

At a meeting of the WASHINGTON AREA COMMITTEE held at the MILLENNIUM CENTRE, WASHINGTON on THURSDAY, 4TH NOVEMBER, 2010 at 6.00 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Kelly in the Chair

Councillors Chamberlin, Fletcher, Miller, Padgett, Scaplehorn, Snowdon, Timmins, D. Trueman, H. Trueman, Wake, P. Walker and Williams.

Mike Poulter	-	City Services
John Rostron	-	City Services
Norma Johnston	-	City Services
Nicky Rowland	-	City Services
Vivienne Metcalf	-	City Services
Karon Purvis	-	Chief Executive's
Allison Patterson	-	Chief Executive's
Julie Lynn	-	Chief Executive's
Linder Pott	-	Chief Executive's
Meg Boustead	-	Children's Services
Sue Morgan	-	Children's Services
Inspector P. Barrett	-	Northumbria Police
Marion Marshall	-	Office of the Chief Executive
Paul Wood	-	Office of the Chief Executive
Gillian Gibson	-	Sunderland TPCT
Sarann Valentine	-	Area VCS Network Representative
George Thompson	-	Area VCS Network Representative
Jacqui Reeves	-	Washington Mind
John Chapman	-	Gentoo
Ken Teears	-	SAFC Foundation

Members of the Washington Community.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor I. Richardson, Neil Revely and Nonnie Crawford.

Declarations of Interest

Item 2 – Community Action in Washington: Identifying New Issues and Agreeing Actions (2010/11 Work Plan)

Councillor Miller declared a personal and prejudicial interest as Chairman of Bowes Railway Museum and left the room during consideration of the item.

Item 3 – Community Action in Washington: Progress Review

Councillor Fletcher declared a personal and prejudicial interest on the SIB application for the Catch 22 project as a Board Member of the Young Inclusion Project and left the room during consideration of the item.

Councillor Scaplehorn declared personal and prejudicial interests on

1. the Community Chest applications as Chair of Neighbourhood Watch and
2. the SIP application for Springwell Village Primary School as a Governor of the school and left the room during consideration of the item.

The Chairman declared a personal and prejudicial interest on the SIP application for Usworth Primary School as Chair of Governors for the school and left the room during consideration of the item.

Councillor Snowden declared a personal and prejudicial interest on the Glebe Subway Graffiti project SIP application as Treasurer of Glebe Residents Focus Group and left the room during consideration of the item.

Councillor D. and H. Trueman declared personal interests in the additional Community Chest proposal for Chatterbox Club presented at the meeting as they were acquaintances of the applicant.

Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 9th September, 2010

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 9th September, 2010 (copy circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Community Action: Identifying New Issues and Agreeing Actions (2010/11 Work Plan)

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to ensure that the Area Committee be kept up-to-date with current events and developments affecting their neighbourhoods via an intelligence hub which had been established to act as a repository for information available and to identify new issues.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Chairman updated the Committee in relation to the Bowes Railway Trust, advising that Councillor Miller had now been appointed as Chairman of the Trust and had identified a number of issues which were being addressed by the Authority.

The Chairman also commented on the need to see a substantial return for the people of Washington before any more support could be given due to the care needed over funding in the current circumstances.

Councillor H. Trueman commented that he would love to see Bowes flourish as it had been very successful in the past, but there was a need to change how it operated if it were to succeed in the future.

The Chairman advised that Councillor Miller was looking into the issue whilst making sure to safeguard public money.

Inspector Paul Barrett briefed the Committee in relation to the anti-social behaviour problems at Albany Park and advised that an arrest had been made over the issue and that the risk to the public was considered to be low.

Inspector Barrett updated the Committee on Operations Horizon and Griffin, advising of a 22% reduction in victims of crime and 20 acceptable agreement actions having been carried out.

Inspector Barrett also commented that Operation Horizon had helped ease issues in the Oxclose area and would be moving to Albany. It could also be moved into other areas if Members had any suggestions.

Councillor H. Trueman endorsed his appreciation of the excellent work being provided by the Police and offered the assistance of Members wherever possible e.g in relation to addressing unlit areas and such like.

John Rostron, Area Community Manager, informed the Committee of serious anti-social behaviour issues ongoing around the Millennium Centre and their struggles to bring Partners around the table to tackle the problem. Mr. Rostron suggested a Task and Finish Group be set up to investigate further.

The Chairman suggested that the best way forward was to facilitate a meeting between Members and Partners to discuss the matter further with Cllr Scaplehorn to coordinate/ supervise; this was agreed by the Committee.

