

**At a meeting of the EAST SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in VENERABLE BEDE SCHOOL, TUNSTALL BANK, SUNDERLAND on MONDAY, 14<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER, 2011 at 5.30p.m.**

**Present:-**

Councillor Ball in the Chair

Councillors P. Dixon, Emerson, Errington, Forbes, E. Gibson, Kay, Maddison, McClennan, T. Martin, Mordey, Scanlan and Wood

**Also Present:-**

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Graham Burt         | - Community Development Manager, Sunderland City Council                              |
| Meg Boustead        | - Head of Safeguarding – Sunderland City Council                                      |
| Zoe Channing        | - Assistant Head of Culture and Tourism, Sunderland City Council                      |
| Hazel Clark         | - East Area Voluntary and Community Sector Representative                             |
| Insp. John Connolly | - Northumbria Police  |
| Insp. Neal Craig    | - Northumbria Police  |
| Victoria French     | - Assistant Head of Sport, Leisure and Community Development, Sunderland City Council |
| Tobyn Hughes        | - Director of Customer Services, Nexus  |
| Paula Hunt          | - East Area Voluntary and Community Sector Representative                             |
| Matthew Jackson     | - Governance Services Officer, Sunderland City Council                                |
| Vivienne Metcalfe   | - Community Development Co-ordinator, Sunderland City Council                         |
| Sandra Mitchell     | - Head of Early Intervention, Sunderland City Council                                 |
| Helen Peverley      | - City Centre Area Response Manager, Sunderland City Council                          |
| Nicky Rowland       | - East Area Response Manager, Sunderland City Council                                 |
| Anthony Semley      | - Manager, Blue Watch Youth Project   |
| Vince Taylor        | - Head of Strategy and Performance, Sunderland City Council                           |
| James Third         | - Community Relations Officer, Nexus  |
| Nicol Trueman       | - Area Officer, Sunderland City Council   |
| Victoria Watts      | - Neighbourhood Manager, Sunderland City Council                                      |

## **Chairman's Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

## **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for Absence were received on behalf of Ms Nonnie Crawford, Mr Richie Duggan, Ms Lisa Wilson and Mr Gary Yates

## **Declarations of Interest**

Community Chest and SIB – Financial Statement and Proposals for Further Allocation of Resources

Councillor Mordey declared personal and prejudicial interests as a Council Appointed Member of Young Asian Voices and as a Member of Chance

Councillor McClennan declared a personal and prejudicial interest as a Local Authority appointed member of Chance

Councillor Kay declared a personal and prejudicial interest as a Member of Chance

Strategic Initiatives Budget Interim Performance Report

Councillors Kay and Wood declared personal interests as governors of St. Aidan's R.C. School

## **Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2011**

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2011 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

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

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Members with information relating to the Neighbourhood Match Fund and Children's Services Locality Working programme.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Nicol Trueman, Area Officer, presented the report and advised that the Neighbourhood Match Fund was a government scheme and that across the city's 25 wards there had been 7 chosen to be a part of the scheme with 4 of these wards being within the East Area. The Wards chosen were those which

appeared to need additional support due to there being low levels of social capital and relatively high levels of economic deprivation. There was a need to create a Community First Panel for each of the Wards receiving funding; this panel would look at the expressions of interest from the community groups and would decide how the funds should be allocated. All funds must be matched, either using time, money or resources.

Councillor E. Gibson expressed surprise and concern that Doxford was the only Ward in the area not to be receiving any funding. She queried how the Wards had been chosen and asked for details to be brought back to the committee in a future report. Ms Trueman advised that the Wards selected were those where high levels of deprivation and unemployment had been identified.

In response to a query from Councillor Forbes, the lead officer Vivienne Metcalfe advised that the chair of the panel would be a representative of a registered charity.

Councillor McClennan welcomed the funding and stated that the VCS network may need assistance with regard to things like ICT skills; this could lead to there being cost implications for the VCS to be able to deliver the project. Ms Metcalfe advised that there had been work done to provide support for organisations, there had been work done around community ICT provision.

Councillor Mordey requested a list of all of the organisations which had applied for this funding; Ms Metcalfe agreed to provide this.

Ms Trueman then introduced to the Committee Sandra Mitchell, Head of Early Intervention, who would be presenting the Locality Working section of the report.

