

At a meeting of the NORTH SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held at COMMITTEE ROOM 2, CIVIC CENTRE, SUNDERLAND on THURSDAY, 5th JUNE, 2008 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Bell in the Chair

Councillors Foster, G. Hall, Leadbitter, Shattock, J. Walton and L. Walton

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the Committee on behalf of Councillors Copeland, Francis, Howe, Stewart, Symonds and N. Wright

Minutes of the last Meeting

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee (copy circulated) held on 6th March, 2008 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Declarations of Interest

The respective Councillors declared interests in the undermentioned items of business as follows:-

Item 8 – Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) : Regeneration Issues Report

Councillor Hall declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the application from Fulwell Junior School as a parent of a child who attended the school and left the meeting during consideration of the application.

Councillor Foster declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the application from the Eco Schools as a council appointed governor of one of the schools involved in the project.

Councillor Bell declared a personal interest in the application from Kicks SAFC as a season ticket holder at SAFC.

Councillor Foster declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the application from Kicks SAFC as a member on the board of the Football

Foundation and withdrew from the meeting prior to consideration of the application.

Item 11 – Roker Park Play Area

Councillor L. Walton declared a personal interest in the item as a friend of Roker Park.

Item 13 – History Fair 2008

Councillor Hall declared a personal interest in the item as Chairman of Sunderland Voluntary Life Brigade who had participated in some of the events.

Item 14 – Festivals and Events in Sunderland

Councillor Hall declared a personal interest in the item as a member of the Remembrance Parade Organisation Committee.

Presentation from Northumbria Police on Crime Rates Relating to the North Sunderland Area

Inspector Gardner presented a statistics document (copy circulated) illustrating crime, detection and arrest management information for the North Sunderland Area and also providing data on the number of youth related disorder incidents recorded.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Inspector Gardner reported that the information he had provided was at a neighbourhood area level rather than Ward area and advised that there had been an overall reduction in crime and disorder of 11.6%, which translated to 533 less incidents of crime. He updated the Committee on crime rates as follows:-

Criminal Damage	15.4% reduction	232 less incidents
Violent Crime	2.3% reduction	168 less incidents
Violence against a person	3.2% increase	19 more incidents
Harassment and Assault	8.2% reduction	25 less incidents
Robbery	40% reduction	18 less incidents
Vehicle Crime	16.4% reduction	95 less incidents
Burglary Dwelling	37.9% reduction	86 less incidents
Drug Offences	49.4% increase	39 more incidents

Councillor Foster congratulated the Inspector on the figures and the dramatic improvements that had been made in the Hylton Castle, Town End Farm and Downhill areas.

Members sought clarification on the sanction detection figures and Inspector Gardner advised that these figures showed where an offender had been

caught and punished by the Crown Prosecution Service. In the case of taking without consent the number of offences had decreased with the number of sanctions detected increased which could be due to a serial offender being caught.

Councillor Hall advised that he had recently been on a ward walkabout with Councillor Leadbitter and the physical presence of the police along the seafront had been noticeable. He commended this and looked forward to it resulting in reductions in future crime figures.

The Chairman having congratulated the Inspector on behalf of the Committee, it was:-

2. RESOLVED that the statistics report be received and noted.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Local Multi-Agency Problem Solving Group

The Local Multi-Agency Problem Solving Group (LMAPS) submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with the report of the minutes of their meetings held on 18th March and 22nd April, 2008 for information.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Inspector Gardner presented the report and advised that this report was in a new format summarising the minutes of the previous meetings of the LMAPS groups.

Having answered Members' queries on the minutes of the LMAPS Group, the Chairman thanked Inspector Gardner for his attendance at the meeting, and it was:-

3. RESOLVED that the report of the LMAPS group held on 18th March and 22nd April, 2008 be received and noted.

Children and Young People's Participation Strategy 2008-2013

The Director of Children's Service submitted a report (copy circulated) which gave Members feedback from the consultation process on the participation strategy.

(for copy report – see original minutes).

Mr. John Markall, Planning and Commissioning Manager, gave the Committee a presentation on the draft of the Children and Young People's Participation Strategy 2008-2013 and welcomed views from Members on how Children and Young People could become more involved in the decision making process for the North Sunderland area.

