

**At a meeting of the WEST SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in FARRINGDON YOUTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE, ALLENDALE ROAD, SUNDERLAND on WEDNESDAY 20<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 2019 at 5.30 p.m.**

**Present:-**

Councillor P. Gibson in the Chair

Councillors, Atkinson, Blackett, Galbraith, Haswell, Porthouse, G. Smith, P. Smith, Tye, Waller, Waters, Watson, and K. Wood.

**Also Present:-**

Fiona Brown	Executive Director of Neighbourhoods	Sunderland City Council
Kevin Burns	Station Manager	Tyne & Wear Fire & Rescue Service
Alan Duffy	Head of Operations	Gentoo
David Hardy	Area Response Manager	Sunderland City Council
Joanne Laverick	VCS Network Representative	Youth Almighty
Bill Leach	VCS Network Representative	Pennywell Com. Centre
Catherine Loftus	Head of Operations	Gentoo
David Noon	Principal Governance Services Officer	Sunderland City Council
Helen Peverley	West Area Co-ordinator	Sunderland City Council
Marie Pollock	Inspector	Northumbria Police
Gilly Stanley	Area Community Development Lead	Sunderland City Council

**Chairman's Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting especially those attending their first West Sunderland Area Committee and introductions were made.

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors D. Dixon, Mullen, O'Brien and A. Wilson and also on behalf of Andrea Lanaghan.

**Declarations of Interest**

Item 5 – Financial Statement and proposals for further allocation of resources.

Councillor Atkinson declared an interest as a board member of Youth Almighty and withdrew from the meeting during consideration of the item.

Councillor Tye declared an interest as the Chair of Youth Almighty and withdrew from the meeting during consideration of the item.

Councillor K. Wood declared an interest as a member of Pallion Action Group and the Parker Trust and withdrew from the meeting during consideration of the item.

### **Minutes of the Last Meeting**

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2018 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

### **Change in the Order of Business**

The Chairman advised that he was going to take item 4c on the agenda (Report of the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service) at this juncture to allow Station Master Burns to leave thereafter and attend the meeting of the Coalfield Area Committee.

### **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 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2018 to 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2019 with particular reference to the L133 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 also been no deliberate property fires during this period, a decrease on the previous year when there had been 3. Mr Burns then addressed questions and comments from Members thereon.

Councillor Haswell informed Mr Burns of an issue discussed at the East Sunderland Area Committee earlier in the week regarding an individual spotted setting light to numerous wheelie bins in Neville Road which also ran into the West Area. Mr Burns advised that he would liaise with Station Manager Shaun Makin regarding the incident.

Councillor Tye referred to Mr Burns' comments regarding there being no apparent reasons for the Sunday and Tuesday spikes in ASB fires and noted that Tuesday was the only night when there was no youth provision in the area. In response to a further enquiry from Councillor Tye, Mr Burns confirmed that the appliance sent to the loose refuse fire in Silksworth on 30<sup>th</sup> December, 2018 was a Targeted Response Vehicle.

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

2. RESOLVED the report be received and noted

## **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 2018/19 Action Plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Galbraith 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 Highway Maintenance Capital Programme, Supporting local Shopping Centres, Developing a West Cleaner and Greener Programme, West Walk and Talk Programme and Safety Works as at 11<sup>th</sup> March, 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 2018/19 as detailed in Annex 1 to the report be noted;
- iii) approval be given to the West Sunderland Local Services Area Delivery Plan for 2019/20 and to the delegation of the responsibility to oversee the development and delivery of the Plan to the Place Board as detailed in Annex 2;
- iv) approval be given to the recommendations of the Place Board in respect of the West Highway Capital Maintenance Programme for 2019/20 as detailed in Annex 3
- iii) consideration be given to the financial issues arising from the Place Board report later in the meeting at item 7 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 2018/19 Action Plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Watson 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 the partnership with Sunderland Clinical Commissioning Group, Working with Vulnerable Communities, the West School Transition Project, Holiday Hunger, School Attendance, Community Led Local Delivery (CLLD) EU funding, West Leaving Care Project, West NEET Project and Tackling Worklessness and Raising Aspirations as at 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2018

In response to an enquiry from Councillor P. Smith, the Chair confirmed that there had been no meetings of the West Children's Centre Advisory Board. Work was currently ongoing to secure attendance from parental representatives.