Ms Mitchell presented the Locality Working information and advised that there had been a restructuring of the Children's Services department and the new key service areas and heads of the services were detailed in paragraph 3.1 of the report. The new Locality Operational Manager for the East Area was Andrew Carton, he had been unable to attend this meeting but in the future would be in attendance. The team would be based within the area and would be working with other Council directorates and external partners such as gentoo.

2. RESOLVED that the reports be received and noted and further reports be received in relation to the Community First Neighbourhood Match Fund.

## **Community Action: Reviewing Progress and Agreeing Next Steps**

### Tackling Crime

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which allowed Members to consider updates on the Committee's Tackling Crime priority and the agreed actions set out in the Work Plan, on behalf of the Crime Task and Finish Group.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Inspector Neal Craig presented the crime statistics for the Millfield and St. Michael's Wards; he advised that there had been reductions in all types of crime apart from burglary of properties other than dwellings and other thefts. The increase in other thefts was related to the increase in metal thefts in the area. Overall, total crime had reduced by 10 percent and antisocial behaviour had reduced by 30 percent.

Inspector John Connolly then presented the figures for Doxford, Hendon and Ryhope Wards. He advised that there had been reductions in crime across the area; last year there had been an increase in the number of burglaries from dwellings however this had fallen again. Thefts of motor vehicles had reduced by 60 percent and vehicle interference had reduced by 100 percent. Other thefts, in particular metal thefts, were to be targeted using LMAPS funds. Total crime for the area had reduced by 11 percent and antisocial behaviour had reduced by 36 percent.

Councillor Gibson advised that there had been reductions in antisocial behaviour and deliberate fires in Doxford as a result of gentoo demolishing some more of the empty properties in the area.

Councillor Mordey referred to the recent vandalism of cars on St. Bede's Terrace; a resident had reported that the tyres had been slashed on 30 vehicles. Inspector Connolly advised that this was classed as criminal damage and due to the reductions elsewhere the statistics had still shown a reduction for the area. There had been arrests made in connection with this and a residents group had been established which would be looking into closing the pedestrian access through the street. PC Ashford attended the group's meetings as the representative of Northumbria Police.

Councillor Errington queried the possibility of having a police base in Doxford ward; he was informed by Inspector Connolly that officers needed to start the day at Gilbridge Police Station as they needed to be briefed. There were cash issues and as such any facility in Doxford would need to be free. There was the potential for a facility to be incorporated into the new development at the Cherry Knowle site.

Ms Trueman advised that she would be presenting the fire statistics as Mr Gary Yates had been unable to attend the Meeting, any questions would be

forwarded on to Mr Yates for him to respond. She advised the Committee of the figures which were set out in the table at paragraph 4.1 to the report.

Councillors Mordey and T. Martin expressed concerns over the number of fires in Hendon Ward and asked that a briefing session be arranged to discuss this issue. Ms Trueman agreed to liaise with Mr Yates to arrange this.

3. RESOLVED that the updates from Northumbria Police and Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service be noted.

### Selective Licensing and Neighbourhood Management

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with an update on Action 6 under the Cleaner and Greener Streets priority; the implementation of a Selective Licensing scheme in Middle Hendon and the 'Long Streets' to improve the quality of the area.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Victoria Watts, Neighbourhood Manager, presented the report and advised that since the scheme was launched all private landlords within the licensing area have been required to apply for a licence. Prosecution files were being prepared for the 95 properties which remained unlicensed and it was expected that a number of these properties would become licensed once the owners realised that they were to be prosecuted for failing to comply.

Once all properties were licensed the focus of the scheme would change to a more proactive approach to ensuring that properties comply with the requirements of the scheme. To date there had been approximately 600 applications with nearly 400 of these being licensed. There had been inspections carried out on 664 properties and improvements had been carried out at 164 properties.

There was a requirement for landlords to carry out background checks on prospective tenants; if a landlord joined the voluntary accreditation scheme then they could access the Council's vetting service which looked at criminal and antisocial behaviour; there had been an increase in the number of landlords who were becoming accredited and the Council had carried out 136 vettings.

Councillor T. Martin stated that he was pleased to see this report. He advised that the accreditation scheme had been in place for a number of years. He expressed concerns over some inspections of properties which had been carried out by gentoo, these had included the taking of photographs inside of people's houses and he felt that this was not acceptable.

