

At a Meeting of the COALFIELD AREA COMMITTEE held at THE HETTON CENTRE, WELFARE ROAD, HETTON-LE-HOLE, DH5 9NE, on WEDNESDAY, 18TH JUNE, 2014 at 6.00 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Scott in the Chair

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

Also in Attendance:-

Alesha Aljeffri	Manager	Healthwatch Sunderland
Ron Barrass	Member of the Public	
Susan Brown	Area VCS Representative	ELCAP
Charlotte Burnham	Area Lead Executive for the Coalfield Area Committee and Head of Scrutiny and Area Arrangements	Sunderland City Council
Julianna Heron	Councillor representative	Hetton Town Council
Robert Heron	Councillor	Hetton Town Council
Pauline Hopper	Area Community Officer, Coalfield	Sunderland City Council
Amelia Laverick	Member of the Public	
Michael Mordey	Councillor and Portfolio Holder for City Services	Sunderland City Council
Lisa Musgrove	Neighbourhood Inspector	Northumbria Police
Kay Rowham	Member of the Public	
Nicky Rowland	East Area Response Manager	Sunderland City Council
Christine Tilley	Governance Services Team Leader	Sunderland City Council
Gill Wake	Area Co-ordinator	Sunderland City Council

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to his first meeting as Chairman of the Coalfield Area Committee and the first meeting of the new municipal year and invited all those present to introduce themselves.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Blackburn, Taylor and Wakefield, together with John Chapman (Gentoo), Melanie Caldwell (Gentoo)

and Leslie Stobbart (Gentoo), Penny Davison (NHS Sunderland), Sam Gallilee (Area VCS Representative), Debbie Hall (Area Response Manager), Jeff Wilkinson (Station Manager, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service) and Andy Wilson (Area Response Manager).

Declarations of Interest

Item 5 – Area Budgets Report

Councillor Lawson made an open declaration of interest in the report as an employee of Anchor Trust in relation to the application from the Friends of Gillwood Court, a sheltered housing scheme which is part of the Trust.

Councillors Lawson, Scott, Speding and W. Turton made open declarations in relation to the application for SIB funding for Houghton Feast 2014 as Council appointed Members of the Houghton Feast Steering Committee and left the room during the consideration of the item, taking no part in the consideration or decision thereon.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

(i) Partner Agency Reports – Coalfield Area Voluntary and Community Sector Network

Councillor Ellis commented that the minutes did not reflect an issue she had raised at the last meeting regarding the Friends of Rectory Park, a base the Group had used in the park and the exchange of words which had occurred between her and Councillor Speding over the issue.

Councillor Ellis asked that the minutes be amended so the detail of the exchange was included in the minutes of the meeting.

The Chairman stated that he preferred that this not be included, as this type of discussion was not helpful and that the meetings were kept friendly and Members behaved appropriately.

Mrs Christine Tilley, Governance Services Team Leader added that the minutes of the meeting were not a verbatim account of the meeting but rather a record of the decisions made. Therefore the detail of the exchange between the Councillors was not something which would generally be recorded in the official minutes of the meeting.

It was therefore;-

1. **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 9th April, 2014 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Place Board Progress Report

The Chair of the Place Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which

- provided an annual update of the 2013/14 Work Plan, including SIB funded projects;
- sought Area Committee approval for priorities to be taken forward as part of the Work Plan for 2014/15;
- provided an update on Place Board Governance Arrangements for 2014/15.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Anderson, introduced herself as the recently appointed Chair of the Place Board and paid tribute to the work the previous Chair, Councillor Scott and the other Members of the Place Board had undertaken during the last year and previous years. Councillor Anderson commented that she was looking forward to the Place Board meetings and to making a contribution alongside other Members some of whom were also new to the Place Board, on the priorities identified on the Work Plan.

Ms. Pauline Hopper, Area Community Officer, Coalfield briefed the Committee on the priorities identified outlined on the proposed Work Plan for 2014/15.