Mr. Markall was thanked for his presentation and it was:-

4. RESOLVED that the presentation and report on the first draft of the participation strategy be received and noted.

Residents Survey – Future of Adult Social Care 2007

The Performance and Information Manager (Health, Housing and Adult Services) submitted a report (copy circulated) which informed Members of the results of a residents survey about the future of adult social care for 2007 which was undertaken as part of the Council's planning in responding to the Government White Paper "Our health, Our Care, Our Say".

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Mr. Paul Allen, Research and Performance Management Officer, presented the report explaining to the Committee how the Council would use the information and what would be the follow-on actions to provide a more localised engagement with residents about their needs and preferences.

Councillor J. Walton asked how many residents had responded to the survey and was advised of the 2,800 sent out, 18% of those were completed and returned.

When asked if it would be better to circulate the survey to more residents to get a bigger return on them, Mr. Allen advised that there was a statutory representation of the general population that needed to be reached to make the figures useable and the 18% exceeded this. If the number of surveys distributed was doubled this would not necessarily then double the number of returns. He informed the Committee that the next challenge was for the survey to become more localised and tailored to individual areas of the city.

Councillor Hall referred to the use of personal budgets and raised concerns over ensuring that they were being used for the right purposes. Mr. Allen explained that there would be an audit trail in place whereby users were expected on a regular basis to provide evidence to support their expenditure. The system model in so not rolled out fully yet and governing arrangements were consistently being looked at to ensure support and guidance was in place for users of the system.

Mr. Allen having answered Member's queries on the survey was thanked for his report and it was:-

5. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted for information.

Strategic Initiative Budget (SIB) : Regeneration Issues Report

The Chief Executive (Acting) submitted a report (copy circulated) outlining proposals for the allocation of Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) to support the following new initiatives to benefit the area:-

- (i) Fulwell Junior School Centenary Celebration;
- (ii) Kool Kids;
- (iii) Little Tiggers;
- (iv) Intensive Preventative Family Intervention Project;
- (v) Woolwich Close;
- (vi) Hylton Castle Primary School;
- (vii) Eco Schools;
- (viii) Kicks SAFC Project; and
- (ix) Variation and Extension of previously agreed funding for projects.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Joanne Frater and Ms. Barbara Handford presented the application in respect of Fulwell Junior School, Ms. Deloris Martin presented the application in respect of Kool Kids, Ms. Jackie Brazier presented the application in respect of Little Tiggers, Ms. Clare Lavender and Ms. D. Bracken presented the application in respect of the Intensive Preventative Family Intervention Project, Mr. Steven Gales presented the application in respect of Woolwich Close, Ms. Elaine Armstrong presented the application in respect of Hylton Castle Primary School, Mr. Sam Palombella presented the application in respect of Eco Schools, Ms. Lesley Spuhler presented the application in respect of Kicks SAFC and Ms. Sue Bartlett presented the applications for variation and extension of previously agreed funding for projects.

The representatives having answered Members' questions, it was:-

6. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) approval be given to the allocation of SIB funding of £11,000 from the 2008/09 budget as a contribution to the Fulwell Junior School Centenary Celebrations;
- (ii) approval be given to the allocation of SIB funding of £5,000 from the 2008/09 budget as a contribution towards the £21,000 required to relay the playing surface at Fulwell Junior School;
- (iii) approval be given to the allocation of SIB funding of £15,920 from the 2008/09 budget as a contribution towards the Kool Kids Project;
- (iv) approval be given to the allocation of SIB funding of £11,649 from the 2008/09 budget as a contribution towards a Volunteer Coordinator for Little Tiggers for six month gap funding;
- (v) approval be given to the allocation of SIB funding of £30,000 from the 2008/09 budget as a contribution towards the Intensive Preventative Family Intervention Project;