Councillor McClennan stated that she still had concerns, especially relating to 'churning' of problem tenants, it was quite possible for problem tenants to cause misery for residents of a street and then move onto the next street and

cause the same problems there. There needed to be evidence that vetting had been carried out and there needed to be controls in place to tackle existing problem tenants. There were landlords groups and forums where information regarding problem tenants could be shared.

Ms Watts advised that it was a key condition of the licence that all tenants must be vetted and landlords were encouraged to use the Council's vetting service to carry this out. Landlords would be expected to take advice from all agencies with regard to antisocial behaviour and there would be ongoing checking to ensure compliance.

Councillor Mordey stated that it was taking too long for the licensing of landlords to be done. He appreciated that it was a difficult job but was still concerned by the time taken. He queried where the money from fines for failing to comply would go. Ms Watts advised that the fines would be issued by the magistrates courts. Progress had been slower than expected due to there being more properties than expected needing to be licensed. The original estimate had been 500 properties however it was now known that there were close to 700 properties.

Councillor Mordey then stated that he felt that it was important to start enforcement of licensed properties now rather than waiting until all properties were licensed. Ms Watts advised that there was only one team working on this and as such resources were limited; there were different stages of the programme for the next five years and it started with the issuing of licences and then moved onto the enforcement of the licensing conditions.

Councillor Forbes stated that the aims of the scheme were excellent however she was concerned that the barring of problem tenants from the area would simply displace them to other areas which would then lead to problems occurring in these areas rather than stopping the problems from occurring at all. Ms Watts stated that accredited landlords from anywhere in the city could use the vetting service. The trends and hotspots of antisocial behaviour were monitored and measures were put in place when issues were identified.

4. RESOLVED that the progress report be noted and future updates be received.

### Coastal Path

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update on the progress against the agreed actions in the Work Plan, on behalf of the Coastal Task and Finish Group.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Nicol Trueman, Area Officer, presented the report and advised the committee of the programme of works and the proposed modification to the route. When developing this modified route the police had been consulted and they agreed

that this new route would be more appropriate given the large number of incidents which occurred on the path of the original proposed route. The modifications to the route were detailed at paragraph 4.2 of the report

5. RESOLVED that:-
  - a. The update be noted
  - b. The proposed modification to the route be agreed and the Lead Agent to write to Natural England to outline the reasons behind the proposed modification.

### Employment, Enterprise and Welfare Rights

The Executive Director of City Services submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Members with an update on the progress made against the agreed actions in relation to the Employment, Enterprise and Welfare Rights priority.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Nicol Trueman introduced the report and welcomed Bill Robinson and Trish Lynn who were in attendance to inform the committee of some of the work that had been carried out.

Paula Hunt expressed concerns that there was no outreach provision for Ryhope residents and the nearest provision to Ryhope involved travelling long distances. As part of the bid which was submitted it had been stated that there would be outreach provision in Ryhope so it was a concern that there had not been any provision.

Mr Robinson stated that it was difficult to find venues for the outreach provision as there were limited resources available and any venue used would have to be free of charge. Ms Lynn agreed to contact Ms Hunt outside of the Meeting to discuss the situation and the way forward.

Councillor Errington commented that sessions had been arranged at the Jubilee Centre however this was within the West Sunderland Area; he was advised by Mr Robinson that residents from Doxford used the centre. Councillor Errington then stated that it was only the residents from the top end of Doxford who would visit the centre, residents from elsewhere in the Ward would use facilities located in Ryhope. He also asked that Ward Members were involved when sessions were arranged so that they could inform the residents.

Mr Robinson stated that he would look into where the best place for the sessions to take place would be.

Councillor McClennan stated that when the bid had first been submitted there had been concerns around venues for the sessions. She was also concerned

about how far behind schedule the project was; there was a need for long term initiatives.

6. RESOLVED that the performance reports from SES and SNCBC be noted.

### Public Transport

Nexus and the East VCS Area Network submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Members with an update on the agreed actions in the work plan in relation to the Public transport priority and also advised of the outcomes of the consultation work that had been undertaken.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Tobyn Hughes, Director of Customer Services, and James Third, Community Relations Officer, presented the report. Mr Hughes advised that there had been a number of issues raised by the public during the consultation meetings. Some of the meetings had been very well attended while some of the others had been less well attended. It had become apparent that where residents were generally happy with the service there had been a smaller attendance while in the areas with specific issues there had been a larger turn out, this was demonstrated by the maps attached to the report which showed where the residents in attendance lived.

