

Item 1d

At a meeting of the WEST SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL, on WEDNESDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2022 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor P. Gibson in the Chair

Councillors, Ayre, Burnicle, Crosby, Dunn, Edgeworth, Greener, Haswell, Mann, McDonough, Mullen, Nicholson, Peacock, G. Smith and Tye.

Also Present:-

Phil Baker	Inspector, Northumbria Police
Steve Gordon	Head of Operations, Gentoo
Sarah Lattaway	Sunderland VCS Alliance Community Support Worker
Joanne Laverick	VCS Network Representative, Youth Almighty
Andy Nelson	Station Manager, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service
Karen Noble	VCS Network Representative, Pallion Action Group
David Noon	Principal Governance Services Officer, Sunderland City Council
Helen Peverley	Area Arrangements Strategic Manager, Sunderland City Council
Gilly Stanley	Area Community Development Lead, Sunderland City Council
Paul Wilson	Assistant Director of Finance, Corporate Services, Sunderland City Council

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors O'Brien, P. Smith and Watson.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Tye declared an interest in Item 4 on the agenda (West Sunderland Area Committee Budget Report) as Chairman of Youth Almighty and left the meeting at the appropriate point taking no part in any discussion or decision thereon.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 29th June, 2022 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Report of Northumbria Police

Inspector Baker of Northumbria Police presented a report (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with an update on key performance information in relation to the Sunderland West area for the period 1 July to 3 September 2022

(For copy report – see original minutes)

The Chairman thanked Insp Baker for his report and invited questions from the Committee. Insp Baker advised Members that he would not be discussing anything regarding on going operations given their sensitive nature and the fact it was a public Committee meeting. He would however be happy to arrange an external meeting outside of the Committee structure where he could discuss Members' concerns. He reminded Members that they had his phone number, and he would be happy to talk to individual Members at any time.

Councillor McDonough advised that he had received a number of complaints from residents who had witnessed crimes and had reported them while they were in progress, but no Police Officer had attended. Insp Baker replied that he had previously invited Members to a meeting to discuss and explain the Forces' deployment policy, however if a crime in progress was being witnessed, it was categorised as a grade 1 incident and a Police Officer should have attended.

Councillor Crosby advised that she had received regular reports from residents regarding youths out at night with dogs engaged in lamping in the Sandhill area and asked if Insp Baker could investigate.

Councillor Mullen highlighted the extensive use of cannabis and motorcycle disorder in his local park. In response Insp Baker advised that the Youth Bus was soon to be deployed at that location.

Councillor Peacock advised that he had spoken in previous Committee meetings of the possibility of using IT to develop a means for people to report crimes in a way that was not only faster than currently possible but also allowed the Police to identify hot spots. Insp. Baker replied that IT was not in his remit but he would pass Councillor Peacock's comments onto the relevant section.

There being no further questions or comments, the Chairman thanked Insp. Baker for his attendance and it was:-

2. RESOLVED the report be received and noted.

Report of the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service

Station Manager Andy Nelson presented a report of the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service (TWFRS) (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with an update on the Service's performance indicators for the period 1st April, 2022 to 6th September, 2022 with particular reference to the L133 Incidents (all deliberate fires).

(For copy report – see original minutes)

The Chairman thanked Mr Nelson for his report and invited questions from Members.

Councillor Haswell thanked the Fire and rescue service for their engagement in the Safe and Well campaign which had been greatly appreciated by residents. With regard to the planned engagement with secondary schools as part of the Darker Nights campaign he asked if the Link School in Pallion could also be included in the visits.

Councillor Greener referred to the cost of living crisis leading to the possibility of increased candle use and the dangers that would accompany this. Mr Nelson replied that it was a concern that the Service were well aware of. It was all about educating people about the dangers and communication would be ramped up in this regard, including leafleting people who did not have on line access.

There being no further questions or comments for Mr Nelson, it was:-

3. RESOLVED the report be received and noted

Report of Gentoo

Steve Gordon, Head of Operations, Gentoo Group presented a report, (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with an update on current Gentoo developments, projects and priorities for the period July to September 2022.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

The Chairman thanked Mr Gordon for his report and invited questions and comments from the Committee.

Councillor Mann paid tribute to the work undertaken by Vicky Gamblin and the Team to deliver phase one of the Pennywell regeneration scheme which had been well received by residents. She believed it would be a flag ship going forward and in this regard welcomed the recent Community Event and the improved communications with residents.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Dunn, Mr Gordon advised the Committee that he had been asked to devise a carpet scheme for the Gentoo Group. There was an issue however regarding the waste costs if the next tenant decided they didn't want the carpet.

Councillor Crosby thanked Mr Gordon for the grass cutting work undertaken by Gentoo that had helped reduce the number of grass fires in the area. In addition, Councillor Crosby asked for an update in respect of the outstanding fence repairs as residents had raised concerns over security. In reply, Mr Gordon stated that Gentoo now had a fencing plan in place. It was fair to say that the Group had been unprepared for the extent of the damage caused by Storm Arwen and the 2,500 damaged fences it had left in its wake. The situation had been triaged and priority given to those fences that were unsafe and those by roads. The repair work had been massively ramped up in recent weeks following a period when it had been extremely difficult to secure contractors.

