

**At a meeting of the EAST SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE, SUNDERLAND on MONDAY, 25<sup>th</sup> JUNE, 2018 at 5.30p.m.**

**Present:-**

Councillor Ball in the Chair

Councillors M. Dixon, English, Essl, E. Gibson, Hodson, Hunt, Marshall, Mordey, Oliver, O'Neil, Scanlan A. Wood and P. Wood.

**Also Present:-**

Matthew Jackson	-	Governance Services Officer, Sunderland City Council
Catherine Loftus	-	Head of Operations, Gentoo
Julie Maven	-	VCS Representative
Gillian Robinson	-	Area Co-ordinator, Sunderland City Council
Jamie Southwell	-	Inspector, Northumbria Police
Nicol Trueman	-	Area Officer, Sunderland City Council
Lisa Wilson-	-	VCS Representative
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**Chairman's Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for Absence were received on behalf of Councillor McClennan together with Joanne Cooper and Nicky Rowland

**Declarations of Interest**

Item 5 – Area Budgets Report

Councillor Mordey declared that he was a director of Back on the Map and withdrew from the meeting during consideration of the report.

Councillor O'Neil declared that she was a council appointed Member of Chance and withdrew from the meeting during consideration of the matter.

Councillor Marshall declared that she was a Member of the Box Youth Project and withdrew from the meeting during consideration of the item.

Councillor Hunt declared that she was Chair of the Ryhope Community Association and withdrew from the meeting during consideration of the item.

The Chairman declared that she was a Member of Ryhope Community Association and withdrew from the meeting during consideration of the item.

### **Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2018**

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

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

Julie Maven presented the Committee with an update on the work of the VCS network since the last Area Committee meeting. There had been two meetings and a number of presentations had been received at these meetings including on the Tall Ships Races and from the Carers Centre and Grace House. There had also been workshops held where the network's priorities for the coming year had been discussed.

2. RESOLVED that the VCS Network progress report be noted.

### **Northumbria Police Update**

Inspector Jamie Southwell provided the Committee with an update on the work of the Police within the area. He advised that there had been a demonstration in the North Sunderland Area which had passed without any arrests and had been reasonably peaceful; there was a further demonstration planned for the city centre on the 30<sup>th</sup> June and there were discussions taking place between the police and the demonstration organisers to finalise the meeting points and routes; it was difficult to estimate how many people would be attending the demonstration in advance. The police would be present to ensure that the city centre was kept safe for all visitors. The area command had set up an operation focussed on the city centre demonstrations. The organiser had stated that the demonstrations had nothing to do with race although there had been some inappropriate chants at the last demonstration; the perpetrators of these chants had been spoken to and the demonstrations were not being considered as right wing demonstrations.

There was currently an operation ongoing in Millfield to tackle burglaries; there was currently not many burglaries occurring in the area. There was also an operation to target vehicle crime across the area; especially thefts of items from motor vehicles; two of the main offenders had been issued with criminal behaviour orders which it was anticipated would help to reduce their criminal behaviour. The operation relating to burglaries of commercial properties was ongoing; there had been burglaries of pubs and following a series of arrests being made the number of offences had reduced.

Councillor Essl stated that he thought that there was a right wing aspect to the demonstrations and expressed concerns that the route had not yet been agreed, he stated that at previous demonstrations there had been issues including the Hells Angels riding motorcycles through Market Square and as such he felt that there was a need to ensure that there was a strong proactive police presence. Inspector Southwell stated that he had policed all of the previous demonstrations and had met with the organisers. The organiser of this demonstration had no interest in the demonstration being related to race or right wing politics. The police were aware that there was the possibility that right wing groups may try to become involved in the demonstrations and the police would deal with any issues that may arise. There were various different start and finish points and routes under consideration. The police had retained full control of the situation at the previous demonstrations and there had been no arrests made at the demonstration the Hells Angels had attended; they had parked their motorcycles at the edge of Market Square which was where they had been asked to park.

Councillor P. Wood referred to the recent initiative around Hill View Junior School on Stannington Grove; he had heard from residents who were disappointed that the initiative did not seem to have had an effect as there seemed to be a reluctance from the police to issue tickets to drivers who parked on the zig-zag markings; in bus stops or in an obstructive manner. He felt that tickets needed to be issued to change people's behaviour. He acknowledged that the council had a responsibility to address the issue as well and also stated that most residents only contact with the police was with PCSOs who were unable to issue tickets. He also stated that he had heard rumours that the PACT meetings would be stopping and asked for information on this. Inspector Southwell stated that the PACT meetings would be continuing unless a better system was implemented. Parking was a challenge and there had been a campaign to raise the profile of the issue however there had been negative feedback from the national press following a letter drop by the police to residents telling them about safe parking places. A lot of schools suffered from parking problems and the police did what they could to ensure that road safety was not affected.

Councillor English stated that there were parking problems at Moorside due to people parking for work at Doxford International; on a daily basis there was obstructive parking from repeat offenders who would block pavements and would park on blind corners; the width of the road was reduced so much by the parking that it was unlikely that an emergency services vehicle would be able to get along the road. Inspector Southwell stated that issues such as this required a long term approach; for example the implementation of parking permits; he appreciated that it was an important issue but there was a need to ensure that the correct course of action was taken to address the issue in the long term. Councillor English then stated that alternative parking provision and the introduction of park and ride services was being looked at. The police had sent letters to nuisance parkers and then the next day the vehicles were parked in the same place; he felt that more action needed to be taken against offenders.

Councillor Hodson referred to the operation to tackle burglaries and queried whether the reduction in burglaries also included a reduction in thefts from rear yards by people going round the back lanes in vans. Inspector Southwell stated that this issue had reduced since the changes in the legislation around the sale of scrap metal; it used to be a major issue within the Long Streets area of Hendon. There was still an issue around burglaries of vacant properties.