There had been a number of specific issues raised including the rerouting of the number 38 bus which had restricted access to facilities for residents of Tunstall Bank Estate and the lack of evening and weekend services on Hendon Road and Commercial Road. There was ongoing dialogue with Go Ahead about the number 38 and residents had submitted a petition to the ITA. Nexus already operated some subsidised services along Hendon Road and Commercial Road and the commercial network would be monitored so that any changes could be identified.

Mr Third advised that he was committed to building stronger public transport links for communities.

Councillor Wood referred to the services 18 and 19 operated by Stagecoach; Nexus had proposed that there would be an hourly service in the evenings. He queried whether there was any prospect of this happening and whether Nexus were happy with the progress made.

Mr Hughes stated that there had been consultation around the Accessible Bus Network and some proposals had not been taken forward. It was important to ensure that the proposals were constantly being reviewed to ensure that they were still required. It would be desirable to have an increase in services on evenings and weekends however there was a need to find funding to subsidise the services should they not be commercially viable.



Councillor Errington queried whether the petition to the ITA was the same as the petition he had submitted to Council on behalf of residents. Mr Hughes advised that it was a new petition and he was aware that there had been ongoing discussions on the matter.

Councillor Errington then stated that it would be desirable to have a meeting with Go Ahead to discuss the issues. When the 141 had been withdrawn Go Ahead had stated that surveys had been carried out however residents had no knowledge of these surveys. The 141 had been a popular service as it provided a link to Ryhope. He also advised that residents would have been happy to lose one number 42 service an hour if it meant that they could have some other routes in the area.

Mr Hughes stated that ongoing dialogue with Go Ahead had been difficult to achieve.

Paula Hunt stated that the East VCS Network had highlighted issues. There was a need for communication with the bus operators. There were specific concerns around the 42 and its route and timing. Mr Third advised that the 42 had been rerouted approximately 6 months ago and there was a need to monitor the suitability of the new route.

7. RESOLVED that:-
  - a. The report be noted
  - b. Consideration be given to the figures and information provided
  - c. The findings be reviewed after one year.

### Youth and Teenagers

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update on the progress made against the agreed actions as set out in the work plan in relation to the Youth and Teenagers priority.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Meg Bousted, Head of Safeguarding, presented the report and advised Members of the schools lettings policy which was used for when schools allowed organisations to use their facilities outside of school hours. She also drew Members attention to the work that the task and finish group would be carrying out, as detailed in paragraph 2.2 of the report.

Councillor Forbes commented that there was a lack of informal play provision in the area; she felt there was a need for there to be 'kick about areas' in addition to formal play areas. She asked that Children's Services look into this.

Councillor E. Gibson stated that schools had lost funding since the introduction of the pupil premium as this was based on the number of children who were eligible for free school meals. Ms Bousted advised that there were a

number of people who were entitled to free school meals but did not claim them. She agreed to bring detail on this matter to a future meeting of the Committee.

Paula Hunt stated that there were some schools which had previously opened to the community however now were not; there was an issue surrounding the amount of green space which previously was available but which now did not have public access. It was good to see that progress was being made on addressing the issue.

Ms Trueman then introduced Tony Semley who would be presenting the progress update on activities during school holidays and the establishment of youth clubs.

Mr Semley advised the Committee that he was the Manager at Blue Watch Youth Centre which had received funding from the Committee to provide positive activities for young people. There had been a focus on providing activities for young people aged 8-11 as there was not much in the way of provision for this age group. There had been a number of activities held including the Great North Bike Ride which had raised money for charity; the young people had enjoyed this so much that they had taken part in a further bike ride. It was good to get to know the young people at an early age and there was the opportunity for younger members to become volunteers once they were older.

Councillor Kay expressed his pleasure at how many young people had been involved with this, the programme had been excellent value for money. Mr Semley advised that there was a lot of provision able to be provided as the majority would be done in house to keep costs down.

Councillor E. Gibson stated that the sessions had been very successful in reducing problems in the area. She had attended the PACT meetings where it had been reported that the area had been much quieter than usual during the school holidays.

8. RESOLVED that:-
  - a. A meeting between the task and finish group and Primary and Secondary Headteachers be arranged to discuss extended school arrangements.
  - b. The progress update on short breaks, working with children and young people with disabilities be noted.
  - c. The performance updates from the youth providers be noted.

