

**At a meeting of the EAST SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL on MONDAY, 14<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 2022 at 5.30p.m.**

**Present:-**

Councillor E. Gibson in the Chair

Councillors Ali, M. Dixon, Fagan, PWL Gibson, Hodson, Potts, Reed, Scanlan, A. Wood and P. Wood

**Also Present:-**

Victoria Gamblin	-	Gentoo
Matthew Jackson	-	Principal Governance Services Officer, Sunderland City Council
Nicol McConnell	-	Area Community Development Lead, Sunderland City Council
Paul Muir	-	Group Engineer (Transportation Development), Sunderland City Council
K. Ramanathan	-	East Area VCS Network Representative
Lisa Riddell	-	Community Support Worker, Sunderland City Council
Jon Ritchie	-	Executive Director of Corporate Services, Sunderland City Council
Jamie Southwell	-	Neighbourhood Inspector, Northumbria Police

**Chairman's Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for Absence were received on behalf of Councillors Bewick, McClennan and Morrissey together with Shaun Makin

**Declarations of Interest**

Item 4 – Budget Report

The Chair made an open declaration on the Community Chest applications in respect of the application for Mill Hill Primary School

## **Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2021**

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2021 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

### **VCS Area Network Progress Report**

Ms Riddell presented the update from the VCS and advised that there had been 3 meetings since the last meeting of the Area Committee. at the December meeting there had been 22 organisations attend; this meeting had been held remotely using Teams. there had been a presentation to this meeting on CLLD funding and digital support for groups and there had also been information on the winter programmes shared by groups. The February meeting had been held face to face and had been attended by 30 groups. A presentation had been received from Crowdfund Sunderland and groups in the area had been encouraged to submit funding bids to this organisation. There had been information shared on the poverty network and the East in Bloom project had been promoted. At this meeting the network had also been informed of the launch of the VCS Alliance Facebook page and the launch of the Sunderland MIND bereavement programme. The march meeting had been held at St Michael's Community Centre and at this meeting groups attending had been encouraged to complete a survey of their facilities and views had been sought on how the Alliance should work.

The Chair thanked the VCS organisations and their volunteers for all of their hard work.

2. RESOLVED that the update from the VCS Network be noted.

### **Northumbria Police Update**

Neighbourhood Inspector Jamie Southwell provided the Committee with an update on the crime statistics for the East area and of the work done by Northumbria Police. In the A1 area which covered the City Centre, Millfield and Ashbrooke there had been a reduction in all crime of 18 percent. Burglaries had increased by 3 percent which was 5 offences which burglaries of premises other than dwellings had increased by 41 percent which was 38 offences; there had been a reduction in the number of offences following the arrests of offenders. Thefts from vehicles had reduced by 14 percent. Antisocial behaviour in the area had reduced by 26 percent which was 453 fewer incidents.

In the A2 area which covered Hendon, Grangetown and Ryhope there had been a reduction in total crime of 10 percent. Burglaries had reduced by 36 percent which was 58 fewer offences; burglaries of premises other than dwellings had increased by 80 percent which was 16 offences. Vehicle crime

had reduced by 55 percent which was 44 fewer offences. Antisocial behaviour had reduced by 36 percent.

Operation Flintstone had been taking place which had been tackling antisocial behaviour in the city centre; there had also been an operation targeting youth antisocial behaviour and a long term approach to youth antisocial behaviour was being developed; this was intended to divert young people away from antisocial behaviour.

There had been a number of warrants executed in respect of illegal drugs and there had also been successes in catching offenders for burglaries which had resulted in custodial sentences being issued.

Councillor Hodson advised that there was still a problem with graffiti in the area around the University and in Thornhill; residents walls were being targeted and there were regular occurrences of the same tags. Inspector Southwell agreed to discuss this with his team and provide an update.

Councillor Reed queried whether there was any information regarding how many fines had been issued by the speed camera vans under Operation Modero. Inspector Southwell advised that he expected that there would be and agreed to check with the road safety team. He advised that Operation Modero allowed people to nominate areas of concern which would then be investigated to identify whether it was a suitable location for enforcement.

