the current year's (2014/15) Place Board Work Plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Anderson thanked the Members of the Place Board and the Officers for their support and the work being carried out. She proceeded to brief the Committee on the key areas of influence/achievements of the Place Board to date and highlighted that cameras would begin to be deployed by the end of October

2014 to deter antisocial behaviour/address concerns about litter and waste caused by HGV drivers at Houghton Cut Layby.

Councillor Anderson drew attention to the introduction of Empty Dwelling Management Orders (EDMOs) advising that two of the three properties to be included in the City pilot were in Hetton and that the Board would receive regular progress updates.

Councillor Anderson advised that a protocol was being developed to deal with the issue of the increasing number of horses tethered on Council land. The Council was part of a working group of regional councils who were working with the British Horse Society and DEFRA with regards to forming national best practice procedures and that Members would be kept informed as to the progress being made.

With regards to the Local Shopping Centres project, Councillor Anderson stated that the Place Board was pleased to support the initiatives to make the shopping centres in the Coalfield more attractive and encourage people to 'Shop Local'. The Board was recommending the Committee to approve Option 3 which included environmental improvements in smaller shopping centres, full details of which were included in the Area Budgets report later on the agenda.

Councillor Anderson commented that the 'Love Where You Live and Community Involvement' campaign had been a great success.

With regards to the priority 'Events, Celebrations and Heritage', Councillor Anderson advised that a proposal for SIB funding had been submitted to build on the success of the heritage projects delivered via the VCS Network and was to be considered under item 5, the Area Budgets report.

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

3. RESOLVED that the progress and performance update with regards to the Coalfield Area Place Board's Work Plan for 2014/15 including recommendations for future delivery be approved and adopted.

Partner Agency Reports – Coalfield Area Voluntary and Community Sector Network Progress Update

Ms. Susan Brown, Ms. Sam Gallilee and Ms. Ann Owen, Area Network Representatives submitted a report (copy circulated), providing an update with regard to the Coalfield Area Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Network.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Pauline Hopper, Area Community Officer, Coalfield commented that the VCS Network continued to grow and that people were very interested and supportive of its work. Ms. Hopper briefed the Committee on the report and highlighted the

requirement in the Terms of Reference regarding the process for the selection/stepping down of VCS representatives.

Ms. Hopper drew attention to the proposal to develop the World War 1 Commemoration project for which an application for SIB funding had been submitted to the Area Committee and was included in the Area Budgets report.

Ms. Hopper invited all Members to attend the Coalfield Community Road Show Event which would be taking place on 25th October 2014 at the Hetton Centre and was intended to promote the work of local VCS organisations and partners, give Members the opportunity to meet residents and give local residents the opportunity to find out what services and activities are available in their area.

Ms. Hopper referred Members to the support community groups were providing to people by way of food banks and the concern being raised with regards to reliance on them. She advised that partners had agreed to co-ordinate the support they were offering better and share information with each other.

Councillor Anderson commented that she was pleased to see the resurgence of community support and activity albeit due to the impact of welfare reform.

In response to Councillors Ellis and Turton's enquiries concerning the proposal to have a World War 2 Memorial in the grounds of St. Michael's church, Ms. Hopper advised that this had been passed to the relevant Officers to look at and discussion would be re-focussed on this once the restoration of the World War 1 Memorial which was currently being done, was finished.

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

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

Partner Agency Reports – Northumbria Police

The Chairman having pointed out that Neighbourhood Inspector Lisa Musgrove must have been detained on business, deferred the update report from Northumbria Police.

Partner Agency Reports – Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service

Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service submitted a report (copy circulated) providing commentary on incidents in the Coalfield Area from 1st July to 24th September, 2014.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Mr. Jeff Wilkinson, Station Manager, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service briefed the Committee on the report pointing out that no deaths from fires had been recorded during the reporting period, the number of accidental fires in

dwellings, the number of deliberate primary fires, the number of deliberate primary road vehicle fires and the number of deliberate secondary fires were all reduced in the Coalfield area in comparison to the same period last year. Mr. Wilkinson added that there had been only one malicious false alarm call attended during the reporting period which was at Brinkburn Crescent.

