

At a meeting of the WASHINGTON AREA COMMITTEE held at THE MILLENNIUM CENTRE on THURSDAY 20TH JUNE, 2013 at 6.00 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Scaplehorn in the Chair

Councillors Fletcher, F. Miller, G. Miller, Padgett, D. E. Snowdon, D. Snowdon, D. Trueman, H. Trueman, Walker and Williams.

Karon Purvis	-	Chief Executives
Louise Butler	-	Chief Executives
Paul Wood	-	Commercial and Corporate Services
Jane Eland	-	Children's Services
Lorraine Hughes	-	Children's Services
Alan Caddick	-	Health, Housing and Adult Services
Tim Ducker	-	Office of the Chief Executive
Jacqui Reeves	-	Washington Mind
Colin McCartney	-	Gentoo
Karen Mallin	-	SNCBC

Members of the Washington Community.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Farthing, Kelly, Lauchlan and Thompson. Neil Revely, Steve Anderson, Inspector Paul Stewart and John Rostron.

Declarations of Interest

Item 4 Annex 2 – People Board Progress Report – Youth Contract Report

Councillor Williams made an open declaration as a member of the Oxclose & District Young Peoples Project.

Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 25th April, 2013

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 25th April, 2013 (copy circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Setting the Scene for 2013/14

The Chair of the Washington Area Committee provided a powerpoint presentation as a useful opportunity at the beginning of the municipal year to remind Members of the opportunities available to them in terms of areas of influence and funding available.

(For copy of presentation – see original minutes)

Councillor H. Trueman commented that he felt Washington Area Committee was ahead of the game and doing well but there were policies in place connected to the whole of the city and the Crime Commissioner had already released her own intentions on how to tackle Anti Social Behaviour so we had to be aware of the policies in place when considering our role.

The Chairman agreed that there was a certain restriction by Council Policies already in place but we had to try and influence at a local level the best we could, especially as there was a growing list of things that were being devolved down to a local level.

Councillor H. Trueman commented that there needed to be a balance and the Committee had a great set of officers supporting it, so he was sure they could get it right.

2, RESOLVED that the presentation be received and noted

Place Board – Progress Report

The Chair of the Place Board submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide the Committee with an update of progress against the current years (2013/14) Place Board Work Plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Dianne Snowdon presented the report and advised of the Governance arrangements expected of the Board and informed of the key areas of influence and achievements up to 31 May 2013.

Councillor Fletcher expressed concern over the make up of the Board and the fact that the Membership was limited, posed problems should there be a clash of meetings.

The Chairman commented that some areas did invite everyone but we took the decision to follow the protocols and keep the attendance to its core membership but all members of the committee would be receiving brief bullet points of the meetings for information in future.

Councillor Walker commented that he was concerned over the restrictions in place in allowing non core Members and the Cabinet Members from attending.

The Chairman advised that it had been his decision for Cabinet Members not to attend as it was felt that they could be an intimidating presence to other Members during the meetings.

Karon Purvis, Area Community Officer advised that technically the Board meetings have always been for the Core Membership but Washington had welcomed other Members to attend if they wished, all that was asked was that Members request to attend via the appropriate Chairman of the Board.

Councillor Walker commented that his concerns were referring more to the issue of other Members wanting to participate and help influence decisions/ recommendations.

The Chairman advised that all Members would be informed of items to be discussed on the Boards agendas and that they could then pass on their contributions to their Ward colleagues for discussion and wished to clarify that no Member was being excluded.

Councillor G. Miller commented that as one of the Cabinet Members he had issues with Boards, which were already placed on record but he did agree that Cabinet Members taking part could be seen as intimidating. However Councillor Walker was right to point out that it was antidemocratic and having to ask the Chairman for permission to attend was wrong.

Councillor G. Miller also commented that with the Boards having five Members plus the Chairman, should some people not be able to attend, this would leave a very small number of people, which we had to be wary of.

The Chairman advised that he had raised concerns with Charlotte Burnham, Head of Scrutiny and Area Arrangements and with Councillor Gofton and we do want to include all Councillors in the process but we must have a structure in place.

Councillor F. Miller commented that as she was not named on either Board, she could not acquire the time off from work to attend the meetings. The Chairman commented that he was sure the appropriate Boards Chairman could send an email to Councillor Miller's employer requesting the time off should she wish to attend.

Councillor David Snowdon commented that these were new arrangements that had been implemented and we had to give them a chance to work.

Councillor Dianne Snowdon then referred to recommendation 5.3 on page 8 of the agenda and requested Members opinions as to the desired locations for the installation of goalposts.

Councillor G. Miller commented that of the sites proposed, two wards were receiving three sets and he did not believe this was right and felt that Harraton should be considered so that there were a set of goalposts in each of the three wards listed.

Councillor Dianne Snowdon commented that the reasoning for Harratons omission would be double checked and proposed that subject to no viable reason for its

removal, the three locations Members request the Goalposts to be erected would be Albany, Harraton and Princess Anne Park. Members agreed to the proposal.

3. RESOLVED that the Committee

- (i) Approved the membership of the Place Board for 2013/14 as set out in paragraph 3.2 of the report
- (ii) Considered the progress and performance update with regard to the Washington Place Board's Work Plan for 2013/14
- (iii) Members noted the outcomes of consultation with regard to the options for installation of goalposts at a Ward level, and recommended Albany and Princess Anne Park as well as Harraton (subject to no suitable reason for its omission)
- (iv) Noted the application for SIB for the Community Health and Green Spaces Report as detailed under Item 5 Financial Statement and Proposals.