Councillor Haswell noted that at a previous meeting, the Committee had been advised that once demolished, the former Havelock Office site would mostly likely be given over

to a housing development and asked if there were any updates. Mr Gordon replied that he was not aware of any further news regarding the site but would check and update Councillor Haswell accordingly.

There being no further questions or comments, the Chairman thanked Mr Gordon for his attendance and it was:-

4. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Report of the West Area Voluntary and Community Sector Network

The 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 Karen Noble which highlighted the following VCS Network activity undertaken since its last report to the Committee:-

- The delivery of the Barnes Park West Area Event by Youth Almighty with funding provided by the West Sunderland Area Committee. Held over 3 days, 15 schools from the West Area attended on the Thursday and Friday which amounted to 694 schoolchildren. It was estimated that the Saturday event was attended by 10,000 people.
- The distribution of Round 2 of the Sunderland City Council Household Support Funding. The VCS organisations had noticed an increase in demand and with funding ending in September were bracing themselves for increased pressure in the winter months to provide support for households as the cost of living crisis bit deeper.
- The invitation from Sunderland City Council & the West Area Committee to submit applications on a ward basis to deliver a series of environmental projects to clean up local neighbourhoods and communities.
- The delivery of activities by West Area partner organisations during the Summer Holidays
- The impending departure of Sunderland VCS Alliance West Community Support Worker, Sarah Lattaway, to take up a new job. – the Committee thanked Sarah for her hard work and support and wished her well in her new job.

There being no questions or comments for Ms Noble, the Chairman thanked her for report, and welcomed and introduced Sophie Clinton from Youth Almighty who provided the Committee with a brief presentation highlighting feedback on the 2022 Barnes Park West Area Event.

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

West Area Committee Delivery Plan 2020-2023

Councillor Haswell, Chair of the West Area Neighbourhoods and Community Board, presented the report (copy circulated) which:-

- i) Presented an annual performance update on the West Neighbourhood Investment Delivery Plan 2020-2023
- ii) Provided an update of progress against the Area Priorities associated with the Delivery Plan which would be the focus for the West Sunderland Area Committee during 2022 /23 and;
- iii) Provided an update on the Neighbourhood and Community Board Governance Arrangements for 2022 /23

(For copy report – see original minutes)

With regard to the Love Where you live update, Councillor Haswell advised the Committee that the West Area Neighbourhood and Community Board were making a recommendation to reject the application for £27,000 NF funding received from Community Opportunities in respect of the Clean it and Green it Pallion project in the light of the wish of the Pallion ward Members to adapt the Pallion Call for Project brief and readvertise the opportunity in October 2022.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Haswell for his report and it was:-

6. RESOLVED that:-

- i) the progress and performance update with regard to the West Neighbourhood Investment Delivery Plan 2020/23 be noted; and,
- ii) approval be given to the proposals for the future delivery as contained within Annex 1 of the report.

West Area Budget Report

The Assistant Director of Community Resilience submitted a report (copy circulated) in respect of the above matter.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Gilly Stanley Area Community Development Lead, presented the report highlighting the Committee's financial statement, details of projects approved under delegated powers for support from the 2022/23 Community Chest budget, together with details of proposals for the allocation of funds from the Neighbourhood Investment Fund.

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

7. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the Area Committee's funding statement as detailed in paragraphs 2.1 and 3.1 of the report be received and noted;
- (ii) Approval be given to the granting of NF funding of £40,000 to — Youth Almighty Project in respect of 2023 West Area Event as detailed in Item 4 Annex 1 of the report

- (iii) Approval be given to the granting of NF funding of £40,000 to — Youth Almighty Project in respect of the West Area Community Mini Bus as detailed in Item 4 Annex 1 of the report
- (iv) Approval be given to the granting of NF funding of £27,000 to – Community Opportunities in respect of Clean it and Green it Barnes as detailed in Item 4 Annex 1 of the report
- (v) Approval be given to the granting of NF funding of £26, 995 to – Youth Almighty Project in respect of the Sliksworth Ranger as detailed in Item 4 Annex 1 of the report
- (vi) Approval be given to the granting of NF funding of £27,000 to – Community Opportunities in respect of Clean it and Green it Sandhill as detailed in Item 4 Annex 1 of the report
- (vii) Approval be given to the granting of NF funding of £27,000 to – Community Opportunities in respect of Clean it and Green it St Anne's as detailed in Item 4 Annex 1 of the report
- (viii) Approval be given to the granting of NF funding of £26, 995 to – Youth Almighty Project in respect of the St Chad's Ranger as detailed in Item 4 Annex 1 of the report
- (ix) The application for NF funding of £27,000 received from Community Opportunities in respect of Clean it and Green it Pallion be rejected for the reasons detailed in Item 4 Annex 1 of the report
- (x) The application for NF funding of £20,000 received from Betsy Jenny Counselling and Wellbeing Café in respect of the Betsy Jenny Mini Bus Campaign be rejected for the reasons detailed in Item 4 Annex 1 of the report
- (xi) the approval of the 10 Community Chest applications from the 2022/23 budget as detailed in Annex 3 of the report be noted.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting having thanked everyone for their attendance and contributions.

(Signed) P. GIBSON,
Chairman.