

At a meeting of the EAST SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE on MONDAY, 10th JANUARY, 2011 at 5.30p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Ball in the Chair

Councillors Emerson, Errington, Fairs, E. Gibson, M. Forbes, Maddison, McClennan, Mordey and Wood

Also Present:-

Karen Alexander	- Employment and Training Manager, Sunderland City Council
Kath Butchert	- YDG Manager, Sunderland City Council
Chris Campbell	- School Improvement Officer, Sunderland City Council
John Connolly	- Neighbourhood Sergeant, Northumbria Police
Neal Craig	- Neighbourhood Inspector, Northumbria Police
Paula Hunt	- East VCS Network Representative
Matthew Jackson	- Democratic Services Officer, Sunderland City Council
Janet Johnson	- Deputy Chief Executive and Area Lead Executive, Sunderland City Council
Helen Peverley	- Project and Service Development Manager, Sunderland City Council
Ken Robinson	- Neighbourhood Sergeant, Northumbria Police
Nicol Trueman	- Area Officer, Sunderland City Council
Ross Wares	
Ian Warne	- Station Manager, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service
Berni Whitaker	- Enterprise Manager, Sunderland City Council
Jeremy Wicking	- Media Officer, Sunderland City Council
Sarah Woodhouse	- Policy Officer

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked Members to give consideration to any stories which could be included in the Area Newsletters and provide any stories to Jeremy Wicking, Media Officer.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received on behalf of Councillors T. Martin and O'Connor along with Vivienne Metcalfe and David Curtis.

Declarations of Interest

Item 3 – Community Action in Sunderland East: Progress Review – Annex 3a – Community Chest

Councillor Mordey declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the applications relating to Hendon Young People's Project and withdrew from the meeting prior to consideration of the item.

Councillor McClennan declared a personal interest in the application for NDRC as Chief Executive of EBC who had an NDRC staff member placed with them for NVQ training.

Councillor Maddison declared a personal interest in the application for Grangetown C.A. as a council appointed Member and the application for Ashbrooke Rugby Club as a social member.

Item 3 – Community Action in Sunderland East: Progress Review – Annex 3b – SIP Proposals

Councillor Mordey declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the application for Hendon Young People's Project as a Council appointed Member and withdrew from the meeting prior to consideration of this item.

Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 25th October, 2010

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 25th October, 2010 be confirmed and signed as a correct record subject to the inclusion of Councillor Mordey in the attendance.

Community Action in Sunderland East: Identifying new Issues and Agreeing Actions (2010/11 Work Plan)

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided information on the new issues raised as part of the Committee's work plan for 2010/11.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Nicol Trueman, Area Officer, presented the report and advised Members of the common issues which were raised by residents and also informed Members of the new issues which had been raised in relation to the review of bylaws, the Metro Platform Project, and Sunderland 'The Place'.

With regards to Sunderland 'The Place' Ms Trueman advised that the Chairman had been invited to attend a meeting of the Environment and Attractive City Scrutiny Committee to discuss the sense of place within the

East Area. If Members wished they could hold an informal meeting to discuss this.

Councillor Wood queried whether the review of bylaws would embrace the concept of alcohol free zones; there were currently some zones in the city however within the zones there were anomalies.

Janet Johnson, Area Lead Executive, agreed to query this with the team involved and provide the information to Councillor Wood.

Councillor Errington commented that there were a number of schools which still had signs referring to the Tyne and Wear Act 1980 and Trespassing on school property. He asked whether the provisions of this act were still in force given that the district of Tyne and Wear no longer existed.

Ms Johnson agreed that this information would be provided to Councillor Errington.

Paula Hunt stated that the Metro Platform Project had been discussed at the VCS meetings and Age UK had expressed an interest in adopting the Park Lane Metro Station.

Councillor Errington referred to the improvement works which had already been undertaken at Sunderland Central Station and asked whether this project would have an effect on the works which had already been done.

Ms Trueman advised that there were 60 stations on the Metro network and four of these were within the East Area. All of the stations were available for adoption. Any work to be carried out would complement any works which had already been completed.