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

2. RESOLVED that:-
 - a) the Annual Performance Update with regards to the Coalfield Area Place Board's Work Plan for 2013/14 attached as Annex 1 and 2 be received and noted;
 - b) the Coalfield Area Place Board's Work Plan Priorities for 2014/15 attached as Annex 3 be approved and adopted; and
 - c) the Area Governance arrangements for 2014/15 outlined in Section 5 and Annex 4 of the report be received and noted.

People Board Progress Report

The Chair of the People Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which

- provided an annual update of the 2013/14 Work Plan, including SIB funded projects;
- sought Area Committee approval for priorities to be taken forward as part of the Work Plan for 2014/15; and
- provided an update on People Board Governance Arrangements for 2014/15.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Lawson referred the Committee to the People Board priorities detailed on the proposed Work Plan for the forthcoming year detailed at Annex 3 and drew attention to the Area Governance Arrangements set out at paragraph 5 of the report.

Councillor Lawson thanked the Committee for the support which it had provided to the People Board the previous year and reminded Members of the need to attend the Board meetings in order to progress the Work Plan. She welcomed Councillor Cummings to the Board following his election onto the Council in the recent Local Government Elections.

Councillor Lawson referred to paragraph 5.4 of the report and highlighted that the Youth Operations Group was open to all ward Members but had been poorly attended lately. She stated that the Group provided a good way of finding out what was available in each ward, a forum for raising any issues and influencing the delivery of youth services.

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

3. RESOLVED that:-

- a) the Annual Performance Update with regards to the Coalfield Area People Board's Work Plan for 2013/14 attached as Annex 1 and 2 be received and noted;
- b) the Coalfield Area People Board's Work Plan Priorities for 2014/15 attached as Annex 3 be approved and adopted; and
- c) the Area Governance arrangements for 2014/15 outlined in Section 5 and Annex 4 of the report be received and noted.

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 Network.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Brown highlighted the issues raised at the Coalfield VCSN meetings held in February and March and in particular the Health Trainers Programme; a team of 12 Health Trainers in the City who will support any resident over 16 years of age with regards to issues such as healthy eating, smoking cessation, exercise and wellbeing.

Ms. Brown highlighted the work going on in relation to the WW1 commemoration project detailed in paragraph 3.2 of the report pointing out that a total of 20 VCS groups and 5 schools were engaged in the local project and a sum of £5,000 had been committed to support the activities.

Ms. Brown also highlighted the Coalfield Community Roadshow which will be taking place on 25th October 2014 and is intended to promote the work of local VCS organisations and partners and give local residents the opportunity to find out what services and activities are available in their area.

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

Neighbourhood Inspector Lisa Musgrove provided the Committee with a verbal update on crime in the Coalfield Area. She advised that overall crime was 1% lower than the same period the previous year. The only area which had seen a significant increase was in shoplifting from local supermarkets where there had been 25 offences since the beginning of April. These had been committed by persistent offenders with higher cost goods such as meat and alcohol being targeted as these items could be sold on more easily. Neighbourhood Inspector Musgrove added that although there had been an increase in the number of offences in the Coalfield, it was not at the same level as the city centre.

In response to Members, Ms Musgrove stated that although the current economic climate and welfare reform could be a contributing factor in the number of shoplifting offences, there was no real evidence to show that the thefts could be attributed to this. The force wide operation, 'Operation Soundwave' had resulted in successful arrests being made in the main shopping centres.

In comparison to the above, Neighbourhood Inspector Musgrove advised there was a 2% reduction over the period in the number of reports of youth anti social behaviour incidents in addition to the 30% reduction from the previous year across the Coalfields. She added that the biggest issue at the moment was motorcycle disorder and that this was taking place specifically in Houghton, Moorsley and Easington Lane. The Police was actively pursuing working with residents and gathering intelligence which had resulted in a number of arrests having being made.