Councillor M. Dixon queried whether there was any information regarding the fires that had occurred in Backhouse Park. Inspector Southwell advised that he had not yet managed to speak to Shaun Makin about this but would look into this and report back; he had asked his team to ensure that the park was included in their daily patrols and dispersal orders could be issued if there were people in the park who were a cause for concern.

The Chair asked about the report for Doxford Ward which had not been provided and Inspector Southwell agreed to get this report and circulate it; he had been speaking to the Inspector for this area.

Councillor Ali thanked Inspector Southwell for all of his hard work in reducing crime in the area and advised that there had been a reduction in the antisocial behaviour at Ryhope Recreation Park however this had now increased again. Inspector Southwell advised that this park fell under the area covered by the other team so he would feed this information back and ask the local Sergeant to provide an update.

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

### **Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service Update**

No representative was in attendance at the meeting but a written report was provided to the Committee.

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

### **Gentoo Update**

Vicky Gamblin was in attendance to provide an update from Gentoo. There was work ongoing to deal with the aftermath of the recent storms and there was a joint out of hours response service now in place. the focus had been on ensuring that vulnerable customers were safe and well. There was a backlog of non urgent repairs, on the Monday following Storm Malik there had been 3000 calls reporting damage.

Work had been done around allocations of properties and there was now a Voids Team in place who were focused on the whole process of allocation of properties; this was intended to reduce the re-letting times and improve customer service.

There was a requirement to prove to the safety regulator that residential buildings over 7 storeys complied with the requirements and were safe to occupy. In order to do this a safety officer had been recruited. Hedworth Court was the first building to undergo the in depth investigation and there would be a drone survey undertaken as well as intrusive checks of the fabric of the building; this survey was being linked in with the refurbishment works at the building.

Within Doxford there was work being undertaken to renew the timber balconies on properties. The three L tower blocks (Lambton, Londonderry and Lumley towers) in the East End were getting new smoke alarms installed in each flat. There had already been new smoke alarms installed in Benedict Court. The flats at City Green were having new windows installed.

Within the communal areas of the city centre tower blocks there had been automatically opening vents (AOVs) installed; these would improve fire safety by opening automatically if smoke was detected.

The redecoration works in the communal areas of the flats in Ashbrooke had been completed.

5. RESOLVED that the update from Gentoo be noted.

### **Nexus Update**

No representative from Nexus was in attendance.

### **Invest in Highways Update**

Paul Muir was in attendance to provide an update on speed enforcement as part of the Committee's Invest in Highways Priority.

There was the Northumbria Safer Roads Partnership which was comprised of 6 local authorities and Northumbria Police representatives. It was a police led partnership. The partnership finance and legal agreements would be considered by Cabinet in the coming months.

Operation Modero was proving to be very popular with between 250 and 300 sites having been put forward across the area. He was aware of the requests for the installation of fixed cameras on Essen Way and Stockton Road; there was currently a tender for the replacement of all existing fixed speed and red light cameras being produced.

Councillor Reed asked whether it was possible to get access to the data from mobile cameras and whether this could then be used to argue the case for fixed cameras at locations. Mr Muir advised that the data could be acquired and that it was intended to bring a report each year on speed enforcement in the area.

Councillor Reed then queried the speed surveys; he had been told that speeds of 34-35mph in 30mph limits were below the threshold for enforcement to be undertaken. Mr Muir advised that evidence was used when considering speed camera requests; whether enforcement or physical road changes were most appropriate was looked at.

Councillor P. Wood thanked Mr Muir for attending the meeting to provide an update; this matter had been a priority for the Committee for a long time and progress had been slow. He felt that it would be desirable for progress to be made more quickly; even once the partnership was established it was still a long way off the cameras actually being installed. He asked whether there was any way of speeding up the process such as undertaking speed surveys now. Mr Muir advised that feasibility works would be commenced prior to the establishment of the partnership and that tender specifications were currently being written. There had already been as much as possible done.

Councillor A. Wood asked whether the list of 10 identified sites could be provided. He also stated that in addition to the regular requests for traffic calming to be installed there were also requests from residents of some streets that traffic calming measures be removed; he asked whether this was able to be done. Mr Muir advised that the main request sites in the East Area were Stockton Road and Essen Way; the 10 sites were across the whole city. All requests for service were given consideration and he would speak to colleagues who were better placed to answer regarding traffic calming. Councillor A. Wood added that the traffic calming had been installed on streets which had now had one end blocked to prevent through traffic so the traffic calming was now unneeded.