People Board – Progress Report

The Chair of the People Board submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide the Committee with an update of progress against the current years (2013/14) People Board Work Plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Williams presented the report and advised of the Governance arrangements for the Board and informed of the key areas of influence and achievements up to 31 May 2013.

In relation to the Timebank site visit in Gateshead, Alan Caddick, Head of Strategic Housing advised that they had lost their funding and were due to close but Members should still be able to visit and receive advice before it closes.

With regards to action 4 of the People Board Workplan, Lorraine Hughes, Public Health Lead gave an update on the STI treatment services available in Washington, namely the C Card Provision, the Chlamydia Screening Programme, the Genito Urinary Medicine (GUM) and Contraceptive and Sexual Health Services (CaSH).

In reference to GUM, Ms Hughes advised that she was working with them to get a breakdown of activity by locality/gender/age/diagnosis and hoped to provide this in the future, however, GUM was an open access service that people could access anywhere (i.e Q.E) and we were unable to access this data.

In relation to the CaSH clinics, there were six clinics provided in Washington and in terms of clients, Washington has remained steady overall since 2009 (a slight

increase) but we were still waiting for population figures to see what this means and would be happy to share the details once received.

Ms Hughes also gave an update on Mental Health in young people and advised that there was an issue with self harming. Washington Mind was providing a programme called Life Worth Living to try and tackle this and the Health Champion Programme was also starting to focus on young people.

Councillor David Snowden enquired if there had been an increase in instances of self harm due to the welfare reforms.

Ms Hughes advised that they did not know yet as they were awaiting the figures on referrals and they were hoping to understand the issues of the new services in place.

Councillor David Snowden commented that we really needed to be made aware of the statistics and to react to the findings.

The Chairman introduced Colin McCartney of Gentoo, who advised of a significant increase in rent arrears and that Gentoo had changed the way they operated and engaged with people so that it was not about enforcement but working with residents and they were using all the tools they had to refer those that were struggling to the relevant agencies in order to help the best they could.

Councillor F. Miller enquired as to the age levels of instances of Self Harm and if they were of school age.

Ms Hughes advised that the Hospital admissions were above the regional and national averages and she had requested further details to break the figures down by locality but we needed to work with people before it got to that stage and she would circulate details to Members once it became available.

Mr Caddick informed the Committee that he was in the process of arranging a session with Social Housing providers in relation to the impact of the Welfare reforms and to discuss the issues arising from these and how we can respond and adapt to them.

Jacqui Reeves, Washington Mind, commented that it was crucial to tackle these issues and requested that the voluntary sector be included in the mapping exercise. Ms Reeves also commented that self harming was a coping strategy and we needed to deal with the stress that was causing the issues.

Councillor G. Miller commented that unfortunately the homelessness issues were increasing and that the health issues were tied into the situation. Councillor Miller also commented that the West Area Committee had produced a very good report on the matter and suggested this Committee may wish to look at it as a framework to possibly adopt in Washington.

Mr McCartney informed the Committee that a meeting on Welfare reforms would be taking place at the Gentoo Galleries office on Thursday 27th July.

In relation to action 12 and 13 of the Work plan, Councillor Miller requested that updates be provided to a future meeting.

Ms Purvis advised that the items had been moved back on the Boards agenda due to large number of business items to discuss but they did intend to get the specific items to the Committee as soon as possible.

In relation to action 18 – Sulgrave Flats – Mr Caddick advised that they were developing a business case now to bring to Area Committee.

4. RESOLVED that the Committee

- (i) Considered the progress and performance update with regards to the Washington People Board Work Plan for 2013/2014
- (ii) Agreed the recommendations for the location of the goalposts with the amendment that Albany, Princess Anne Park and Harraton (subject to finding no reasoning for its exclusion) be used as locations.
- (iii) Noted the youth contract delivery programme and agreed for two sessions per week per ward and for banked sessions of one per week per ward with the short term proposal to use banked sessions to support the music sessions until July 2013.

Financial Statement and Proposals for further allocation of Resources

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), Healthy City Investment Funds that would benefit the area and to note the Community Chest initiatives that would benefit the area.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

In relation to the Community Health and Green Space Project, Tim Ducker, Cycle Network and Public Rights of Way Officer gave a verbal report on the details of the project and was on hand to answer any queries.

The Chairman commented that this project was not just about cycling as it hit all of the Committees health priorities as well as a linkage to schools.

Ms Reeves commented that research had shown that exercise was good for an individual's mental health and outside exercise was even better, therefore she welcomed this proposal.

5. RESOLVED that the Committee:-

- i) Noted the financial statement for Area Committee funding for 2013/2014

- ii) Approved the ring fencing of £50,000 SIB from the 2013/14 budget for the Community Health and Green Spaces Project as detailed in Item 5 Annex 1 of the report
- iii) Approved the allocation of £30,000 for a Call for Projects to address social isolation as detailed in Item 5 Annex 2 of the report
- iv) Noted the 14 approvals supported from 2013/14 Community Chest budget as set out in Item 5 Annex 3 of the report.

Area Community Voluntary Sector Network

The Washington Area Community Voluntary Sector Network submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide an update with regard to the Washington Area Community and Voluntary Sector Network

Ms Reeves provided a verbal presentation to the Committee and advised that it was disappointing to announce that Washington Trust had been unsuccessful in its funding bid.

Ms Reeves wished to stress the importance of working together and that Washington Area Committee and the Voluntary Sector had a strong network and worked well together but still needed to strengthen their relationship.

Ms Reeves also advised the Committee of the good news that they were moving into a new building and all Members would be invited to the opening.

6. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting

(Signed) B. SCAPLEHORN,
Chairman.