Councillor Gibson advised that she was a Member of the Environment and Attractive City Scrutiny Committee and she had attended a visit to the University with the Committee. The University had developed public space including a café and outside space which the public were encouraged to use. It was also intended that there would be improved signage throughout the city to direct visitors to key locations such as the University and Stadium of Light.

2. RESOLVED that:

- a. The City Bylaws review be received and noted and an update on the outcomes affecting the East Area cemeteries, beaches, countryside, and parks be received via the ward bulletin service.
- b. The Metro Platform Project be promoted through the East VCS Network and Sunderland University, Southmoor, Thornhill, St. Aidan's and St. Anthony's schools be approached with a view to all four stations being adopted by a residents association, voluntary and community association or educational establishment.
- c. The information on Sunderland 'The Place' be received and noted.

Community Action in Sunderland East – Progress Review

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with an update on progress against the agreed actions in the 2010/11 work plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

- **Identification of Gaps in Youth Provision**

Kath Butchert, YDG Manager, presented the update and informed the Committee of the three tier model which had been developed which would assist with targeting support for those who were most in need. There would also be a reduction in the amount of contracted and non-contracted youth provision for young people over 11 years old from March 2011.

Following discussion on the matter it was agreed that the youth joint surgeries, which were being organised over the coming months, be included in the area newsletters.

Mr Wicking agreed to liaise with Ms Butchert on the matter to ensure the inclusion of this in the area newsletters.

3. RESOLVED that the update be received and noted and a future report be received outlining the findings of the youth tier model and to consider proposed recommendations for the way forward.

- **Increase Employment and Enterprise Opportunity**

Nicol Trueman, Area Officer, introduced Karen Alexander and Berni Whitaker who would be presenting the possible options for activities to be commissioned. Applications for service provision would be sought from the Voluntary and Community Sector organisations for whichever project brief Members were inclined to agree.

Ms Trueman advised that there were thorough assessments of all SIB applications and the scoring matrix was attached to the report for Members information.

Karen Alexander, Employment & Training Manager, presented option 1; the Family Themed Initiative and advised Members that this would focus on employability and would help whole families across generations rather than just targeting individuals. The project would help family members of working age into employment or self employment. There was a proposed budget of £50,000 for this project.

Berni Whitaker, Enterprise Manager, presented option 2; Employability Support for People 'not in receipt of benefits'. This project would be aimed at increasing enterprise in the area and would target those who were normally

not eligible for support under mainstream provision and would help those who were currently receiving support as part of the Job Linkage scheme.

Councillor Maddison asked how many families were likely to benefit from the initiative.

Ms Alexander advised that the current project which had been funded by Back on the Map had helped over 2000 people and within the last monitoring period there had been 500 people who had received support to get into work. 15.2 percent of the people helped into work were now not receiving any Benefits.

In response to a query from Councillor M. Forbes, Ms Alexander stated that the project would draw on the experience of the Job Linkage programme which would allow a client focused system to be developed with an individual approach and a case worker for each client. There was approximately a 70 percent rate for people who had gained employment retaining the job to the six month mark.

Councillor M. Forbes then stated that the Job Linkage never provided information regarding how long people stayed in employment. There was a need for long term employment.

Ms Alexander advised that there had been improvements made to the management systems to ensure that there was thorough monitoring of whether people remained in employment. There was a large proportion of the jobs were temporary; it was however more desirable for people to be working on temporary contracts than be unemployed while waiting for a permanent job to become available. The employers provided information as to whether jobs were permanent or temporary and how long the contract would be.

Councillor Mordey commented that both proposals were highly desirable and that although there was a high cost implication of funding both proposals he felt that it would be worthwhile.

4. RESOLVED that option 3, the delivery of both projects, totalling £125,000 be approved.

- **Reduce Antisocial Behaviour and Increase Confidence Levels**

Ms Trueman introduced Inspector Neal Craig, Sergeant Ken Robinson and Inspector John Connolly from the Northumbria Police Neighbourhood Policing teams and Ian Warne, Station Manager for Sunderland East Community Fire Station.