Councillor Hodson referred to traffic calming and whether chicanes were now preferred over speed humps which crossed the whole width of the road. Mr

Muir advised that combinations of solutions were considered; there were often complaints from public transport operators when humps were proposed.

Councillor Reed commented that a scheme of road humps in Fulwell had recently been approved by the Planning and Highways (East) Committee.

6. RESOLVED that the update from Mr Muir be noted.

### **East Sunderland Area Neighbourhood Delivery Plan 2020 - 2023**

The Chair of the East Sunderland Area Neighbourhood and Community Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update on the East Area Committee Delivery Plan for 2020/2023.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor M. Dixon introduced the report and advised of the work that had been undertaken against the delivery plan since the last meeting of the Area Committee which was set out in the report.

Councillor Scanlan provided an update on the Enhance Local Greenspaces priority and advised that there would be visits to the cemeteries in the area to identify and understand the issues within them and what could be done to improve them. Further updates would be provided as the project progressed.

With regard to LMAPS it was noted that residents wanted to know hotspots for issues in their area so there was a need to understand whether there were any issues within specific areas. Councillor Hodson stated that there was some frustration around the LMAPS as issues raised often did not get satisfactorily resolved; he was grateful of when information was received on issues raised. He referred to an ongoing issue around a garage on Durham Road which was hugely frustrating as it had been ongoing for a long time and he had to keep going back to residents with no update on the situation. Councillor Scanlan commented that she had been told that individual issues were unable to be raised at LMAPS and that it should only be general issues that were raised; sometimes however it was the individual issues which were most important to residents. Mr Ritchie advised that similar concerns about LMAPS had been raised in other areas, it was apparent that the LMAPS were not working in their current form and he would look at escalating and feeding back the concerns to the relevant parties on behalf of all of the Area Committees.

Councillor M. Dixon then thanked everyone for their work over the last year to ensure that progress was made on the issues raised at the Boards; he stated that it had been a pleasure the chair the boards over the last year. He specifically thanked Ms McConnell for all of her hard work over the last year and also thanked Councillor Gibson for all of her work as Chair of the Area

Committee and wished her well for the future in her retirement from the Council.

7. RESOLVED that:-

- a. Consideration be given to the progress and performance updates with regard to the East Sunderland Area Neighbourhood and Community Board Delivery Plan 2020-23 and the proposals outlined for future delivery in Annex 1 be agreed
- b. The highways maintenance schedule programme 2022-23 as set out in annex 2 be agreed
- c. The Area Committee video update be noted.

### **East Area Budget Report**

The Assistant Director of Community Resilience submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided financial statements in respect of the Area Committee's delegated budgets and presented proposals for funding requests.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Ms McConnell presented the report and drew Members attention to the financial statements set out in the report and the applications for funding totalling £105,560 from the Neighbourhood Fund as set out in Annex 1. There was also an expression of interest for Neighbourhood Fund which was set out in Annex 2 and Members were asked to consider the alignment of £34,745 to this. There had been community chest grants approved and these were set out in annex 3.

8. RESOLVED that:-

- a. The financial statements set out in tables 1, 2 and 3 be noted
- b. Approval be given to request for funding from the Neighbourhood Fund, as set out in section 2.3 and annex 1, of:-
  - i. £95,560 to multiple lead agents to deliver the East Park Rangers Programme
  - ii. £10,000 to advertise, assess and approve applications to enable the delivery of celebration events in relation to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee before the next Area Committee
- c. Approval be given to the alignment of funding from the Neighbourhood Fund, as set out in section 2.6 and annex 2, of £34,745 to Sunderland MIND against the expression of interest to develop a community sports centre.
- d. The 13 approved Community Chest grants from the 2021/22 budget, as set out in Annex 3 be noted.

### **Planning Applications – For Information Only**

Current Planning Applications relating to the East Sunderland Area for the period 1<sup>st</sup> February to 4<sup>th</sup> March, 2022 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. GIBSON,  
Chairman.