2. RESOLVED that Members:-

- (i) agree to receive updates to future meetings regarding the key decisions taken as outlined in 2.1 and to include those issues in the Area Committee's Work Plan as appropriate;
- (ii) consider supporting the Bowes Railway Trust to develop a Business Plan which would identify a sustainable approach for future working; and

- (iii) refer anti social behaviour problems in Albany Park to LMAPS, Police meetings and the Youth Development Group in order to identify a partnership approach to this problem.
- (iv) that a meeting be convened between Members and Partners to address issues at the Millennium Centre

Community Action in Washington – Progress Review

Work Plan 2010/11 and Task and Finish Groups

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to update the Committee on the progress against the agreed actions in the current year's (2010/11) Work Plan and give progress reports on the Health and Wellbeing and the Employment and Business Task and Finish Groups.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Janet Snaith, Head of City Business and Investment Team updated the Committee on the progress of the Washington Workspace project. Ms. Snaith advised that a report went to the October meeting of Cabinet and the project had a budget of £5-6 million. Negotiations had been entered into with One North East in relation to contracts and a project brief had been put together to go out to tender next year.

Work was to start on the site the middle of 2011 with a completion date of 2012 approximately.

The Chairman thanked Ms. Snaith for her work on the project and commented that the facility was sorely needed even in these current financial times.

3. RESOLVED that Members:-

- (i) agree to a further report to be presented outlining the project details for the Washington workspace; and
- (ii) agree to a further report to be presented outlining the City's Economic Masterplan's area specific aims, objectives and benefits.

Responsive Local Services

The Executive Director of City Services submitted a report (copy circulated) to inform the Committee of the current scope of Responsive Local Services covering service areas such as litter, graffiti, refuse, grass cutting and dog fouling. It also provided the opportunity for a wider range of issues to be considered within a context of local problem solving.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Mike Poulter, Head of Project and Service Development presented the report advising that they were looking to increase the scope of the service and it was hoped that Members would agree to follow up on the issue of illegal dumping of waste.

Councillor Scaplehorn enquired as to the situation on Washington receiving its own stockpile of grit for residents to collect at cost for their own use after the issues of last winter.

Mr. Poulter advised that the grit stockpile for Sunderland had been replenished and that he would look into the possibility of Washington having its own stockpile and come back with the information.

Councillor Wake enquired as to why the gritters were out at 10 and 11 o'clock on some mornings when there was no ice or snow falling and commented that it was a waste of grit.

Mr. Poulter advised that the gritters actions were based on the weather warning reports, which had indicated the potential for heavy snow. Sometimes the weather could change and the grit may not have been needed, but the Authority had to take the appropriate action for all possibilities on the basis of relevant information.

Mr. George Thompson enquired if there was a feedback process to notify reportees of actions taken on issues such as litter etc.

Mr. Poulter advised that unfortunately they did not have the resources to call back every person who had reported an issue but they were hoping to utilise the Contact Centre so they could give feedback to as many people as possible. The issuing of postcards through doors was also being implemented when an action had been taken.

Norma Johnston, Assistant Head of Street Scene advised of the specific issues relating to the Washington area which included the dumping of waste and littering and also the dumping of Supermarket shopping trolleys. Ms. Johnston referred to the team under Nicky Rowland set up to provide a responsive local focus and whose duties could be refined to address these problems

At the request of the Chairman, the Committee agreed to fully support the Directorate in their efforts to tackle the issues.

4. RESOLVED that Members note the report and receive further updates regarding any issues arising from the intelligence.

Financial Statements and Funding Requests

The Office of 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), the Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) and Community Chest to support initiatives that would benefit the area.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Purvis advised the Committee that an additional Community Chest application had been received from Chatterbox Club for a contribution of £400 out of the Washington West allocation. The application had not been included, as additional information had been needed at the time of publication of the agenda, however the application related to Christmas related expenditure and so needed to come before this meeting of the Committee. The Committee verbally agreed that the application be approved.

In relation to the SIB application for the Catch 22 project, Gareth Johnson was in attendance and gave the Committee a brief summary of the project.

Councillor Miller commented that he had never seen the project carried out in the Washington South Ward and representatives had never attended the LMAPS meetings despite being invited. Councillor Miller felt that the proposal was a duplication of services and that the application should be rejected.

Mr. Johnson advised that the project had focused on other areas of Washington and was now looking to expand. Mr. Johnson acknowledged there had been no representation at LMAPS meetings and that this had been due to lack of funding.

