

At a meeting of the EAST SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE, SUNDERLAND on MONDAY, 12th MARCH, 2018 at 5.30p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Ball in the Chair

Councillors M. Dixon, English, E. Gibson, Hodson, Hunt, Kay, Marshall, McClennan, Mordey, Oliver, O'Neil, Scanlan and Wood.

Also Present:-

Phil Baker	- Acting Inspector, Northumbria Police
Joanne Cooper	- VCS Representative
Alan Duffy	- Head of Operations, Gentoo
Steve Graham	- Station Manager, TWFRS
Matthew Jackson	- Governance Services Officer, Sunderland City Council
Julie Maven	- VCS Representative
Sam Rennison	- Chief Inspector, Northumbria Police
Gillian Robinson	- Area Co-ordinator, Sunderland City Council
Nicky Rowland	- Environmental Services Manager, Sunderland City Council
Jamie Southwell	- Inspector, Northumbria Police
Nicol Trueman	- Area Officer, Sunderland City Council

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received on behalf of Councillor Emerson together with Lisa Wilson-Riddell

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 Cleaner Communities 2 call for projects.

Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 13th November, 2017

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 13th November, 2017 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

VCS Area Network Progress Report

The Chairman welcomed Joanne Cooper and Julie Maven who had replaced Hazel Clark and Jen McKevitt as the East Area VCS Network representatives. She thanked Ms Clark and Ms McKevitt for their hard work and provided an update on the work of the VCS Network since the last Area Committee meeting.

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

Northumbria Police Update

Inspector Southwell introduced the new Chief Inspector for the area, Sam Rennison, and also the new acting Inspector, Phil Baker, who would be covering the East Area while Inspector Southwell was acting Chief Inspector in South Shields. There had been other staffing changes within the area; an officer who had previously left Hendon to complete his sergeant's training had now returned to Hendon. There would be an acting sergeant appointed for the Doxford and Ryhope area for 5 months while the sergeant was working on the Tall Ships race.

Inspector Southwell then introduced the crime statistics for the area; he advised that burglaries of dwellings had reduced however there were still issues with daytime burglaries and also overnight sneak-in burglaries where residents had left doors or windows insecure; offenders would walk around the streets trying the doors of houses and cars. Work was being done to tackle this and there had been an arrest made.

The city centre, Hendon and Millfield were the hotspot areas for vehicle crime and there was an operation ongoing to target this. There were additional resources being deployed however it was important for drivers to ensure that they secured their vehicles as the majority of the offences were thefts from unlocked vehicles.

Within Millfield there had been a spate of offences against elderly residents; the offender had been caught and charged with a number of offences and was currently remanded into custody.

There had been an issue around a large group of youths who had been travelling on the metro and committing violent assaults against lone males; an

operation had been set up to target this issue and there had been 33 arrests made and the core group of ringleaders had been identified.

There had been antisocial behaviour issues at Ryhope Cricket Club and also in Doxford Park; the LMAPS had agreed to fund anti-vandal paint for the containers at the cricket club and officers had spoken to youths at Doxford Park.

Councillor English commented that the antisocial behaviour issue had been raised at the PACT meeting; there had been concerns that there were youths moving from the park to subways and there had allegedly been an assault on a resident. Inspector Southwell advised that the feasibility of installing 3G cameras in the subways was being looked at. It was always a possibility that moving on youths simply displaced the antisocial behaviour. There would be 48hour dispersal orders issued to youths responsible for antisocial behaviour and so far this was having the desired effect.

Councillor Hunt advised that there was an issue with people taking drugs behind Esdale; Inspector Southwell advised that there were lighting issues in the area and the Council had been approached to see if the lighting could be improved; Nicky Rowland added that the lighting was the responsibility of Aurora rather than the Council and also stated that the possibility of installing CCTV was being looked at.

Councillor Hodson commented that there was offensive graffiti in Millfield which made allegations against a named person; some of the graffiti had been removed however some on private property remained. Inspector Southwell advised that offensive graffiti would normally be removed immediately however some property owners refused to allow the graffiti to be removed; Ms Rowland added that it was not possible to remove the graffiti from private property without permission from the owner. Chief Inspector Rennison agreed to speak to Councillor Hodson outside of the meeting to look at how to address this. Councillor McClennan queried what would happen where land owners could not be traced. Ms Rowland advised that where there was a nuisance being caused then a remedial notice could be issued and that there would be checks with the land registry to try and identify the owner; if the notice was not complied with then the Council could carry out the remedial works.

Councillor Wood commented that within his ward there were concerns over doorstep cold callers trying to sell dusters and other cleaning products who were behaving aggressively towards residents. Inspector Southwell acknowledged that it was a concern and stated that residents should be encouraged not to open the door if they do not know the caller; there had not been any reports of these sellers being linked to crimes such as distraction burglaries however the products they were selling were often overpriced.

Councillor M. Dixon stated that there had been concerns for residents about antisocial behaviour and suspicious vehicle movements on the access to Tunstall Hill. Acting Sergeant Baker advised that he was aware of antisocial

behaviour issues however the vehicles were a new issue; he would look into the matter. Work was being done between the East and West teams to tackle the problems as the land was within the West area however the issues affected the East area.

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

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

Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service Update

Station Manager Steve Graham was in attendance to provide the update on the work of the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue service. Within the last three months there had not been any fatalities from fires; the free home fire safety checks were continuing and as well as targeting vulnerable areas anyone could request a check to be carried out. Education was an important factor as a lot of primary (house) fires were as a result of flytipped waste being set alight in gardens and back lanes. There had been two injuries as a result of fires; these had been due to a chip pan fire and a fire caused by a faulty light bulb.

