

At a meeting of the WASHINGTON AREA COMMITTEE held at WASHINGTON FIRE STATION, MAIN HEADQUARTERS on THURSDAY 10TH APRIL, 2014 at 6.00 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Scaplehorn in the Chair

Councillors Farthing, Fletcher, Kelly, Lauchlan, F. Miller, G. Miller, Padgett, Dianne Snowdon, David Snowdon, Thompson, H. Trueman, Walker and Williams.

Karon Purvis	-	Chief Executives
Charlotte Burnham	-	Chief Executives
David Hardy	-	City Services
Rhiannon Hood	-	Commercial and Corporate Services
Paul Wood	-	Commercial and Corporate Services
Julie Gray	-	People Services Directorate
Victoria French	-	People Services Directorate
Alison O'Neill	-	People Services Directorate
Nonnie Crawford	-	Director of Public Health
Ian Parkin	-	Design Services
Craig Jobson	-	City Services
John Rostron	-	VCS Representative
Steve Graham	-	TWFRS
Colin McCartney	-	Gentoo
Karen Makepeace	-	Sunderland Live
Zoe Channing	-	Sunderland Live
Rima Yousif	-	Watson Batty Architects
Bas Samberg	-	Pellikaan Construction
Patrick van de Brake	-	Pellikaan Construction

Members of the Washington Community.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor D. Trueman. Neil Revely, John Chapman, Jane Eland, Kasia Kurowska, Julie Parker-Walton and Louise Butler.

Declarations of Interest

Item 3 – Sunderland Live Presentation

Councillor Walker made an open declaration as a director of Sunderland Live

Item 8 – Financial Statement and Proposals for further allocation of Resources

Councillor Bernard Scaplehorn made an open declaration as a former member of the Washington Trust and left the room during the consideration of the application.

Councillor John Kelly made an open declaration as the Chair of Washington Trust and left the room during consideration of the application.

Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 14th January, 2014

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 14th January, 2014 (copy circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Change in Order of Business

The Chair advised that the Washington Leisure Centre Update would be moved up the agenda to Item 2b in order to allow the representatives that had travelled a great deal to be here the opportunity to leave earlier.

Partner Agency Reports

(a) Report of the Washington Area Community Voluntary Sector Network

The Washington Area Community Voluntary Sector Network submitted a report (copy circulated) to inform the Committee of activity, progress, issues and concerns of the sector.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

John Rostron, VCS Representative, advised that the three representatives were still trying to find new ways to support and engage with the smaller Community Groups and they were awaiting the Councils review as it would be interesting to see their approach and they looked forward to having that meeting.

2. RESOLVED that Members noted the contents of the report and considered the opportunities and issues raised by the Washington ACVSN.

(b) Washington Leisure Centre Update

Julie Gray, Head of Community Services presented proposed images of the new Washington Leisure Centre and advised the Committee that works had already started on the site. Ms Gray then introduced Rima Yousif and Patrick Van De Brake,

the Architect/Developers working on the project who provided a powerpoint presentation of the development proposed.

(For copy of PowerPoint presentation – see original minutes)

In response to an enquiry from Councillor David Snowdon as to how many Sunderland businesses had tendered for works, Mr Van de Brake advised that there were up to 10-15 but there were no targets on how many people they would employ as yet as it had to be economically viable. Links with the local employment agencies had been implemented to try and hire local people.

Councillor Farthing commented on the layout of the water slides and queried if condensation would drop into the pool. Ms Yousif advised that due to the mechanical ventilation system being so enhanced, it would eliminate any condensation and would create a comfortable environment.

Councillor Farthing commented that she had visited the leisure centre at Hetton Le Hole and had been impressed with the seating area and queried if the Washington Centre would have a similar sized area.

Ms Yousif advised that there would be a slightly bigger seating area at the Washington Leisure Centre.

Councillor David Snowdon enquired if the same contractors were being used on this site as the ones used for Hetton Le Hole. Mr Van de Brake advised that some of them would be used.

Councillor Kelly wished to thank everyone concerned with the work that had been carried out on this project and the fantastic facility everyone would be proud of. The work was astounding and as they were on site now, hopefully they were ahead of schedule. The whole team had really worked hard and achieved a great deal for the money invested.

The Chairman agreed with Councillor Kelly's comments and also wished to thank the architects and developers for attending the meeting to give an update.

3. RESOLVED that Members considered the presentation given on the update of the Washington Leisure Centre.

Sunderland Live Presentation

Karen Makepeace, Sunderland Live provided a Powerpoint Presentation on the background of the Sunderland Live Company and the services they catered for and could offer in the future.

