

At a meeting of the WEST SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in COMMITTEE ROOM 1 of the CIVIC CENTRE, SUNDERLAND on WEDNESDAY 11TH DECEMBER, 2019 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor P. Gibson in the Chair

Councillors, Atkinson, Crosby, Greener, Haswell, McDonough, Mann, Mullen, O'Brien, G. Smith, Tye, A. Wilson and K. Wood.

Also Present:-

Kelly Brougham	VCS Network Representative	Active Families N.E.
Fiona Brown	Executive Director of Neighbourhoods	Sunderland City Council
Kevin Burns	Station Manager	Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service
Joanne Laverick	VCS Network Representative	Youth Almighty
William Leach	VCS Network Representative	Pennywell Com. Centre
Catherine Loftus	Head of Operations	Gentoo
David Noon	Principal Governance Services Officer	Sunderland City Council
Gilly Stanley	Area Community Development Lead	Sunderland City Council

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 Blackett, D. Dixon, P. Smith, Waller and Watson.

Declarations of Interest

Item 6 - Financial Statement and Proposals for Further Allocation of Resources

Council Tye declared disclosable pecuniary interests in respect of application no.2 (West Area Youth Activities) and application no.3 (Barnes Park 3 Day Event 2020 - "Let's get Digital") as Chairman of the Management Committee of Youth Almighty and left the room during the consideration of the item

Minutes of the Last Meeting

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 26th September 2019 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Place Board Progress Report

The Chairman of the West Sunderland Area Place Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update of progress against the Place Board's 2019/20 Work Plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor K. Wood presented the report drawing Members' attention to the initiation of action towards achieving key priorities as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report together with a summary of key areas of influence and achievements of the Place Board in relation to the Performance Management of Local Services, Highway Maintenance Capital Programme, Supporting local Shopping Centres, West Walk and Talk Programme, the delivery of a further themed event in Barnes Park for 2020 and Safety Works as at 1st December, 2019.

There being no questions or comments on the report, it was:-

3. RESOLVED that:-

- i) the report be received and noted and;
- ii) the progress and performance update with regard to the West Area Place Board Work Plan for 2019/20 as detailed in Annex 1 to the report be noted;
- iii) consideration be given to the financial issues arising from the Place Board report later in the meeting at item 6 on the agenda.

People Board Progress Report

The Chairman of the West Sunderland Area People Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update of progress against the People Board's 2019/20 Work Plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

In the absence of Councillor Watson who was unable to attend the meeting, Councillor K. Wood presented the report drawing Members' attention to the initiation of action towards achieving key priorities as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report together with a summary of key areas of influence and achievements of the People Board in relation to monitoring the performance and delivery of Children's Centres, maintaining the partnership with Sunderland Clinical Commissioning Group, Working with Vulnerable Communities, Activities for young people and Holiday Hunger, Community Led Local Delivery (CLLD) EU funding, the West NEET Project and Tackling Worklessness and Raising Aspirations as at 1st December, 2019.

There being no questions or comments on the report, it was:-

4. RESOLVED that:-

- i) the report be received and noted and;

- ii) the progress and performance update with regard to the West Area People Board Work Plan for 2019/20 as detailed in Annex 1 to the report be noted;
- iii) consideration be given to the financial issues arising from the People Board report later in the meeting at item 5 on the agenda.

Report of the West Area Voluntary and Community Sector Network (AVCN)

The AVCS Network submitted a progress report (copy circulated) which briefed members on issues pertinent to the Committee and the Voluntary and Community Sector.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Consideration was given to the report presented by William Leach which highlighted the following feedback and input arising from the two Voluntary and Community Sector Network meetings held since the Area Committee last met in September, 2019 :-

- i) the election of a new VCS Representative, Kelly Brougham of Active Families NE. The network also thanked Andrea Lanaghan for the years of support she had offered groups and welcomed Kelly into her new role. (at this juncture the Chairman welcomed Kelly who was attending her first meeting of the Area Committee.)
- ii) An update on the Neighbourhood Fund project Clean and Green delivered by Sunderland North Community Business Centre. The project was delivering well across the West area and had successfully recruited 4 volunteers.
- iii) the receipt of a presentation on the Sunderland Green and Open Spaces Forum
- iv) the provision of support to attract external funding to delivery projects that benefit local residents and the receipt of training on social media and ICT protocols.
- v) the receipt of GRANTfinder and NEPO opportunities on a regular basis. The Area Team would continue to support the network with funding advice and guidance as well mentoring board members / trustees and development of sustainability plans to ensure the sector continues to be able to deliver and thrive.

