

**At a meeting of the EAST SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL on TUESDAY, 20<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2022 at 6.00p.m.**

**Present:-**

Councillor Herron in the Chair

Councillors Bewick, Curtis, Dixon, Mordey, Morrissey, Potts, Reed, Scanlan and P. Wood.

**Also Present:-**

Trish Cornish	-	Sunderland MIND
Beth Wilkie	-	Gentoo
Matthew Jackson	-	Principal Governance Services Officer, Sunderland City Council
Nicol McConnell	-	Area Community Development Lead, Sunderland City Council
Graham King	-	Director of Adult Services & Chief Operating Officer of SCAS, Sunderland City Council
Jamie Southwell	-	Neighbourhood Inspector, Northumbria Police
Leigh Ann Thompson	-	Sunderland MIND

**Chairman's Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for Absence were received on behalf of Councillors Ali, Fagan, PWL Gibson, Hodson and A. Wood together with Vicky Gamblin (Gentoo), Shaun Makin (TWFRS) and Julie Maven (VCS Representative)

**Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 27<sup>th</sup> June, 2022**

Councillor Mordey stated that the reference to vandalism issues in Mowbray Park on page 4 should actually refer to Barley Mow Park.

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> June, 2022 be confirmed and signed as a correct record subject to the above amendment.

### **Change in the Order of Business**

The Chairman agreed to vary the order of business to move the Northumbria Police Update forward on the agenda in order to allow Inspector Southwell to attend another engagement.

### **Northumbria Police Update**

Neighbourhood Inspector Jamie Southwell provided the Committee with an update on the crime statistics for the East area and of the work done by Northumbria Police.

An update on the Doxford Ward had been provided to the Committee by Inspector Phil Baker. Within the Ward the crime types most seen were violence without injury, which could include harassment as well as actual violence, thefts which were mainly shoplifting, and criminal damage however all of these had occurred in low numbers.

Within the A1 area which covered the City Centre, Millfield and Ashbrooke there had been a number of operations undertaken including Operation Flintstone which had targeted the issue of antisocial behaviour in the city centre and had seen additional high visibility resources deployed to the city centre along with work being done alongside Wear Recovery; the main target of the operation had been a small cohort of people who were misusing drink and drugs in the city centre. There had also been the successful Operation Ibis which had targeted youth antisocial behaviour in the city centre.

Operation Cloak had seen plain clothes resources deployed into the city centre during evenings to support the night time economy to assist potentially vulnerable people and target those who were causing problems.

Operation Pepperwood had targeted the spate of city centre commercial burglaries and had resulted in the arrest of several offenders who were from outside of the Sunderland area; these offenders had been given custodial sentences and the offences had now stopped. There had also been crime prevention advice given to businesses.

Within the A2 area which covered Hendon and Grangetown there had been an increase in antisocial behaviour which had seen operation Matamba take place, this operation had seen the deployment of additional resources along with work being done with the Raich Carter Centre and Young Asian Voices to provide outreach work to tackle the perpetrators.

Work to tackle the issues around use of off road motorbikes was continuing and there had also been work to tackle drug offences including a number of search warrants being executed.

Councillor Bewick referred to the issue of off road motorbikes and asked whether there had been any reports of issues involving electric off road bikes. Inspector Southwell advised that this was a recent issue and that there had been some seizures; they could pose a danger to the public as they were often too fast, did not have lights and were used in a dangerous manner. It was difficult to chase them but intelligence gathering including using cameras was used to take action against offenders.

Councillor Mordey referred to the changes in youth antisocial behaviour levels; this was the first time he could recall there being a significant spike and he queried whether there was any information available on this. Inspector Southwell advised that he did not have the figures however the increase was in all antisocial behaviour not just youth. There had been a group causing issues in Mowbray Park; the council had installed goal posts which had been popular and had reduced the issues however they were now being used less as the darker nights approached. Work was being done with partner organisations including Young Asian Voices to work with the young people who were involved in the groups which were causing problems.