(For copy of PowerPoint presentation – see original minutes)

Councillor H Trueman commented that there was due to be a spectacular Christmas event in the new square and enquired if Sunderland Live would be working with the

Council on this. Ms Makepeace advised that they would be working with various partners for this.

Councillor Kelly commented that all new events seemed to be city centre orientated and enquired when they would be coming out to do Heritage events and such like in other areas.

Zoe Channing, Sunderland Live, advised that they were busy putting in applications for events in Washington and when they were speaking to partners, all areas were considered and as a company they would continue to do this.

Councillor Dianne Snowdon queried if the Triathlon Pink was to be based in Silksworth. Ms Makepeace advised that they were still finalising the route but primarily they were keen to base the event around the Stadium of Light but would keep Members updated on this.

Councillor Snowdon commented that once the new pool at the Leisure Centre was operational then triathlons and other such events could be based there as the Green Spaces project was also being implemented, Washington would have a lot to offer.

4. RESOLVED that the presentation be received and noted.

Maximising the use made of Green and Other Space in Areas to Improve Health and Happiness.

The Director of Public Health submitted a report (copy circulated) to inform the Committee that the Sunderland TPCT, now the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) released £100k to Area Committees (£20k per area) to support improvement to mental and physical wellness through a combination of approaches aimed at facilitating local people's access to, and use of, local greenspace.

The report sought to provide background information to support Members in considering the future use of that funding in line with determining its Area priorities for the year ahead.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

In response to the Chairman's enquiry, Nonnie Crawford, Director of Public Health advised that the seed money could be used towards existing projects.

5. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Area Committee Annual Report 2013-14

The Chair of the Washington Area Committee submitted a report (copy circulated) for Members to approve the Washington Committee's Annual Report as part of the combined Area Committee Annual Report 2013-14, to be presented to Full Council.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

The Chairman commented that we had tackled a great deal with the funding that had been made available and we were starting to see the difference made with projects such as the Village Centre Improvements Project.

In relation to the Concord Traders Initiative, we intended to have a retail specialist in place imminently. The Adult Social Care Scheme had been very successful and the next round of funding for the Washington 50 programme of events deadline would be 14th April and there were some excellent projects coming through.

The Chairman commented that the Washington Youth Council had been implemented to promote positive images of young people in the area and the planned debates would be excellent for them.

In relation to the Washington Business Centre, Mrs Purvis agreed to speak with Berni Whittaker to arrange a visit of the site for Members.

The Chairman wished to thank David Hardy and his Area Response Team for their work over the year and also Cllr Kelly and the directorate for the success over the Library Services Review.

The Chairman commented that it had been a hard year, but they had tackled a good number of things whilst dealing with the cuts. The Chairman also advised that he had enjoyed working with the Partners and believed they had improved the neighbourhoods and the look of Washington, whilst receiving positive feedback.

With regards to the VCS, the Chairman commented that this was a big project of which Members needed to be involved in as part of their roles as Community Leaders.

The Chairman also commented that he felt the Committee should be proud of the work that has been carried out and there would be discussions on setting the priorities for the next year.

Councillor G. Miller also wished to highlight the good work carried out by Councillor David Snowdon in relation to the Employment and Enterprise work.

The Chairman agreed and commented that the Area Boards had undertaken a great deal of successful work and felt all Members could agree that they were working better now and he was happy with the way they were progressing and there was no reason this couldn't carry on. At this stage they would be looking at the priorities at the June Area Committee meeting and all Members were invited to attend the Board meetings on the 14th and 15th May for the initial discussions.

Councillor G. Miller commented that all Members should be on the Area Boards.

6. RESOLVED that Members considered and approved the Washington Annual Report for inclusion in the combined Area Committee Annual Report for 2013-14.

Place Board – Progress Report

The Chair of the Place Board submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide the Committee with an update of progress against the current years (2013/14) Place Board Work Plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Dianne Snowden, Chair of the Place Board presented the report and advised that many of the updates had been mentioned earlier and that all Members were invited to the next meeting of the Board to discuss the priorities for the upcoming year.

The Chairman commented that should any Members be unable to attend but had possible priorities they wanted considering, these could be submitted via email etc.

7. RESOLVED that the Committee

- i) Considered the progress and performance update with regard to the Washington Place Board's Work Plan for 2013/14 as detailed in Annex 1 of the report
- ii) Considered and agreed the recommendations of the Place Board regarding the Highways Maintenance programmes for Washington for 2014/2015 (attached at Annex 3 of the report)

People Board – Progress Report

The Chair of the People Board submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide the Committee with an update of progress against the current years (2013/14) People Board Work Plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Williams presented the report and advised that Biddick School was working with Nissan and had secured 20 apprenticeships. Councillor Williams also commented on the need for consideration of the Skills Conference and enquired if Members wished to discuss this or if they were happy for the Board to bring a proposal/recommendation to a future meeting.