- (vi) approval be given to the allocation of SIB funding of £25,000 from the 2008/09 budget as a contribution towards the installation of secure door enclosure with entry system at Woolwich Close, Witherwack;
- (vii) approval be given to the allocation of SIB funding of £17,550 from the 2008/09 budget as a contribution towards the improvement of outdoor play facilities for pupils and community users of Hylton Castle Primary School;
- (viii) approval be given to the allocation of SIB funding of £10,000 from the 2008/09 budget as a contribution towards the Eco Schools in Sunderland Project;
- (ix) approval be given to the allocation of SIB funding of £23,500 from the 2008/09 budget as a contribution towards the Kicks SAFC Project; and
- (x) approval be given to the variation and extension of previously agreed funding for the following projects:-
 - Phoenix Project - £4,400
 - European Package Development Project - £15,294
 - North Community Support Project - £27,417

Regeneration Issues Report : Feedback on Projects Previously Funded Through Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB)

The Chief Executive (Acting) submitted a report (copy circulated) providing information to the Area Committee on expenditure from the SIB toward the Sunderland North Youth Equipment Loan Scheme for Sunderland North Community Business Centre in May 2005.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

The Chairman welcomed Ms. Estelle Brown from SNCBC and having her feedback report and answered Members' questions, it was:-

7. RESOLVED that the presentation of the feedback report be received and noted.

Strategic Initiatives Budget Update

The Chief Executive (Acting) submitted a report (copy circulated) providing Members with an update on live projects for which the Area Committee had previously approved funding through its Strategic Initiative Budget.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

8. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Roker Park Play Area

The Director of Community and Cultural Services submitted a report (copy circulated) which updated Members with regard to the application to the Big Lottery Playful Ideas Programme, in respect of the potential refurbishment of the Roker Park Play Area.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Having considered the report, it was:-

9. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted for information.

Fulwell Windmill – Bi-Centenary Update

The Director of Community and Cultural Services submitted a report (copy circulated) updating Members on the Bi-Centenary of Fulwell Windmill which takes place throughout 2008.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Having considered the report, it was:-

10. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted and further updates be received throughout the year.

History Fair 2008

The Director of Community and Cultural Services submitted a report (copy circulated) which updated Members on the Sunderland History Fair 2008.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Having considered the report, it was:-

11. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted for information.

Festivals and Events in Sunderland

The Director of Community and Cultural Services submitted a report (copy circulated) updating Members on the events activity that took place within the city for the period 1 September 2007 – 31 March 2008.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Having considered the report, it was:-

12. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

World Book Day

The Director of Community and Cultural Services submitted a report (copy circulated) informing Members of World Book Day which had taken place on Thursday, 6 March, 2008.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

The Chairman congratulated those involved for their work during World Book Day and the build up to it and it was:-

13. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Northern Children's Book Festival

The Director of Community and Cultural Services submitted a report (copy circulated) which informed Members of the Northern Children's Book Festival which had been held from 5 – 17 November, 2007 culminating in the Gala Day at Crowtree Leisure Centre on Saturday 17 November, 2008.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Having considered the report, it was:-

14. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Library Community Health Programme Report

The Director of Community and Cultural Services submitted a report (copy circulated) updating Members on the Library Community Health Programme focussing on the drama and allotment projects and the Northern Way Worklessness Project.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Having considered the report, it was:-

15. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Strategic Initiatives Budget : 2008/09 Ward Based Community Chest

The Chief Executive (Acting) submitted a report (copy circulated) to bring forward 19 proposals relating to the 2008/09 Community Chest Scheme.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

16. RESOLVED that approval be given to the 19 proposals recommended for support from the 2008/09 Community Chest with a total value of £8,9201 as detailed in Annex 1 of the report.

Strategic Initiatives Budget: 2008/9 Ward Based Community Chest – the return of unclaimed approvals

The Chief Executive (Acting) submitted a report (copy circulated) to agree the return of funding for unclaimed community chest approvals from 2005/06 for re-allocation and to carry forward unallocated Community Chest budget from 2007/2008 into 2008/2009.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

17. RESOLVED that:

- (i) the return of unclaimed approvals from 2005/2006 for re-allocation be approved; and
- (ii) the Committee agree to carry forward unallocated Community Chest budget from 2007/2008 into 2008/2009.

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

(Signed) R. BELL,
Chairman.