Councillor Potts advised that Councillor A. Wood had reported that businesses had been complaining of a lack of follow up after burglaries and that there had also been complaints from residents that their video footage of offences was not being viewed. Inspector Southwell asked that Councillor A. Wood contact him with specifics so that he could investigate this; it was surprising that businesses were not receiving feedback as there was a dedicated officer who was passionate about this and would contact businesses. He would also provide information about the city watch scheme.

Councillor P. Wood queried what would happen regarding police attendance if residents reported burglaries and Inspector Southwell advised that it would depend on the circumstances of the case. It was likely that a physical attendance would occur, which where necessary would include a forensics visit, but in all cases there would be a telephone appointment made.

Councillor Dixon referred to the work that was ongoing in Sunnyside and expressed concerns over the regular break ins that businesses in the area were suffering. He asked whether the offenders were repeat offenders. Inspector Southwell advised that the offenders were a different group to those responsible for the antisocial behaviour in the area and that he had looked into the offences and identified that the offenders were repeat offenders. It was normally a small number of offenders who were responsible for a large number of offences.

Councillor Dixon then asked about the link between businesses and the police. Inspector Southwell advised that there were good links; the team within the city centre was well established and the 6 officers had over 100

years experience between them. There were also PCSOs working in the area. The team knew the businesses and residents in the area.

Councillor Herron then referred to antisocial behaviour at Ryhope Recreation Park. Inspector Southwell advised that he had spoken to Inspector Phil Baker about this ongoing issue; work was being done with the Council to identify solutions to the problem, the area around the storage containers was a hotspot and work was being done to see if they could be removed.

2. RESOLVED that the update from Northumbria Police be noted.

### **VCS Area Network Progress Report**

The Committee received an update presentation from Sunderland MIND which detailed work that had been done by Sunderland MIND on the Fancy a Day Out Project.

Councillor Dixon commented that it had been a privilege to attend the events held by Sunderland MIND and that the people there had been wonderful.

The Chair thanked the VCS organisations and their volunteers for all of their hard work.

3. RESOLVED that the update from the VCS Network be noted.

### **Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service Update**

There was no representative of Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service in attendance

### **Gentoo Update**

Beth Wilkie was in attendance to deliver the update from Gentoo (copy circulated) which had been submitted by Vicky Gamblin.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Ms Wilkie advised of the update on neighbourhood services, including the move to City Hall from Havelock and Athenaeum offices; the work that had been done to improve efficiency in reallocation of properties; the findings of the Peabody Report; the agreement, along with other housing providers, to support 'The Bread and Butter Thing'; discussions that had taken place between Gentoo, the Council and the VCS Alliance to look at social value; and the multi-agency work to tackle issues in the South Hendon area.

Councillor Mordey expressed his thanks for the meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> September having been arranged; he had been unable to attend but had received feedback on the meeting from Back on the Map. He was pleased to see that everyone had signed up for the multi-agency approach as in the past when there had been issues there had needed to be a multi-agency approach to resolve the issues.

Councillor Potts advised that she had not received the updated list of Neighbourhood Co-ordinators, Ms Wilkie agreed to provide this information.

Councillor Dixon stated that he was pleased with the regular neighbourhood walkabouts that took place but he was concerned by the regular changes to staffing. Ms Wilkie advised that there had been a recruitment drive to fill the vacancies which would help with staffing stability.

4. RESOLVED that the update from Gentoo be noted.

### **East Sunderland Area Neighbourhood Delivery Plan 2020 - 2023**

The Chair of the East Sunderland Area Neighbourhood and Community Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update on the East Area Committee Delivery Plan for 2020/2023.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Dixon introduced the report and advised of the work that had been undertaken against the delivery plan since the last meeting of the Area Committee which was set out in the report. The follow up meeting on the Empty Properties priority had seen a small attendance so this meeting would be rearranged.

Councillor Dixon asked for Members views on holding the last meeting in a hybrid style. Councillor Potts, who had attended remotely, advised that she could not recall any issues.

Councillor Mordey referred to the In Bloom priority. There had been enthusiasm from the entrants and he had been hugely impressed by the work done by residents of Thornhill Park. He felt that it would be good if Members could join the event next year. The Chair agreed that it had been a brilliant day and that there had been some impressive gardens and features. He was looking forward to doing it again next year. Councillor Dixon advised that an awards presentation had been held just prior to this meeting.