Councillor Kelly commented that the People Board work, especially around the health agenda had been outstanding and felt it had been really positive in how it had addressed issues and he hoped it continued, especially in relation to the Green Spaces project which would be a real benefit to the area.

Councillor G. Miller referred to the skills conference and commented that he was disappointed Members were only finding out about the clash of dates with a city event now and he did not see how we could now run the event in July.

Councillor Williams also expressed her disappointment and commented that it should have been better planned but we were in this situation now and there was a need to progress.

Councillor G. Miller commented that this was a serious issue and he would like Members concerns to be fed back to the officer responsible that this shouldn't have been dropped but he did accept that we would have to go with what we can do now.

Mrs Purvis advised that the Officer had attended the last Board meeting with possible options after being informed of the work discovery week and enquired if Members wanted to go with what we had or if they wanted to do something different and the Officer would progress with whatever Members decided.

Councillor David Snowdon wished to echo Councillor G. Miller's concerns and commented that with the opening of the Washington Business Centre they didn't want to waste an opportunity. Mrs Purvis advised that they could still utilise the Washington Business Centre opening.

Councillor Dianne Snowdon informed the Committee that the LMAP meetings would now run on a 10 week cycle but she was still the representative should Members wish to contact her.

8. RESOLVED that the Committee

- (i) Considered the progress and performance update with regards to the Washington People Board Work Plan for 2013/2014
- (ii) Noted the attendance of Officers at the next People Board to discuss and consider the refreshed Children and Young People's Plan and to determine how influence can be achieved at a local level; and
- (iii) Considered the People Board recommendations in relation to identifying options for the proposed Washington Skills Conference.

Financial Statement and Proposals for further allocation of Resources

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) that would benefit the area and to note the Community Chest initiatives that would benefit the area.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

With Regards to SIB Application No. 1, Councillor Scaplehorn had made an open declaration and left the room during consideration of this application, therefore Councillor Williams took the Chair during this item.

Mrs Purvis advised that now additional information had been received on the application as requested, Officers were able to give a recommendation as detailed in the circulatory report (For copy of circulatory report – see original minutes).

Mrs Purvis commented that she presumed Members questions had now been answered via the circulatory report and requested consideration on the two options as detailed therein.

Councillor H. Trueman commented that Members had considered the options and it was a worthy project they had wanted for some time. Members were satisfied with the receipt of the information they had requested and he felt that the first option of 1 years funding wouldn't provide us with the opportunity to get the best person for the job and therefore proposed the option to approve 2 years funding subject to the checks and balances as the best way forward.

Councillor G. Miller seconded the proposal and all Members agreed to Option 2 as detailed in the circulatory report.

With regards to the Call for Projects and the Washington Village Christmas Festival Application, Councillor Williams requested a level of sensitivity and the inclusion of Ward Members in managing the event. Ms Makepeace advised that she would take on board Members comments.

In relation to the Washington 50 celebrations, Mrs Purvis advised that she would liaise with Corporate Communications to see if there had been a cost for publicising on the Sunderland Echo website.

Councillor Kelly referred to the Community Chest and that Members had been led to believe the remaining funds would be withdrawn if unallocated at the end of the year. This was subsequently not the case, and Councillor Kelly requested that information be shared better with Members in the future.

9. RESOLVED that the Committee:-

- i) Noted the financial statements set out in the report.
- ii) Approved the allocation of £7000 SIB for the Washington Health Champions Dementia Awareness project
- iii) Approved the allocation of £74,850 SIB for the Washington VCS Support Project (Option 2)
- iv) Approved the SIB Call for Project application for Washington Illuminations – Sunderland Live, as detailed in Annex 2 of the report totalling £10,000
- v) Approved SIB Call for Project application for Washington Village Christmas Festival – Sunderland Live, as detailed in Annex 2 of the report totalling £10,000

- vi) Noted the allocation of £13,894 SIB (2013/14 budget Call for Projects) to support Round 1 applications for the Washington 50 Community Programme as detailed in Annex 3 of the report
- vii) Noted the 11 applications for Community Chest agreed and supported from the 2013/14 allocation, as set out in Annex 4 of the report.

Planning Applications – For Information Only

Current Planning Applications relating to the Washington Area for the period 1st March to 23rd March 2014 were submitted for Members information only (copy circulated).

(For copy report – see original minutes)

10 RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting

(Signed) B. SCAPLEHORN,
Chairman.