There being no further 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 2018/19 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 7 on the agenda.

### **Report of the West Area Voluntary and Community Sector Network (AVCSN)**

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 Bill 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 November, 2018:-

- i) the delivery of 39 unique and tailored projects, as part of the 'Working with Vulnerable Communities' programme. Following one of the projects, the VCS organisation was then able to secure £32,000 external grant funding to enable then to continue to deliver for another 2.5 years.
- ii) the delivery of the SIB West NEET project across the West via one lead agent and 3 delivery agents using the contacts and skills the VCS have in the sector to remove barriers for the young people. So far 31 young people had been successfully recruited onto the project with 19 young people progressed into education, training or employment. The providers were also working closely with Together for Children and other providers across the city to ensure a strategic approach was taken to support the city's most vulnerable young people to gain credible opportunities for their future.
- iii) partnership working with the West Area team to prepare for the event in June 2019 in Barnes Park, focusing on the environment, clean, green and energy efficiency.
- iv) the delivery stage for the West VCS projects who were successful in securing EU CLLD Funding, and the regular meetings with the Area team and each other to maintain a strong working partnership to support each other, sign post and maximise outputs for residents.

- v) the recent city-wide Neighbourhood Planning Workshop Event in February,
- vi) The regular receipt by the VCS network of GRANTfinder and NEPO opportunities.

The Chairman having thanked Mr Leach for his report, it was:-

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

### **Report of the Northumbria Police – Sunderland West**

Inspector Marie Pollock of Northumbria Police presented a report (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with an update on the Force's most recent performance indicators for the period 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2018 to 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2019.

Particular reference was paid to crime levels in relation to violent crime, vehicle crime, burglary residential, burglary business and community and hate crime.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

In addition Inspector Pollock briefed members on:-

- i) the Police priorities for 2018/19, namely:-

Anti-Social Behaviour.

Child Sexual Exploitation, Domestic Abuse and Serious Sexual Offending.

Counter Terrorism and Domestic Extremism.

Signal Crime (Emerging Crime).

Organised Crime. (Human Trafficking / Foreign nationals / Modern day Slavery).

Cyber Crime.

- ii) Community Engagement,

- iii) Anti-Social Behaviour matters including the introduction of the Darker Nights Campaign and the launch of Operation Kamadeva which targeted several pockets of youth disorder in hot spots across the area,

- iv) Motorcycle Disorder, including the launch of Operation Adjust 2 and the successful deployment of DNA Selecta Spray and Body to assist in identifying offenders.

- v) Forward Planning and Forthcoming Engagement

- vi) Staffing matters

Inspector Pollock then proceeded to address questions and comments from Members.

Councillor P. Smith asked for further information in respect of drug crime as there were no references detailed in the report. In particular she expressed concern at a potential link between drug crime and county lines exploitation. Inspector Pollock explained the

difficulties in presenting statistics regarding crimes involving drugs. The Force had seen major reductions in the numbers of its statisticians which were now down to just a team of two. There was the difficulty in that drugs may be a factor in a variety of crimes which were notified via different reporting streams or on a need to know basis especially if linked to organised crime. At a local level there was a move to increase the use of stop and search however it was not a power that could be used arbitrarily and Officers were required to have specific grounds to do so. She advised that a school had approached her following rumours circulating that it had a drugs problem. A drugs dog had been sent to the school which was found to be clean. She shared Councillor Smith's concern regarding the potential for county lines exploitation and reassured her that Officers were aware of the issue.