Inspector Craig presented the update on Operation Ironclad and informed Members that the Taxi Marshalls were now operating on Monday nights and would be in place until the end of the financial year, there had been no reports of violence in the taxi queues when the Marshalls were present.

In the run up to Christmas there had been 89 arrests in the city centre and most of these had been for Drunk and Disorderly; there had been no serious offences. There had also been only minor assaults reported with no serious assaults or Grievous Bodily Harm being committed.

There had been a dedicated team in Mowbray Park during the day and there had been no incidents in the park apart from the escaped reindeer.

Inspector Connolly advised that there had been over 160 hours of extra patrol time over the last 9 days and that burglary from dwellings was still a concern.

Sergeant Robinson advised that in Doxford there had been a focus on Youth Anti Social Behaviour and there had been a reduction of 22.4 percent. Overall there had been a reduction in all crime of 13.8 percent. There had been problems with theft of lead from the roofs of the new houses at Doxford Park.

Councillor E. Gibson commented that the theft of lead from roofs was disturbing; it had stopped people from moving into the new houses and caused an increased fear of crime for the people living in the area.

Inspector Connolly stated that it was a major concern and there had been extra resources allocated to tackle the issue.

Mr Warne advised that he had recently taken over as Station Manager at Sunderland East Community Fire Station; he did not have any statistics available at this time and agreed to provide the figures for Antisocial Behaviour Fires outside of the meeting.

Ms Trueman asked Members to give consideration to where they would like Vehicle Actuated Signs locating and to contact Chris Ferry, Engineer to advise him of the locations. In response to a query from Councillor Wood, Ms Trueman added that the order for the signs was ready and it was expected that the signs would be rolled out within the next six weeks.

Ms Trueman then drew Members attention to the nominations for the Member representation on the LMAPS groups. The nominations were for:-

Councillor Mordey – City Centre LMAPS

Councillor T. Martin with Councillor Emerson as Substitute – Hendon and Ryhope LMAPS

Councillor Kay or Councillor M. Forbes – Millfield and St. Michael's LMAPS

As there were two nominations for Millfield and St. Michael's the nomination was put to the vote. With six members voting for Councillor Kay and four for Councillor M. Forbes it was agreed that Councillor Kay be the representative with Councillor M. Forbes as substitute.

5. RESOLVED that the updates from Northumbria Police be received and noted and the nominations for the LMAPS groups be agreed.

- **Responsive Local Services (RLS)**

Helen Peverley, Project and Service Development Manager, presented the Responsive Local Services update and advised that refuse and recycling, and dumping of waste were still problems. The new blue bin recycling scheme had been introduced and the performance of the scheme would be continually monitored. There had been enforcement action carried out following dumping of waste and examples of this were included in the report.

The Graffiti Service had introduced mobile handheld devices for the frontline employees which enabled them to clean graffiti quicker. There had also been changes to the authorisation process to allow the disclaimers to be issued electronically over the telephone.

Councillor Errington asked how quickly the junction boxes could be cleaned of graffiti. He also asked whether there was any information regarding successful prosecutions for dumping of waste.

Ms Peverley advised that there were plans to increase the level of enforcement.

Councillor Mordey queried whether it would be possible to have information showing the number of prosecutions in Hendon. He also stated that he thought that the medical waste dumped on Burdon Lane would be easy to trace back to the person who dumped it. He also asked whether the Trade waste on High Street West was from more than one source.

Ms Peverley agreed to find this information for Councillor Mordey.

Councillor Mordey then commented that the parking at the Stadium of Light Metro Station was now being charged for. While this was not within the East Area it did have an impact as this car park was intended to be used for park and ride and was used by a number of people who were from the East Area or were travelling into the East Area. He asked if this issue could be included on the issues log.

Councillor E. Gibson commented that most residents dealt with their waste appropriately by placing it out for collection on the correct day; there was a need to educate those residents who did not.

Councillor Wood added that it was important to prosecute offenders and to publicise the prosecutions so that other people were less likely to offend. It was often difficult to encourage people to give evidence against their neighbours.