Neighbourhood Inspector Musgrove advised that thought was being given to changing the venues/locations and times for future Partners and Communities Together (PACT) meetings in order to encourage better attendance and she invited Members make suggestions in this respect.

Ms. Pauline Hopper, Area Community Officer, Coalfield stated that she would promote the PACT meetings through the VCS network and circulate the meeting dates to all Members of the Area Committee.

Councillor Speding advised the Committee that he had been assured at a Police and Crime Commissioner meeting that there were no plans to close Houghton Police Station, although the court building was up for sale. Gillbridge and

Farrington Police Stations would be closing but not until bases in the respective communities had been identified from which officers could work.

5. RESOLVED that the update from Neighbourhood Inspector Musgrove be received and noted.

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 April to 31st May 2014.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Pauline Hopper, Area Community Officer advised that as Mr. Jeff Wilkinson, Station Manager, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service was not able to be present that evening, she would ensure that any questions on the report were passed to him for a reply.

Ms. Hopper commented that the report supported the information provided by Neighbourhood Inspector Musgrove in that there was a reduction in the number of fires at Hetton Lyons Country Park.

Councillor Robert Heron enquired whether the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service was able to trace malicious calls.

Neighbourhood Inspector Musgrove advised that Northumbria Police were able to trace calls and suspected that the Fire and Rescue Service had a similar system and were able to do the same.

Ms. Hopper advised that she would clarify the position with the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service and report back to Members.

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

Healthwatch Sunderland Update

The Chairman welcomed and introduced Ms. Alesha Aljeffri, Manager, Healthwatch Sunderland, who was in attendance to provide the Committee with a presentation on the operation of Healthwatch in the city.

(For copy presentation – see original minutes).

Ms. Aljeffri informed members that Healthwatch was the new independent consumer champion for both health and social care services. As an organisation it was unique as it was a non-statutory body with statutory powers. Healthwatch Sunderland governance was made up of an Executive Board responsible for the

direction of Healthwatch Sunderland and accountable to its membership of local people.

Ms. Aljeffri briefed the Committee on progress to date advising that the Healthwatch Sunderland Executive Board had been recruited at the end of October 2013 and had met for the third time in May 2014. Promotional materials continued to be distributed widely at external events to raise awareness and recruit members and posters and leaflets were sent out to council locations, GPs and pharmacies for example, advising what Healthwatch Sunderland is and where it was located. Ms. Aljeffri advised that Healthwatch Sunderland was keen to continue promoting the information and signposting service.

Ms. Aljeffri highlighted that the issues collected at the last Forum event, from the Information and Signposting service and engagement activity had been collated and a thematic analysis adopted to support the Healthwatch Sunderland Executive Board to prioritise the work plan. The key areas included:-

- Lack of involvement of young people in GP Patient Groups and Health Services;
- Patient and Public Engagement in Health Services; and
- Integrated Care.

Ms. Aljeffri outlined Healthwatch Sunderland's next steps, highlighting the aim to recruit more information champions and to work with partners such as the Area Committee Place and People Boards to identify issues.

Councillor Anderson enquired about the across boundary situation and what happens where someone was living within the Sunderland area but was registered with a GP based in County Durham.

Ms. Aljeffri stated that across border working was a challenging issue, however each Healthwatch needed to work with each other. Healthwatch Sunderland was considering the issue, scrutinising what arrangements needed to be in place, how to keep those people who were affected, informed, share information between the two Healthwatches and co-ordinate the meetings.

The Chairman thanked Ms. Aljeffri for her presentation and it was:-

7. RESOLVED the presentation be received and noted.

Change in the Order of Business

The Chairman advised that item 6 on the agenda regarding the consultation results and findings on the proposed Dog Control Orders would be considered at this juncture to allow the Portfolio Holder for City Services and presenting officer to leave thereafter.

Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005, Dog Control Orders – Consultation Results and Findings

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which advised Members of the results of the public consultation exercise relating to the Council's intention to implement Dog Control Orders under Part 6 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Michael Mordey, Portfolio Holder for City Services and Ms. Nicky Rowland, East Area Response Manager. He thanked them for attending the meeting in order to present the report to the Area Committee.