There had been 5 deliberate primary fires; the day after such a fire the crews would attend the area to offer fire safety advice to residents. There were concerns over derelict properties and regular checks were carried out to ensure that they were still secured; the fire service tried to get derelict properties boarded up or demolished.

There had been 13 deliberate vehicle fires in the last three months.

There had been 40 deliberate secondary fires, which included rubbish fires, which was a reduction from the 60 during the same period last year. 12 of these fires had been wheelie bin fires. There had been a tour of the problem areas and it had been identified that there had been a lot of flytipping in some of the back lanes; there had been leaflets distributed in these areas to tell residents of the fire risk. Work was also being done in conjunction with the police and local schools. It was suggested that 3G cameras could be used in the hotspot areas.

4. RESOLVED that the update from Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service be noted.

Gentoo Update

Alan Duffy was in attendance to provide an update to the Committee. He advised that the new allocations scheme had come into force in September 2017 and there had been reminders sent to customers last week to encourage them to sign up to the new system. It was expected that there would be an increase in registrations over the coming weeks. There had been

changes to policies and mental health needs were now considered in addition to physical disabilities. For new build properties the allocations would be based on the date of registration rather than the banding of the applicant. There had been a review of the policy for homeless people and now the policy was in line with the council policy where there would be one reasonable offer of housing made rather than the three offers which were made previously.

Councillor Hodson queried whether there was any update on the review of tower blocks in the city which was carried out following the Grenfell Tower fire; Mr Duffy advised that there had been an interim report produced but there had not been any recommendations published yet; there had been a fire risk assessment carried out at tower blocks which was an annual occurrence and this assessment had identified minor issues which had now been addressed.

Councillor M. Dixon referred to a resident who had their gas fire replaced with an electric fire; Mr Duffy advised that it was unusual as Gentoo would normally just remove the fire without replacing it as the central heating system was deemed to be sufficient; Councillor M. Dixon expressed concerns about this, especially for elderly residents or young families who may need the extra heat and who also may only have single glazed windows. Mr Duffy stated that the houses would have been checked to ensure that they were deemed to be thermally acceptable and there was a schedule for the replacement of single glazed windows.

5. RESOLVED that the update from Gentoo be noted.

East Sunderland Area Place Board Progress Report

The Chair of the East Sunderland Area Place Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Members with an update on the work of the Board against the work plan for 2017/18

(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 work done by the board which included the recommendations of the priority list for works under the Highways Maintenance programme and updates on Local Services, Cleaner Communities, the Community Furniture Re-use Network and the Tall Ships race.

Nicky Rowland then provided an update to the Committee on the environmental enforcement activities. The Vipa cameras were continuing to be used and there had been successes as a result of the use of these cameras with 5 flytippers being caught in the last year. In the coming weeks there would be a full redeployment of the cameras. The cameras were time consuming to operate. The locations the cameras were used in were not advertised.

The Chairman commented that there had been complaints from residents of Cherry Tree Close about dog fouling in the subway; there needed to be a dog waste bin installed at the subway.

6. RESOLVED that:-

- a. The East Sunderland Area Place Board Work Plan, set out at annex 1, be noted.
- b. The recommendations in respect of the Highways Maintenance Programme 2018/19, as set out in Annex 2 be agreed.
- c. The Cleansing and Grass Cutting schedule of works for 2018/19 as set out in Annex 3 be approved.
- d. The Place Board's recommendation to approve £56,640 SIB funding to support projects delivered against the work plan, covering clean ups and a tall ships mural be noted.

East Sunderland Area People Board Progress Report

The Chair of the East Sunderland Area People Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with an update on the work of the board against its work plan for 2017/18.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

The Chair of the People Board, Councillor Marshall, presented the report and advised Members of the work done by the Board which included updates on the Healthy Steps priority; raising the standards of health and housing in the hostels; the East Digital Inclusion Hub; the East Community Connector Hubs; Stepping Up and the E-Learning Lounge.

7. RESOLVED that:-

- a. The People Board's work plan as set out in annex 1 be noted.
- b. The progress reports against the work plan relating to the Stepping Up, Healthy Steps, E-learning lounge, and Improving Lives Together partnership be noted.
- c. The People Board's recommendation to approve an alignment of £210,000 SIB to carry out two calls for projects relating to two elements of a digital inclusion programme and continuing the community connectors model for 2018 be noted.
- d. The proposal for the underspend of £10,800 to be used to support and continue the hostel work under the remit of the 'improving lives together partnership' be agreed and a future update on the progress be received.

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)

Ms Trueman presented the report and advised Members of the remaining SIB balance which was set out in the financial statement at section 2 of the report. There were four applications for SIB funding and four calls for projects and all were recommended for approval. Should they all be approved there would be a remaining budget of £32,075 remaining which would be carried over into the new financial year.

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 17 approved applications.

Consideration having been given to the applications it was:-

8. RESOLVED that:-

- a. The financial statements set out in sections 2 and 3 be noted.
- b. The four proposals for SIB funding totalling £79,938 as set out at annex 1 be agreed.
- c. £210,000 of SIB be aligned to enable three calls for projects to be carried out, as set out at annex 2
- d. £25,000 of SIB be aligned from the Think BIG area priority to enable a call for projects to be carried out as set out in Annex 3.
- e. The Community Chest financial position and the seventeen approved funding proposals as set out in annex 4 be noted.

Planning Applications – For Information Only

Current Planning Applications relating to the East Sunderland Area for the period 1st January to 28th February 2018 were submitted for Members information only (copy circulated).

(For copy report – see original minutes)

9. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

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

(Signed) E. BALL,
Chairman.