Councillor Wake also felt the application should be rejected as there was sufficient provision available for the targeted users and the funding could be best used elsewhere.

Having been put to the vote, the Committee rejected funding the Catch 22 project.

In relation to the SIB funding application for the Washington Health Champions, Gillian Gibson, Sunderland TPCT and Ken Teears, SAFC Foundation were in attendance and gave an update on the project.

Councillor Walker commented that it had been a pleasure working with the Task and Finish Group on the project and commented that it would be a great benefit for the Washington area. Councillor Walker also congratulated Officers and Partners for their hard work and for obtaining the match funding needed.

Councillor Williams commented on the need to work with those who actually want to quit smoking and alcohol misuse. Councillor Williams also felt there needed to be activities provided that were not football orientated.

Councillor Miller also agreed that there was an over reliance on football activities, which he felt was disappointing.

Sarann Valentine, Sunderland Carers Centre, commented that the application was greatly supported by the Voluntary Community Sector.

Ms Snaith briefed the Committee in relation to the SIB application for the Employers Demand Survey and the Chairman commented that he believed this to be a most important piece of work for the area.

In relation to the Washington Illuminations SIB application, the Chairman expressed his delight at Members comments of support for the project.

5. RESOLVED that Members:-

- (i) note the financial statement for Area Committee funding for 2010/11 as detailed in Item 3c;
- (ii) approve 34 proposals for support from the 2010/11 Community Chest plus an additional proposal to contribute £400 from the Washington West allocation to the Chatterbox Club project;
- (iii) reject £19,000 as a contribution from the 2010/11 SIB budget for the Catch 22 project;
- (iv) approve £49,030 as a contribution from the 2010/11 SIB budget for the Washington Health Champions Project;
- (v) approve £10,000 as a contribution from the 2010/11 SIB budget for the Employers Demand Survey;
- (vi) approve £19,400 as a contribution from the 2010/11 SIB budget for the Christmas Illuminations Project;
- (vii) approve £9,000 as a contribution from the 2010/11 SIB budget for the Washington Bowls Club Project;
- (viii) approve £1,337 as a contribution from the 2010/11 SIP budget for the Glebe Subway Graffiti Project;
- (ix) approve £2,492 as a contribution from the 2010/11 SIP budget for the Monument Park Waiting Restrictions Project;
- (x) approve £3,332 as a contribution from the 2010/11 SIP budget for the Coverdale Barriers and Lighting Project;
- (xi) approve £2,000 as a contribution from the 2010/11 SIP budget for the High Row Reinstatement Works (Planters);
- (xii) approve £2,350 as a contribution from the 2010/11 SIP budget for the Manor View East Project;
- (xiii) approve £1,300 as a contribution from the 2010/11 SIP budget for the High Row Lighting Project;
- (xiv) approve £5,000 as a contribution from the 2010/11 SIP budget for the CCTV and IT Project at Usworth Primary School;

- (xv) approve £16,512 as a contribution from the 2010/11 SIP budget for the Oxclose MUGA Project;
- (xvi) approve £13,073 as a contribution from the 2010/11 SIP budget towards a new curriculum for Springwell Village Primary School; and
- (xvii) approve £16,906 as a contribution from the 2010/11 SIP budget towards the Blackfell Play Project.

Interim Report

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide detail on how the Area Committee had allocated its resources to date (April 2010 - September 2010)(as amended to reflect the Committee's decision in regard to Washington West under the previous item) and to enable consideration of how those initiatives were performing against agreed objectives.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

6. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Influencing Practice, Policy and Strategy

The City Services directorate submitted a report (copy circulated) which offered Members the opportunity for consultation on plans and strategies relevant to the Washington area. It also provided information and updates to encourage Members to feed into proposals for service or policy change.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Vivienne Metcalfe, Area Community Co-ordinator (East), presented a report, advising Members of consultations with the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) on the draft Community Assets Policy in order to receive their comments on a Council policy which would have a direct impact on them.

Ms. Metcalf briefed the Committee on the three stage approach to a transfer of a Council owned asset to the VCS and requested Members' suggestions for any voluntary organisations in which they had an active involvement and that they felt were suitable to partake in the assessment. Ms. Metcalf also advised that help would be provided throughout the process.

7. RESOLVED that Members considered the draft Community Assets Policy which was subject to consultation and would participate in the consultation process to ensure that the strategy would effectively address the requirements of the Voluntary and Community Sector in the Washington area of the City.

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

(Signed) J. KELLY,
Chairman.