There being no questions or comments for Mr Leech, the Chairman thanked him for his attendance and, it was:-

- 4. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Report of Gentoo

Catherine Loftus, Head of Operations, Gentoo Group presented a report (copy circulated) which briefed the Committee on Gentoo developments, projects and priorities undertaken during the period June to December, 2019 including the changes to Gentoo's delivery model due to commence on 2nd January, 2020 and the commencement of work to transform Gentoo's vacant land on the old Pennywell Estate

site at Chester Gate which would ultimately see the delivery of 500 new homes for sale and rent.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

In response to enquiries from Councillors Mann and O'Brien, Ms Loftus advised that no decisions had been taken yet in respect of the timelines for the completion of phase 1 and commencement of phase 2 at Chester Gate however she would investigate and see if it was possible to provide an estimate. She also pledged to provide Councillors Mann and O'Brien with details in respect of the provision of social housing on the development together with play facilities and community areas.

In response to a final enquiry from Councillor O'Brien, Ms Loftus confirmed that it was Gentoo's intention to provide 10% of the homes on the site as social housing.

There being no questions or comments for Ms Loftus, the Chairman thanked her for her attendance and, it was:-

5. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Report of the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service

A report of the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service (TWFRS) (copy circulated) was submitted which provided the Committee with an update on the Service's performance indicators for the period 1st September, 2019 to 30th November, 2019 with particular reference to the LI33 Incidents (deliberate fires) broken down by property type.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Kevin Burns, Station Manager presented the report informing members that there had been no deaths recorded during the reporting period. There had been 1 deliberate property fire during this period together with 26 primary road vehicle fires (the prevalence which was particularly noticeable in the Sandhill area). There had been 65 deliberate secondary fires which was a decrease of 12 over the previous reporting period. This was down largely as result of the successful target hardening work that had been undertaken. Mr Burns then addressed questions and comments from Members thereon.

Councillor A. Wilson noted that the annual problems that occurred around bonfire night had been nowhere near as great as those encountered last year. She referred to the work carried out by the Council's Local Services teams in rapidly removing accumulations of rubbish that could have caught the attention of those deliberately starting fires and asked if this had assisted the Fire Service in keeping the figures of fires low. Mr Burns replied that the prompt removal of the accumulations identified by the Fire Service and the proactive nature of the Local Services team had been an excellent example of successful partnership working.

There being no further questions or comments for Mr Burns, the Chairman thanked him for his report, and it was:-

6. RESOLVED the report be received and noted

Resident Engagement and Neighbourhood Investment Plans

The Assistant Director of Community Resilience submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided elected members with an update on the 'Let's Talk Sunderland' programme and how the engagement was informing the development of the emerging Neighbourhood Investment Plans and detailed how the priorities within the Neighbourhood Investment Plans would be presented for approval by the Area Committee in March 2020.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Gilly Stanley Area Community Development Lead presented the report highlighting the activities delivered as part of the residents' engagement, the timeline for the progression of the Neighbourhood Development Plans and mechanisms to ensure the Area Committee priorities were directly aligned to the Neighbourhood Investment Plans. Ms Stanley thanked those members of the Committee and the VCS Network representatives who had assisted in the delivery of the engagement events.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor McDonough, Ms Stanley advised that the Area team would be analysing the feedback from the engagement events to identify any gaps in response together with any underrepresented groups or age profiles with a view to targeting these areas in January during the next round of engagement.

The Chairman having thanked Ms Stanley for her report, it was:-

7. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Financial Statement and Proposals for Further Allocation of Resources

The Assistant Director of Community Resilience submitted a report (copy circulated) in respect of the above matter.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Gilly Stanley Area Community Development Lead, presented the report highlighting the Committee's financial statement, details of 13 projects approved under delegated powers for support from the 2019/20 Community Chest budget and details of proposals for the allocation of SIB funding.

Consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

8. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the Area Committee's funding statement as detailed in paragraph 2.1 of the report be received and noted;
- (ii) approval be given to the granting of £5,000 from the Neighbourhood Fund towards the transport costs for all Year 6 and Year 8 pupils from West

Sunderland Area Schools to attend at Safety Works during the 2019/20 academic year;

- (iii) approval be given to the granting of £90,000 from the Neighbourhood Fund to The Sunderland All Together Consortium towards the delivery of West Youth Activities as detailed in application 2 in Annex 1 of the report;
- (iv) approval be given to the granting of £40,000 from the Neighbourhood Fund to Youth Almighty Project towards the delivery of the 3 day Area event in Barnes Park during 2020 as detailed in application 3 in Annex 1 of the report;
- (v) the approval of the 13 Community Chest applications from the 2019/20 budget as detailed in Annex 2 of the report be noted;

(Signed) P. GIBSON,
Chairman.