

At a meeting of the WASHINGTON AREA COMMITTEE held at WASHINGTON MIND, THE LIFE HOUSE, GRASMERE TERRACE on THURSDAY 5TH MARCH, 2015 at 6.00 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Scaplehorn in the Chair

Councillors Farthing, Fletcher, Kelly, Lauchlan, F. Miller, G. Miller, David Snowdon, Dianne Snowdon, Taylor, Thompson, D. Trueman, H. Trueman, Walker and Williams.

Louise Butler	-	Chief Executives
David Hardy	-	City Services
Paul Wood	-	Commercial and Corporate Services
Elaine Harbron	-	ICT
Jacqui Reeves	-	VCS Representative
Colin McCartney	-	Gentoo
Bryan Beverley	-	Washington Trust
Ev Ripley – Day	-	Foundation of Light
Steve Graham	-	TWFRS
Mariel Hardy	-	Washington Youth Council
Emma Bowman	-	Washington Youth Council
Suzanne Shaftoe	-	Springwell Village Community Venue

Members of the Washington Community.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Northumbria Police.

Declarations of Interest

Item 7 - Financial Statement and Proposals for further allocation of Resources

Councillor Fletcher made an open declaration with regards to Annex 2 – Change of SIB Funding Application as a family member was employed by Sunderland North Community Business Centre.

Councillor Dianne Snowdon made an open declaration in Annex 1 – SIB Applications 1 and 2 as a trustee of Washington MIND and left the room during consideration of the items.

Councillor David Snowdon made an open declaration in Annex 1 – SIB Application No 2 as a Director of the Millennium Centre which would be working in partnership with the applicant therefore he took no part in the discussion of the Item.

Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 9th December, 2014

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 9th December, 2014 (copy circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record subject to the following amendment :-

Page 4 of the minutes Paragraph 9, Councillor Farthing referred to Rickleton and not the Riverside as stated.

Change in order of business

The Chairman advised that Item 3 would be considered first in order to allow the presenting officers to attend another meeting.

Partner Agency Reports

(a) Report of the Washington Area Community Voluntary Sector Network

The Washington Area Community Voluntary Sector Network submitted a report (copy circulated) to inform the Committee of activity, progress, issues and concerns of the sector.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

John Rostron, VCS Representative, presented the report and advised the Committee of the Washington Area VCS Network Annual Report for 2014-15 which was included in the agenda papers for Members consideration.

The Chairman commented that this was the first Annual Review from the VCS and they were a very important partner and it should be stressed that the Area Committee recognised the importance of their role.

2. RESOLVED that Members noted the contents of the report attached as Annex 1 of the report.

Washington Area Committee Annual Report 2014-15

The Chairman of the Washington Area Committee submitted a report (copy circulated) for the Committee to approve the Annual Report as part of the combined Area Committee Annual Report 2014-15 to be presented to Full Council.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Kelly referred to Page 14 of the agenda – Events Planning, and advised that it should refer to the agreement of a new approach to developing the 2014 Events programme, not 2015 Events programme.

The Chairman wished to thank the Committee, the VCS and Partners for their considerable efforts, with a great deal of good work carried out. Fabulous results had been achieved with NEETS, work via the VCS and also the Washington Trust with Brian Beverley now in post and proving to be a real asset.

3. RESOLVED that Members considered and approved the Washington Annual Report for inclusion in the combined Area Committee Annual Report for 2014-15

Refreshing the Area Committee Priorities

The Chairman of the Washington Area Committee submitted a report (copy circulated) to inform Members of the proposed process and timescales to refresh the Area Committee priorities. The outcomes of this process would determine the People and Place Board workplans for 2015/16.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Thompson requested that it be ensured that Officers from Property Services and Siglion attend the workshops as the Committee needed to have them on board as partners.

4. RESOLVED that Members considered and approved the timeline and process outlined in the report and agreed for the first workshop to be held in March 2015.

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 2014/15 Place Board Work Plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Fiona Miller, Chair of the Place Board presented the report and requested Members consideration of Annex 2 and the Highways Capital Maintenance Priority Lists, plus the additional streets for agreement. The Committee agreed to the proposed recommendations.

In relation to Responsive Local Services, Councillor F Miller introduced David Hardy, Area Response Manager who advised that it was business as usual with the winter pruning schedule having been finished and the team working through requests now. Mr Hardy also informed of a productive meeting with Ashtenne in relation to the Industrial Estates.

With regards to the Project Brief for Summer Events 2015, The Committee considered the project outcomes required.

Councillor Kelly commented that in relation to outcome 2a and the proposed date, this had not been agreed and suggested that a discussion be held over this. Louise Butler, Area Co-ordinator advised that she would amend the project brief.

Councillor Kelly also queried if outcome 2b should state the exact infrastructure required and suggested the interested parties bring forward their proposals and what they could offer. The Committee agreed the Project outcomes as detailed in the report (Pages 36 and 37).

Councillor G. Miller referred to discussions had at the Place Board in which he had raised concerns over the Committee spending large amounts of its budget sustaining main road networks rather than tackling its own streets in Washington and this needed to be considered and looked at for 2016/17 going forward.