In response to a query from Councillor M. Dixon, Inspector Southwell advised that the police tried to feed as much information back to councillors as possible however operational sensitivity sometimes prevented information from being provided in addition to it not being possible to inform councillors of everything that occurred in their area as there would be too much information provided.

The Chairman thanked Inspector Southwell for his report and it was:-

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

### **Gentoo Update**

Catherine Loftus was in attendance to provide an update to the Committee. She advised that the roll out of universal credit was the main issue for Gentoo at the moment. There were currently 400 customers who were receiving universal credit however the full service would be implemented from 25<sup>th</sup> July. There was a need to ensure that support was provided to families who would be claiming universal credit. Gentoo would have a universal credit champion for each area to provide support and there was also work being done with the council and DWP to put staff in the job centres to provide assistance. Staff would be trained on universal credit from 2<sup>nd</sup> July. There had been a planning application for the final phase of redevelopment of Doxford Park submitted; this application was for 113 new homes of which 10 percent would be for affordable rent.

Councillor Mordey expressed concerns over the reduction in janitorial support within the tower blocks in Hendon; residents of Darcy Court had submitted a petition as a result of this. Ms Loftus advised that there had been issues within the service and in order to address this there were interim contractors being used to ensure that services continued to be provided. There were usually two janitors for each block however currently there was only one with the second being a temporary contractor; the intention was to restore the service to having a full complement of permanent janitors. She had attended the Darcy Court residents meeting to explain the situation to them and if residents were not happy then they should contact their local coordinator who would be doing a weekly walk around of their area. She also agreed to meet with ward members to discuss this.

Councillor Hodson commented that there was an issue in the Solar House car park where there was a large bump in the ground between the disabled

parking spaces and the entrance to the block; he had raised this issue with Gentoo over a year ago and there had been some hazard markings painted onto the bump however nothing had been done since to address this issue. Since then a resident had fallen due to this bump and had suffered injuries; this was not the first time that someone had been hurt due to this defect. He stated that he understood that there were issues around ownership and liability and as such he had also raised the matter with the council and with the owners of The Bridges.

4. RESOLVED that the update from Gentoo be noted.

### **East Sunderland Area Place Board Proposed Priorities and Governance Arrangements for 2018/19**

The Chair of the East Sunderland Area Place Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Members with the proposed priorities and the governance arrangements for the Place Board for 2018/19 and which sought Members consideration and approval of these.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

The Chair of the Place Board, Councillor E. Gibson, introduced the report and presented Members with an overview of the proposed priorities which were set out in paragraph 3.2 and in the work plan at annex 1.

In response to a query from Councillor P. Wood relating to the Vipa Cameras Ms Trueman advised that there had been an update to the last board meeting and there would be further updates to future meetings. Councillor Mordey commented that there had been successes across the area from the use of the cameras with a number of successful prosecutions being made. There was an issue around the staff time involved in the use of the cameras and a wide range of tactics to address fly tipping were being looked at.

5. RESOLVED that:-
  - a. The East Sunderland Area Place Board work plan for 2018/19, as set out in section 3 of the report and annex 1, be approved
  - b. The governance arrangements set out in section 4 and annex 2 be approved.

### **East Sunderland Area People Board Proposed Priorities and Governance Arrangements for 2018/19**

The Chair of the East Sunderland Area People Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with the proposed priorities and the governance arrangements for the People Board for 2018/19 and which sought Members consideration and approval of these.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

The Chair of the People Board, Councillor Marshall, presented the report and presented Members with an overview of the proposed priorities which were set out in paragraph 3.2 and in the work plan at annex 1.

Councillor English commented that it was fantastic to see the collaborations between the volunteer groups who were working for the betterment of the area.

6. RESOLVED that:-

- a. The East Sunderland Area People Board work plan for 2018/19 as set out in section 3 of the report and in annex 1 be approved
- b. The governance arrangements set out in section 4 and annex 2 be approved.

### **Area Budgets Report**

The Head of Member Support and Community Partnerships submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Members with an update on the financial statements for Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) and Community Chest.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

The Members who had declared interests in the applications withdrew from the meeting and as the Chair had withdrawn from the meeting the Vice-Chairman, Councillor E. Gibson, took the Chair for this item.

Ms Trueman presented the report and advised Members that the starting SIB budget for the year was £464,320 and that there were requests for funding totalling £275,924 which were recommended for approval; these requests were detailed in Annexes 1 to 6. Members were also being asked to reject the application set out in annex 7. Members were also being asked to align £50,000 each to two new priorities which were set out in annexes 8 and 9.

Ms Trueman then drew Members attention to the Community Chest financial statement which was set out in section 3 of the report. Members were asked to note the 6 approved applications.

Consideration having been given to the applications it was:-

7. RESOLVED that:-

- a. The financial statements set out in sections 2 and 3 be noted.
- b. The six SIB projects totalling £275,924, as set out in annexes 1 to 6 be approved.

- c. The two SIB applications totalling £6,500 as set out in annex 7 be refused.
- d. £50,000 be aligned against the new maximising community assets priority as set out in annex 8 and £50,000 be aligned against the new valuing volunteers priority as set out in annex 9.
- e. £28,020 of funding from Sunderland City Council to support activities for young people be accepted.
- f. The Community Chest financial position and the 6 approved funding proposals as set out in annex 10 be noted.

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

Current Planning Applications relating to the East Sunderland Area for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April to 29<sup>th</sup> May 2018 were submitted for Members information only (copy circulated).

(For copy report – see original minutes)

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

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

(Signed)

E. BALL,  
Chairman.

E. GIBSON,  
Vice-Chairman.