

At a meeting of the COALFIELD AREA COMMITTEE held in the Council Chamber at City Hall, Sunderland on WEDNESDAY 15 MARCH, 2023 at 6.00 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Blackburn in the Chair

Councillors Burrell, Dodds, Heron (Vice Chair), K. Johnston, Mason-Gage, Price, Rowntree, Scott, D. Snowdon, Speding and Thornton

Also Present:-

Jill Colbert	Chief Executive and Director of Children's Services	Together for Children Sunderland City Council
Pauline Hopper	Area Community Development Lead, Coalfield	Sunderland City Council
Nic Marko	Local Democracy Reporter	
Andrew Nelson	Station Manager	Tyne and Wear Fire Service
Emerly Christie	Area Network Representative	
Wendy Cook	Area Network Representative	
Paul Wood	Principal Governance Services Officer	Sunderland City Council
Steven Gordon	Neighbourhood Co-ordinator	Gentoo

Chairman's Welcome and Introductions

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

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Thornton. Councillor Bill Little and Amy Swann.

Declarations of Interest

The following declarations were received:-

Item 4 – Coalfield Area Budgets Report

Councillor Johnston made an open declaration in relation to application 3 – CHAT (Coalfield Healthy and Active Teens) Junior Gym from the Neighbourhood Fund as an employee of Everyone Active and took no part in the consideration of this item.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 14th December, 2022 (copy circulated), be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Coalfield Area Committee Delivery Plan 2020-2023

The Chairman of the Coalfield Neighbourhood and Community Board submitted a report (copy circulated), which provided an update on the progress against the Area Priorities associated with the Delivery Plan, which would be the focus for the Coalfield Area Committee during 2022-23.

The report also provided an update on Neighbourhood and Community Board Governance Arrangements for 2022-2023.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Chairman of the Coalfield Neighbourhood and Community Board, Councillor Heron presented the report and highlighted a number of projects contained within the Delivery Plan and the work of the VCS Network.

Councillor Heron commented that it had been a busy few years and wished to note the vital work undertaken via partnerships with Springboard and Sharp in providing help over Universal Credit and Pension Credit.

Councillor Heron referred to the VCS Network commenting that this had been full of Voluntary Organisations and wished to thank all of those that had partook in the meetings and to also give a big thank you to the Clean and Green Team who had delivered a great job for the area.

Councillor Heron also added that the work the Board had done was fantastic and praised all the groups involved.

Councillor Speding referred to the Development plan as Annex 1 to the report and queried as tackling empty properties was not on the plan, if this programme had been taken off altogether. Councillor Speding informed that there were still a number of properties of concern in Railway Terrace North and Southburn Terrace and wished to raise the issue and suggested if this could be done at the imminent workshops.

Ms Hopper advised that priorities were moved off the plan once they had been completed/addressed and her understanding was that this priority was now with the relevant service area which was why it was not on the Area Committees plan but it certainly could be raised during the Workshop that was planned to take place.

Councillor Speding referred to the Linked together project and advised that he had been unaware who the 2 representatives were that had been appointed to this and referred to the Shiney Row Ward only being allocated £10,000 of the £200,000 available and commented that he would be interested to see the breakdown of the 13 sites and how this was decided upon as he was unaware of any consultation having taken place with Members.

Ms Hopper advise that the 2 representatives were the Chairman and Vice Chairman of this Committee and the linked together project had been under development for the last two years with the sites being circulated to Members on a number of occasions but could speak to Councillor Speding outside of the meeting on this and could also speak with the project officers if necessary.

Councillor Johnston referred to the Play Parks, commenting that it was fantastic to see the upgrades and these were brilliant facilities so wished to thank the Committee for their work and was especially thankful for the installation of the new inclusive play equipment.

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

2. **RESOLVED** that

- a) the progress and performance update regarding the Coalfield Area Committee Delivery Plan 2020/23 be noted and the proposals for future delivery as contained within Annex 1, be agreed; and
- b) The recommendations contained in Annex 2 of the report relating to the Highways Maintenance Programme 2023/24 be agreed.

Northumbria Police Update

Inspector Baker, Northumbria Police submitted a report to the Committee, giving an overview of crime in the Coalfield area in relation to burglary, criminal damage, anti-social behaviour and motorcycle disorder.

Inspector Baker having submitted his apologies it was:-

3. **RESOLVED** that the report be received and noted.

Tyne and Wear Fire Service Update

Station Manager Andrew Nelson, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service (TWFRS) submitted a report (copy circulated), providing Performance Monitoring details in relation to the Local Indicators for the Coalfield Area Committee area from 1st April 2022 to 1st March 2023 compared with the same period the previous year.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Mr Nelson presented the report and requested all Members to encourage the Community to report fly tipping instances, which could be done anonymously.

