

At a meeting of the NORTH SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in REDBY COMMUNITY CENTRE, FULWELL ROAD, SUNDERLAND on 28 SEPTEMBER, 2023 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Foster in the Chair

Councillors Butler, Chisnall, Hartnack, Johnston, McKeith, Samuels, A. Smith, Stewart, Usher, Vera and Walton

Also in Attendance:-

Mr. Lee Bell	-	Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Services (TWFRS)
Ms. Judith Britton	-	Sunderland Community Action Group
Mr. Peter Curtis	-	Area Network Representative
Mr. Neil Guthrie	-	Development Director (Residential), Sunderland City Council
Ms. Vivienne Metcalfe	-	Partnership and Community Resilience Manager, Sunderland City Council
Insp. Stephen Prested	-	Northumbria Police
Ms. Joanne Stewart	-	Principal Democratic Services Officer, Sunderland City Council
Ms. Ruth Walker	-	Area Network Representative
Ms. Beth Wilkie	-	Gentoo

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Bond, Chequer and Wilson and on behalf of Mr. Richy Duggan, Area Network Representative

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 22nd June, 2023 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

North Area Committee Area Plan 2023-2026

The Chairman of the North Sunderland Area Neighbourhood and Community Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which presented for consideration and approval the North Sunderland Area Committee Area Plan for 2023-26 which would be the focus for the Committee during 2023-2024.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Foster presented the report which highlighted progress against the Committee's delivery plan, advising that good news stories and promotion of projects were shared at every opportunity. He also advised Members of the update on the Council's Service Plans, specifically relevant to the North Sunderland area which included a quarterly update on progress and was for information purposes only.

The information in the report having been fully considered, it was:-

2. RESOLVED that:-
 - The progress and performance updates with regard to the North Area Committee Plan 2023-2026 be received and noted; and
 - The progress update with regard to Sunderland City Council Service Plans – Area Priorities be received and noted for information.

Partner Agency Reports - Northumbria Police Update

Northumbria Police submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with a community update and key performance information in relation to the North Sunderland Area.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Inspector Stephen Prested, Northumbria Police, presented the update report and provided Members with an update on the current numbers in relation to anti-social behaviour, burglaries, vehicle and violent crime in the North Sunderland Area.

He also provided Members with an update on other incidents of note in the North Sunderland Area including football disorder, motorcycle disorder, the SARA team and the Darker Nights autumn plan.

In response to comments and queries from Members regarding youth disorder and partnership working, Inspector Prested advised that they had outreach workers and wardens who looked at diversionary tactics for young people in the area to reduce anti-social behaviour. He explained that partners and agencies met to discuss what options

were available to them, share intelligence and to look at additional methods and tactics. They also looked at projects that had worked in other police forces with a view to replicate them, where appropriate.

Councillor Johnston raised the issue of cars meeting in the car park at Tesco's, Roker and then racing around the area. Inspector Prested advised he had spoken with the store management but as it was used by other facilities and stores it would be costly to look to zone it off. They would continue to look into further options collectively to solve the issue.

Councillor Hartnack referred to the use of high powered electric bikes that were being used in the area; with a lot being condoned by local food delivery outlets, and asked what opportunities there were to seize them. Councillor Stewart advised that residents in the Witherwack area had raised similar issues with young people on motorbikes and sought further detail on the designated site that had been in discussions. Inspector Prested advised that the plans to have a site for use by young people and their motorised vehicles had stalled between the three local authorities and added that it had been very difficult to identify a suitable plot of land.

Councillor Hartnack went on to state that the problem was getting worse and with Christmas soon there would be retailers in the city selling these vehicles to parents and asked if it would be worthwhile doing a marketing exercise to deter them from being bought and sold, with the support of the Area Committee.

Ms. Metcalfe commented that it could be raised as an issue for LMAPS to consider and ask if they could provide a multi-agency approach to tackling the issue; providing advice to retailers on the legal use of them.

Members having fully considered the report and asked all that they wished to, thanked Inspector Prested for his report and it was:-

3. RESOLVED that:-

- the update from Northumbria Police be received and noted; and
- the issue concerning high powered electric and motor bikes be raised through LMAPS.

Partner Agency Reports – Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service

The Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Services submitted a report (copy circulated) which gave performance monitoring details in relation to local indicators for the Committee from 23rd June to 12th September, 2023, compared with the same period in 2022.

(for copy report – see original minute)

Mr. Lee Bell, Station Manager, TWFRS, took Members through the report advising of the numbers of deliberate primary and secondary fires, giving a ward breakdown where available.

In relation to discussions around bonfire night, Mr. Bell advised that the Council had confirmed that they were making extra teams available from Environmental Services to go round estates and uplift any large items that looked as though they had been left out or set up as bonfires. They had combined communications which were to be circulated to secondary schools and through the prevention team to deliver a safety message and hopefully deter young people.

TWFRS had been working with Northumbria Police to ensure there would be extra Officers in the area on that weekend to deter fire crews being attacked as they had in previous years. The apparatus and officers had camera's which would upload footage and risk assessments would be undertaken so that crews did not attend bonfires where there was a risk to their own safety.

He also advised that as part of the education programme they offered, the prevention team went into schools targeting year groups and advising of the dangers of fires. He could ask the team to include information about setting fires in farmer's fields which was an issue that Members raised.

There being no further comment or questions for Mr. Bell, it was:-

4. RESOLVED that the item be received and noted.

Partner Agency Reports - Report of the North Area Voluntary and Community Sector Network

The Voluntary and Community Sector Network submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update with regard to the North Sunderland Area Voluntary and Community Sector network.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Ruth Walker, Area Network Representative, took Members through the report advising that the network had met twice in June and September, 2023 and shared the agenda items that had been covered. She also provided an update in relation to the Sunderland Voluntary Sector Alliance (SVSA) from August 2023.

Ms. Metcalfe advised that the next meeting was to be held on 26th October, 2023 at 1:00pm at the Marley Park Fire Station and all Members were welcome to attend should they wish to.

Members having no further comments or questions, it was:-

5. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Partner Agency Reports - Gentoo Update

Gentoo submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update with regard to the work undertaken by Gentoo between June and September, 2023.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Beth Wilkie, Head of Neighbourhoods, took Members through the Committee advising of the dates of upcoming estate walks, the tenancy sustainment fund, recruitment activity and the investment and renewal projects.

Members overall were happy to see the improvements being made in communications with both themselves and residents by Gentoo and the better relationships that would forge from this going forward.

Having no further comments or questions, it was:-

6. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

North Sunderland Area Committee Budget Report

The Assistant Director of Housing and Communities submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided a financial statement as an update position on progress in relation to allocating Area Committee Neighbourhood Funds and Community Chest and presented proposals for further funding requests.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Metcalfe, Area Community Development Lead, presented the report and there being no applications for funding, it was:-

7. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the financial statements as set out in tables 1 and 2 be received and noted; and
- (ii) the approvals for Community Chest supported from 2023/2024 as set out in the report be noted.

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

(Signed) S. FOSTER,
Chairman.