Mr. Wilkinson advised that there had recently been problems in the Easington Lane area with youths starting fires on the street and throwing stones at the fire fighters and fire appliances when they attended the scene. One officer had been injured. The Fire Service had been working with the Police in relation to these incidents who had provided a police escort on one occasion and extra police presence on another and the message had been given out that the perpetrators would be prosecuted if apprehended. Mr. Wilkinson added that talks had been held with Council Responsive Local Services Officers with a view to cutting down the bushes from where the youths were hiding and throwing objects.

Councillor Blackburn advised that he had been at a Community meeting recently where the above incidents had been raised. He apologised to the Fire Service on behalf of those residents of Easington Lane who appreciated the work the Service did.

Councillor Speding queried the attendance of a fire appliance from Newcastle Central Fire Station to an incident at Grangewood Court, Shiney Row.

Mr. Wilkinson advised that the appliance had attended an incident in Washington as it had been designated as the nearest appliance at the time.

In response to Councillor Ellis, Mr Wilkinson advised that around the time of Houghton Feast, which might have been coincidental, there had been one or two incidents of waste bins being set on fire. However this was not usually a big problem in the Coalfield area.

Ms. Kay Rowham, Member of the public referred to a considerable delay in attending the 'Lyons' fire which she suggested might be due to there being a number of streets in the area having a similar name.

Mr. Wilkinson responded by saying that this fire had not come through on any report. He advised that operators taking the call tried to get as much information as possible from whoever was reporting a fire such as the address and exact location and that he would investigate and report back on the incident in question.

Councillor Lawson congratulated the Fire Service on the work it was doing. She advised that she had reported the fire at the allotments, believed to be at 'Penshaw Lane' rather than 'Penshaw Row' and that both she and the Allotments Society had been very pleased with the way the incident had been dealt with by the Fire Brigade.

In response to the Chairman, Mr. Wilkinson advised that there had been a couple of incidents at Hunter Street, Starks yard but there had not been any real issue in that area for a long time. He added that the situation would be monitored.

Mr. Wilkinson reported that there had been a fire the previous night at Penshaw House Community Home. The building was vacant and boarded up and the roof had collapsed on two fire fighters. Both Fire fighters had gone to hospital with slight burns and then were sent home off duty. A full report on the injuries they had sustained was awaited, together with dates for their return to work. Mr. Wilkinson advised that the building which was in Council ownership had been well secured and added that he was not sure of the future plans for it.

Councillor Speding advised that the building had been up for sale.

The Chairman having thanked Mr. Wilkinson for his report, it was:-

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

Area Budgets Report

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) providing a financial statement as an update position on progress in relation to allocating Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) and Community Chest funding and presenting proposals for further funding requests to support initiatives that will benefit the area.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Pauline Hopper, Area Community Officer, Coalfield presented the report drawing the Committee's attention to the financial position as set out in paragraph 2.1 of the report advising that a balance of £160,565 remained.

Ms Hopper highlighted the four applications for SIB funding, which were all recommendations from the Area Place and People Boards, detailed at paragraph 2.2, totalling £95,000 and pointed out that should all of the proposals be approved the balance of SIB funding remaining would be £65,565. Ms. Hopper briefed the Committee on each of the applications. It was pointed out that the Locality Officer for Public Health had been omitted from the list of Members of the Working Group for the Health and Greenspaces project and needed to be added.

Ms. Hopper referred the Committee to the Community Chest approvals and current balances for 2014/2015 detailed at paragraph 3 and as set out at Annex 2 of the report.

Consideration having been given to the report it was:-

6. RESOLVED that:-

- a) the financial statements set out in sections 2.1 and 3.1 of the report be noted;
- b) the four requests for SIB funding as follows and detailed in paragraph 2.2 and Annex 1 of the report, be approved:-

Health and Greenspaces Project

£20,000

Shopping Centre Support Project	£55,000
Local Events, Celebrations and Heritage Project	£10,000
Love Where You Live (LWYL) Project	£10,000

;and

- c) the 21 Community Chest approvals supported from the 2014/15 budget as set out in Annex 2 be noted.

Current Planning Applications (Coalfields Area)

A schedule (copy circulated) of current planning applications lodged during the period 1st August and 25th September 2014 was submitted for Members information only.

(For copy schedule – see original minutes).

- 7. RESOLVED that the schedule be received and noted.

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

(Signed) J. SCOTT,
Chairman.