Councillor Mason-Gage referred to the Spark Programme and queried why Year 6 pupils were being considered in Shiney Row whereas it was Years 8 and 9 in other areas. Mr Nelson advise that it was based on Police intelligence and some Children will have been identified in those year groups.

Councillor Heron commented that it was sad to see Houghton at the top of these lists again and she was so glad of the Spark Programme so she hoped it helped and the figures would start to decrease. Mr Nelson informed of the recruitment of a

Diversions Officer who he hoped would come to the next meeting to give a presentation and by June they should have a good evidence base to show what's been done.

Councillor Speding informed of a two engine incident in new Herrington and commented that the response by the Fire Brigade had been excellent with residents most impressed by the first responders. Mr Nelson thanked Councillor Speding and commented that he would pass those comments onto the Team and that the actions had been possible through good communication and partnership work with the community.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Scott, Mr Nelson advised that he would provide a comprehensive breakdown of the Hetton Ward figures to the Member via email.

Full consideration having been given to the report, the Chairman thanked Mr Nelson for his attendance and it was:-

4. RESOLVED that the content of the report be received and noted.

Coalfield Voluntary and Community Sector Network Update

The Coalfield Voluntary and Community Sector Network provided a verbal presentation to the Committee with an update on the work of the Sector to date.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Wendy Cook, Area Network Representative provided the update and was on hand to answer Members queries.

Ms. Cook advised that since January, only one meeting had occurred and the February meeting included an update on the Warm Spaces work which included 2,917 contacts, 41 Volunteer hours and the Coalfield Area was very fortunate as a lot of volunteer organisations had bought into this project.

Ms Cook also advised that all organisations were very busy at the moment and she wished to thank the Area Committee for its continued support.

The Committee having discussed the report, the Chairman thanked Ms. Cook for her attendance, it was:-

5. RESOLVED that the update be received and noted.

Gentoo Update

Gentoo submitted a report (copy circulated) providing an update on their work from December 2022 to March 2023.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Mr Steven Gordon, Neighbourhood Co-ordinator briefed the Committee on

Neighbourhood Services and the proposed Investment and Renewal programme for the area.

Councillor Scott thanked Mr Gordon for the comprehensive report and wished to thank Gentoo for the work of the Money Matters Team as he had seen first hand the vital work they undertook. In relation to the tenant satisfaction survey's Councillor Scott queried if the results would be shared with the Committee and the wider City. Mr Gordon advised that he couldn't see why they wouldn't be shared.

The Committee having discussed the report; Mr Gordon was thanked for his attendance and it was:-

6. RESOLVED that the above information be received and noted.

Coalfield Area Budget Report

The Assistant Director of Community Resilience, Neighbourhoods submitted a report (copy circulated), providing a financial statement as an updated position on progress in relation to allocating Area Committee Neighbourhood Funding, Neighbourhood Investment Plan Capital Programme and Community Chest and presenting proposals for further funding requests.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms Pauline Hopper, Coalfield Area Community Development Lead, presented the report, drawing the Committee's attention to the current financial position of the Area Committee Neighbourhood Fund 2022/2023 as set out in paragraph 2.1, the Neighbourhood Investment Capital Programme 2020 – 2023 in paragraph 3.1 and the Community Chest approvals in paragraph 4.1.

Ms Hopper having briefed the Committee on the applications for funding set out in the report and full consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

7. RESOLVED that:-

- a) Note the financial statements set out in section 2.1, 3.1 and 4.1 be noted;
- b) Approval be given to the allocation of £7,845 contribution from the 2022/23 Neighbourhood fund towards the Phoenix Spark Programme set out in Annex 1 to the report;
- c) Approval be given to the alignment of funding of £42,378 from the 2022/23 Neighbourhood fund towards the Holiday Activities for Children and Young People as set out in Annex 1 to the report;
- d) Approval be given to the allocation of £14,367 contribution from the 2022/23 Neighbourhood fund towards the CHAT (Coalfield Healthy and Active Teens) Project, as set out in Annex 1 to the report;
- e) Approval be given to the 4 Youth projects at 2.4 and Annex 2, from the previously aligned Neighbourhood Fund budget;
- f) Approval be given to the 2 Neighbourhood Investment Capital Programme applications set out in 3.4 and Annex 3; and

- g) the Community Chest approvals supported from 2022/2023, as detailed in Annex 4 to the report be noted

Current Planning Applications (Coalfields Area)

A schedule (copy circulated) of current planning applications lodged during the period 1st February and 28th February, 2023 was submitted for Members' information only.

(For copy schedule – see original minutes)

8. RESOLVED that the schedule be received and noted.

The Chairman thanked Members and Officers for their attendance and participation and closed the meeting.

(Signed) J. BLACKBURN,
Chairman.