Councillor Reed stated that the In Bloom Task Group had become more of a general environmental working group; as such it had been proposed that the group continue with that remit. The group had worked well with good cross ward partnership working and good links between the different departments. Councillor Scanlan agreed that it had worked well and supported the continuing of the working group.

Councillor Dixon then referred to the proposals for Ryhope Community Association and stated that he felt that this needed supporting as they did good work within the Ryhope community.

Councillor P. Wood advised that there was a meeting scheduled to discuss the Stephenson Trail.

5. RESOLVED that consideration be given to the progress and performance updates with regard to the East Sunderland Area Neighbourhood and Community Board Delivery Plan 2020-23 and the proposals outlined for future delivery in Annex 1 be agreed

### **East Area Budget Report**

The Assistant Director of Community Resilience submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided financial statements in respect of the Area Committee's delegated budgets and presented proposals for funding requests.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Ms McConnell presented the report and drew Members attention to the financial statements set out in the report and the applications for funding totalling £252,635 from the Neighbourhood Fund as set out in Annex 1. There had been community chest grants approved from the 2022/23 budget set out in annex 2.

Councillor Scanlan asked for clarification on the application for Ryhope CA. Ms McConnell advised that the heating system did work so the building was able to operate however a survey had been undertaken which had identified that the pipes and radiators needed to be replaced and that there were also structural works, including replacement of the windows and installation of insulation, to prevent heat loss from the building. The energy bills were higher than they needed to be due to the fabric of the building. The CA did huge amounts of work in the community and was attended by around 800-900 people per week. Due to the running costs the centre was likely to only have a remaining lifespan of 12-18 months unless something was done to address the costs. There was a high demand for the household support scheme in Ryhope and this was accessed through the CA.

Councillor Bewick commented that the CA was running at a loss and was not sustainable. It was hugely used by residents. Ms McConnell stated that she had a conversation with the CA which had been alarming; Paula Hunt was working there part time but was doing the day to day maintenance which was taking time away from fundraising activities. Sessions were currently being delivered using funds from the reserves. There was a need to ensure that help was provided now. Work was being done with the VCS alliance and the university to get more volunteers at the CA.

Councillor Potts referred to the outstanding information for some of the applications and asked if there were any concerns that information might not be received. Ms McConnell advised that if any information was not provided then the funding offer would be withdrawn.

6. RESOLVED that:-

- a. The financial statements set out in tables 1, 2 and 3 be noted
- b. Approval be given to request for funding from the Neighbourhood Fund, as set out in section 2.4 and annex 1, of:-
  - i. £3,795 to purchase a Streetscene camera and relocation costs for a camera to the Environmental Enforcement Team
  - ii. £70,000 to deliver the Go! Get Online Programme with Back on the Map acting as the Lead Agent on behalf of East Partnership
  - iii. £75,000 to deliver the Walk and Talk programme, with Area Arrangements Acting as lead agent on behalf of East Councillors
  - iv. £42,000 to deliver WoW features, developed by the In Bloom Task Group, to Local Services
  - v. £5,000 to deliver Maximising Community Assets to the Box Youth and Community Project
  - vi. £3,500 to deliver the Maximising Community Assets to the Sunderland East End ABC
  - vii. £5,000 to deliver the Maximising Community Assets to Blue Watch Youth Centre (Ryhope)
  - viii. £5,000 to deliver the Maximising Community Assets to Blue Watch Youth Centre (St Michael's); and
  - ix. £43,340 to deliver Support to the CA to Ryhope Community Association
- c. The approved Community Chest grants from the 2022/23 budget, as set out in Annex 2 be noted.

### **Planning Applications – For Information Only**

Current Planning Applications relating to the East Sunderland Area for the period 1<sup>st</sup> August to 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2022 were submitted for Members information only (copy circulated).

(For copy report – see original minutes)

7. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

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

(Signed) M. HERRON,  
Chairman.