Councillor Tye expressed his concerns regarding the current staffing position in the West Sunderland area. He advised of a Silksworth residents meeting held earlier in the week where concerns were raised that police officers were no longer seen in the area. Mick Urwin had not been replaced and PCSO Glenn Devlin was now being lost to Sunderland Central. Councillor Tye also queried the position regarding the 'My Northumbria' App which Councillors had been asked to draw to the attention of residents but which now appeared to be dormant. Inspector Pollock advised that she would investigate if there was an issue with the App and report back.

Councillor Haswell thanked Inspector Pollock for the force's recent work in Pallion and in attempting to tackle the problem of off road motorbikes. He shared Councillor Tye's concerns regarding staffing. He stated that at its last meeting the Committee had heard that the staffing restructure would have been completed by now and that it would be just a case of filling the outstanding vacancies. The Committee was now being told that the restructure was being placed on hold and it was concerned that vacancies would not be filled as promised. In response to the concerns raised by Councillors Tye and Haswell, Inspector Pollock advised that the force had recently appointed a new Deputy Chief Constable who wished to place the restructure on hold while she carried out a review of resources and an internal consultation. Councillor Haswell reiterated that members' main concern was to see that the existing vacancies were filled.

Councillor Porthouse referred to Inspector Pollock's comments that the PACT meetings were discontinued because of poor attendances and contended that in reality the poor attendances were down to the fact that the meetings had not been advertised. He stated that the Committee were not blaming Inspector Pollock personally and were conscious that the Force was subject to the same cuts in resources being faced by the public sector generally. In closing he paid tribute to PCSO Devlin for the work he had undertaken and the assistance he had provided to local Councillors.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Wood, Inspector Pollock advised she would look at the best mechanism for providing police contacts to appropriate community representatives and report back to the Committee.

There being no further questions or comments for Inspector Pollock, the Chairman thanked her for her attendance and it was:-

6. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

## **Report of Gentoo**

Alan Duffy, Head of Operations, Gentoo Group presented a report (copy circulated) which briefed the Committee on Gentoo developments, projects and priorities undertaken during the period November, 2018 to March 2018, including implications arising from the roll out of Universal Credit, the closure of the cash office facilities at the Houghton Skyline and Southwick offices following a decline in footfall, the review of Gentoo's Janitor Service and the granting of a planning application to transform Gentoo's vacant land on the old Pennywell Estate site at Chester Gate.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

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

7. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

## **Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) and Community Chest – Financial Statement and Proposals for Further Allocation of Resources**

The Head of Member Support and Community Partnership submitted a report (copy circulated) in respect of the above matter.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Helen Peverley, Area Coordinator, presented the report highlighting the Committee's financial statement, details of 36 projects approved under delegated powers for support from the 2018/19 Community Chest budget and details of proposals for the allocation of SIB funding. Ms Peverley drew members attention to the table in paragraph 3.1 detailing Community Chest spend for 2018/2019 and advised that since the publication of the report the outstanding balances in respect of Pallion and St. Anne's wards had now been spent leaving a balance of zero.

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

8. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the Area Committee's funding statement be received and noted;
- (ii) approval be given to the allocation of £12,000 SIB funding to the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service to support the Phoenix Project as detailed in Annex 1 of the report;
- (iii) approval be given to the allocation of £799 SIB funding as an additional resource to support delivery of the West Digital Skills Programme as detailed in Annex 2 of the report;
- (iv) the match funding of £25,000 from Public Health to support the delivery of future West health priorities, (as detailed in paragraph 2.3 of the report), be accepted;

- (v) approval be given to the allocation of £7,088 SIB funding to be matched to the match funding of £25,000 from Public Health to support the delivery of future West health priorities, (as detailed in paragraph 2.3 of the report);
- (vi) approval be given to the allocation of £45,000 SIB funding to Sunderland North Community Business Centre (SNCBC) to deliver a West Clean and Green Programme as detailed in Annex 3 of the report; and
- (vii) the approval of the 36 Community Chest applications from the 2018/19 budget as detailed in Annex 4 of the report be noted;

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

(Signed) P. GIBSON,  
Chairman.