Councillor Mordey introduced the report setting out the background to the decision by the Cabinet to implement Part 6 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005.

Ms. Rowland proceeded to brief the Committee on the results of the consultation and highlighted that the survey was completed by 168 residents from all Regeneration Areas, 18 from the Coalfield Area and that 68% of those completing it were dog owners and 66% were dog walkers. Of the four Dog Control Order proposals consulted upon, the results were as follows:-

- a. 90.48% or 152 residents agreed with the proposal to introduce an order making it an offence for a person to fail to clear away after their animal has fouled in any open public area.
- b. 83.93% or 141 residents agreed with the exclusion of dogs from enclosed children's play sites.
- c. 56.55% or 95 residents agreed with the proposal to require dogs to be kept on a lead at all times in open play areas.
- d. 72.02% or 121 residents agreed with the proposal to require dogs to be kept on a lead at all times in cemeteries.
- e. 66.07% or 111 residents agreed with the proposal to enable an authorised officer of the Council to request a dog be put on a lead in any location across the city which is open to the public, where the officer feels it is appropriate to do so.

Ms. Rowland referred the Committee to the slide detailing 'Suggestions' included in the powerpoint slides and explained that officers were recommending that dogs were not allowed to exercise on open play areas when they were not in use to ensure there was no dog fouling. She pointed out that Dog parks or Dog zones were more appropriate for city use and not deemed necessary for the Coalfield area. Ms. Rowland advised that there were over 1000 dog specific waste bins in the city which it was believed was plenty, however requests for additional ones in specific locations would be considered. Ms. Rowland advised that enforcement

powers could only be given to officers working in Environmental Services and confirmed that suitable signage would be put up in all areas providing information on the Dog Control Order specific to each site.

In response to Councillor Lawson's enquiry in relation to enforcement, Ms. Rowland advised that all frontline Responsive Local Services staff had been trained on the legislation. Initially the approach would be to challenge people in an informative way rather than a confrontational way when they were breaching the Dog Control Orders in place and ask them to remove the dog waste. Stronger enforcement action would be taken over time. Enforcement officers would not be operating out of hours/overnight. If intelligence was received advising of a particular problem location, then a targeted approach could be adopted in order to address the issue.

Members having welcomed the Dog Control Orders, particularly those in relation to children's play areas and cemeteries, it was:-

8. RESOLVED that:-

- a) the information presented in the report be received and noted; and
- b) the implementation of the Dog Control Orders within the Coalfield Area, as outlined in Annex 1 of the report of the Deputy Chief Executive, be endorsed.

The Chairman and Vice Chairman having both declared an interest in the following item and having vacated the room, the alternate Vice Chairman and Chair of the Place Board, Councillor Anderson took the chair for this item of business only.

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. Ms Hopper highlighted the application for SIB funding detailed at paragraph 2.2 in relation to Houghton Feast 2014 and to the Community Chest approvals for April and May 2014 as set out at Annex 2 of the report.

Consideration having been given to the report it was:-

9. RESOLVED that:-

- a) the financial statements set out in sections 2.1 and 3.1 of the report be noted;
- b) a sum of £10,000 SIB for the Community Engagement and Friday opening programme of Houghton Feast 2014, as set out in paragraph 2.2 and Annex 1 of the report be approved; and
- c) the 14 Community Chest approvals supported from the 2013/14 budget as set out in Annex 2 be noted.

Those Members who had declared interests were readmitted to the room and the Chairman, Councillor Scott resumed the Chair.

Current Planning Applications (Coalfields Area)

A schedule (copy circulated) of current planning applications lodged during the period 1st to 31st May 2014 was submitted for members information only.

(For copy schedule – see original minutes).

10. RESOLVED that the schedule be received and noted.

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

(Signed) J. SCOTT,
Chairman.