### Work Plan 2011/12

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which allowed Members to consider the work plan for 2011/12.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Ms Trueman presented the report and advised the Committee that there were no updates on any of the priorities beyond the updates which had been provided in the other Committee reports.

9. RESOLVED that the work plan be noted.

#### Community Chest and Strategic Initiative Budget (SIB) – Financial Statement and Proposals for Further Allocation of Resources

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which allowed Members to consider the allocation of SIB and Community Chest funding to support initiatives which would deliver activities against the priorities for 2011/12.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Nicol Trueman, Area Officer presented the report, taking Members through each application and answering questions from Members upon them.

Ms Trueman advised that there were 16 Community Chest proposals which were recommended to be supported and one proposal with a recommendation to reject. There were 5 applications for SIB funding.

Following discussion of the applications the Committee agreed that the application for Tunstall Allotment Association: Community Garden should only be approved should the West Sunderland Area Committee agree to support this project as well.

10. RESOLVED that:-
  - a. the financial statements as set out in annex 1 and 3 of the report be noted;
  - b. approval be given to the 16 proposals for funding from the Community Chest totalling £9,928 from the 2011/2012 budget as set out in annex 2 of the report;
  - c. the proposal for Community Chest funding for Ford, Pallion and Millfield Community Development Project be rejected.
  - d. The 5 applications for SIB funding as set out in annex 4 of the report be approved, with the application for Tunstall Allotment Association being approved subject to West Sunderland Area Committee also approving the application.

#### Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) Interim Performance Report

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which informed Members of how the SIB and SIP funding the Committee had allocated had been used during the period April to September 2011 and how the projects were performing.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Nicol Trueman, Area Officer, presented the report and advised Members that she would be happy to take any questions.

Hazel Clark advised that there had been a conversation with the police and gentoo about the walk and talk sessions, they felt that they were not in the loop and asked that feedback could be provided to them.

Nicky Rowland, Area Response Manager, agreed to provide this information.

Councillor Wood referred to the Vehicle Activated Signs and advised that he had asked for a timetable showing where the sign would be located and when. He was still awaiting this information.

11. RESOLVED that the performance update be noted and given consideration.

## **Influencing Practice, Policy and Strategy**

### Sunderland in 2012

The Executive Director of City Services submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Members with information on the proposed Sunderland in 2012 programme.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Victoria French, Assistant Head of Sport, Leisure and Community Development, presented the report and advised Members that the city challenges detailed in the report at 3.6 would now be called city pledges. There was a Task and Finish Workshop to be taking place on Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2011 to allow Members to inform and shape the content of the programme. It was hoped that all Members would be able to attend this workshop. The programme was being developed to engage with residents of all ages and from all aspects of the community.

Ms Trueman then drew Members attention to the recommendation to allocate £10,000 of SIB to the work, this would be subject to full application and appraisal.

Councillor Mordey queried whether this would be funded solely from SIB or whether there was match funding being sought.

Ms French advised that there had already been £275,000 of funding secured from other sources. The SIB funding would allow for unique, area based activities to take place. Janet Johnson, Area Lead Executive, advised that the

workshop on 21<sup>st</sup> November would allow Members to discuss how the funding should be spent, should they agree to allocate the funding to this work.

12. RESOLVED that:-
  - a. The report be noted
  - b. SIB funding of £10,000 to support the delivery of the programme in the East Area be approved subject to full application, consultation and appraisal.
  - c. Members be invited to attend the workshop session to inform the Sunderland in 2012 programme.

### City Village Concept

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which offered members the opportunity to be consulted on the plans and strategies which were relevant to the area and also provided information and updates on the City Village Concept.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Vince Taylor, Head of Strategy and Performance, presented the report and advised that the City Villages concept was a part of the Economic Masterplan for the city. The city started out as a series of unconnected villages which over the years had merged to become one large urban area. It was important to consider that the Wards within the city were not representative of the Neighbourhoods, each neighbourhood had its own distinct characteristics. It was planned that there would be a number of in depth pilots carried out in different neighbourhoods across the city.

In response to a query from Councillor McClennan Mr Taylor advised that LTOSA was Lower Super Output Areas.

Councillor Kay commented that this report and the map attached showed how diverse the East Area was.

Councillor Mordey stated that it would be interesting to see the full details at the next meeting in January.

13. RESOLVED that
  - a. the report be noted
  - b. Future engagement and consultation be carried out.

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

(Signed) E. BALL,  
Chairman.