The Chairman also advised that he had expressed concern over this issue and had been assured that this would be looked at.

5. RESOLVED that the Committee

- i) Considered the progress and performance update with regard to the Washington Place Board's Work Plan for 2014/15 as detailed in Annex 1 of the report
- ii) Considered and agreed the recommendations of the Place Board regarding the Highways Capital Maintenance programmes highlighted for Washington for 2015/16, as detailed in Annex 2 of the report.
- iii) Considered and agreed the recommendations of the Place Board regarding the Project Brief and Call for Projects for the Summer Event 2015 as detailed in Annex 3 of the report together with approval to award the grant based on assessment and consultation via the Events Steering Group and Place Board. Members agreed the deadline for applications as 27th March. Assessment and consultation with Members 27th March – 2nd April. Award and appointment of successful applicant 7th – 14th April.

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 (2014/15) People Board Work Plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Williams presented the report and referred to page 40 which included the proposal from the Clinical Commissioning Group to commit £20,000 funding to each Area Committee to spend on health priorities during 2015/16, subject to match funding, making a total of £40,000 available.

The Chairman advised that the Committee had a budget of £22,000 remaining.

Councillor Kelly queried if the money wasn't allocated now, if it could be carried forward and used on a bigger project later.

Ms Butler advised that it could be taken to the June Area Committee if needed, but the main aim was for this to be used around long term issues.

Councillor Kelly suggested the Committee wait for a specific project first.

Councillor G. Miller agreed with Councillor Kelly that we needed to undertake a bigger project to tackle the range of issues and felt that we could agree in principal to the match funding but we needed a measurable gain with details and outcomes.

Neil Revely, Executive Director, People Directorate advised that this funding was linked to the overall strategic approach with the Council and the CCG and this money was to tackle issues and long term conditions that people may have and to help support those to stay at home rather than placing them in long term care.

Councillor Dianne Snowdon suggested that the Committee agree to the proposal in principal and to discuss the issue further as we were refreshing our priorities moving forward. The Committee agreed to the proposal.

Councillor Williams introduced Mariel Hardy and Emma Bowman of the Washington Youth Council, who provided a powerpoint presentation on the work and achievements that they had carried out to date and circulated their findings of the questionnaire completed at the Heritage Festival.

Councillor Kelly commented that this was ideal in providing information and he could not see any reason why a member of the Youth Council couldn't participate in the Events steering group.

Councillor G. Miller commented that the questionnaire had 153 responses that lead to 14 ideas, which was great, and he would've liked to have seen the Youth Council compile these into their 3 main ideas and priorities. Councillor Miller also suggested that the Youth Council challenge the Committee on issues they are passionate about.

Ms Hardy advised that the questionnaire had been collated as it had, in order to fit in with the Committees priorities. Ms Bowman also advised of two new Members that had an expertise in Facebook and would be updating the Youth Councils page, so they could promote the group more.

Ms Hardy commented that they would like to be involved with the Summer Events planning and thanked Members and Officers for involving them to date.

Councillor G. Miller suggested that the Youth Council look into a music event as the Committee had experience in this regard and could maybe help with arrangements.

The Chairman commented that the Youth Council project was to promote positive images for young people and he felt that the Committee could agree that the ladies present had cemented that image with the young people involved doing exactly what the Committee had funded this initiative for.

The Chairman also wished to congratulate the Officers, Martin Robinson and Suzanne Shaftoe who had supported the Youth Council and were providing their work on a voluntary basis.

Ms Shaftoe wished to add that they had found the right group of committed people to take this project forward and they should be commended. Ms Shaftoe also wished to thank Councillor Scaplehorn for all the support and that officers would continue to support the Youth Council as much as they could.

6. RESOLVED that the Committee

- (i) Considered the progress and performance update with regards to the Washington People Board Work Plan for 2014/2015, as detailed in Annex 1 of the report
- (ii) Considered and agreed in principal to allocate £20,000 match funding with the Clinical Commissioning Group to spend on health priorities during 2015/16.
- (iii) Noted the content of the Washington Youth Council presentation as detailed in Annex 2 of the report.

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) that would benefit the area and to note the Community Chest initiatives that would benefit the area.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

7. RESOLVED that the Committee:-

- i) Noted the financial statements set out in the report.

- ii) Considered and agreed the approval of SIB 2014/15 for the Washington Way to Well Being Physical Hub as detailed in this report and Annex 1
- iii) Considered and agreed the approval of SIB 2014/15 for the Washington Way to Well Being Charter Mark Scheme as detailed in the report and Annex 1
- iv) Considered and Agreed the Change to Project Request for Youth Opportunities and School Opportunities as detailed in Annex 2 of the report
- v) Noted the 4 approvals of the Washington Way to Well Being Small Grants Scheme – Go Washington as detailed in Annex 3 of the report.
- vi) Noted the 11 Community Chest approvals supported from 2014/15 Community Chest as set out in Annex 4 of the report.

Planning Applications – For Information Only

Current Planning Applications relating to the Washington Area for the period 1st January to 18th February 2015 were submitted for Members information only (copy circulated).

(For copy report – see original minutes)

8. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting

(Signed) B. SCAPLEHORN,
Chairman.