Councillor McClennan welcomed the partnership working with Gentoo. There were however concerns from residents about the lack of feedback from complaints; especially for complaints relating to road gritting and tenancy allocations. She felt that Members needed to fight for the residents as they deserved responses to their complaints.

Paula Hunt stated that the East VCS Network had a strong emphasis on enforcement action, especially in the Long Streets Area where there had been ongoing problems.

Councillor Emerson stated that he was pleased to see the Strategic Land Management project was progressing. He asked whether it would show unregistered land as issues on unregistered land often dragged on for long periods of time. He also queried what was being done to prevent dumping of waste at the regular dumping spots and commented that it was often the same people who were dumping waste repeatedly and there was a need to police the common areas for dumping.

Ms Peverley stated that currently the system was set up to show Council and Gentoo land however as the project progressed more layers would be added and it could be possible to show unregistered land; it was also intended that street furniture such as junction boxes would be included.

Councillor Mordey asked for information regarding the steps taken from the initial identification of a problem site to prosecutions being made for fly tipping.

Ms Peverley agreed to provide this information.

6. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted and further updates be received regarding any issues arising from the intelligence group.

- **Community Action in Sunderland East – Progress Review**

Ms Trueman presented the Progress Review and advised Members that there had been a Greenspace Workshop held in October, there was a second workshop arranged for 28th January, 2011. The site of the old Grangetown Primary School had now been made accessible to the public.

Paula Hunt added that the availability of the Grangetown Primary School site for the public would be publicised through the Community Newsletters.

Councillor Mordey advised that where the Citizens Advice Bureau had been at Ward Court, opposite St Ignatius Church, was now an empty site. He asked that this location be added to the issues log.

7. RESOLVED that the updates be received and noted and the additional issue raised by Councillor Mordey be included on the progress log.

- **Community Chest, Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) and Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) – Financial Statement and Proposals for Further Allocation of Resources**

Ms Trueman presented the report and advised Members that there were 16 proposals for support from the 2010/11 Community Chest totalling £5,528; three SIP proposals and no SIB proposals.

Ms Trueman referred Members to Annex 3a which detailed the Community Chest proposals and Annex 3b which detailed the applications for support from the SIP funding.

Members having given consideration to the applications it was:-

8. RESOLVED that:

- a. The financial statement be noted.
- b. Approval be given to the 16 proposals for support from the 2010/11 Community Chest.
- c. The SIP applications be approved.

Influencing Practice, Policy and Strategy

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which informed Members that the Local Area Plan would be refreshed for the 2011/12 municipal year and that work had commenced on this refresh. The Committee would be the lead on the refresh of the LAP.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Nicol Trueman, Area Officer, presented the report and advised that this report and the discussion at this meeting was stage one of the refresh process. There was information included from the 2009 Place Survey which showed what the issues were for local residents.

Councillor Mordey asked that transport, especially buses, be included as a potential priority.

Ms Trueman then asked for nominations for the Task and Finish group which would be established to look at the refresh of the LAP.

Councillors Emerson, Errington, Maddison and Mordey together with Hazel Clark, Jen McKevitt, Paula Hunt and Sarah Woodhouse put themselves forward as members of the Task and Finish Group.

Ms Trueman then drew Members attention to the list of Community Groups which had an interest in improving their neighbourhood and asked whether there were any further groups which needed adding to the list.

Members asked that the Bangladeshi Centre; Ashbrooke Area Residents Association; Ashmore Residents Association; Long Streets Action Group; Chance; East End Residents Group and Back on the Map be added to the list.

Councillor Wood also advised that the Blue Watch Youth Group should be listed under Ryhope Ward rather than St. Michael's Ward. The Thornholme Residents Association covered an area which included both Millfield and St. Michael's Ward.

9. RESOLVED that:

- a. A task and finish group be established to review the LAP and the terms of reference for the group, as set out in Annex 1, be approved.
- b. The nominated Committee Members be assigned to the group.
- c. The additional groups identified be included on the list of community groups in the area.
- d. The report be received and noted and a further report be received in March 2011.

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

(Signed) E. BALL,
Chairman.