

At a meeting of the WASHINGTON AREA COMMITTEE held in WASHINGTON MILLENIUM CENTRE, on THURSDAY, 20TH JUNE, 2019 at 6.00p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Lauchlan in the Chair

Councillors Armstrong, Farthing, Fletcher, Kelly, F. Miller, G. Miller, Taylor, D. Trueman, H. Trueman and Williams.

Also in Attendance:-

Ms. Louise Butler	-	Area Co-ordinator, Sunderland City Council
Mrs. Karon Purvis	-	Area Community Officer, Sunderland City Council
Mr. Jon Ritchie	-	Executive Director of Corporate Services, Sunderland City Council
Mr. Paul Wood	-	Principal Governance Services Officer, Sunderland City Council
Inspector Nick Gjorven	-	Northumbria Police
Mr. Colin McCartney	-	Gentoo
Ian Warne	-	TWFRS
Members of the Public	-	

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting, inviting introductions from those in attendance and advising of the right to record proceedings.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Scaplehorn, D. Snowdon, D.E. Snowdon and P. Walker and also Ms Sylvia Copley,

Declarations of Interest

Financial Statement and Proposals for further allocation of Resources

Item 6 – Annex 3 – Phoenix Project (Washington)

Councillor Taylor made an open declaration as Chair of the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority and left the room during consideration of the application.

Minutes of the last meeting held on 21st March 2019

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 21st March, 2018 be confirmed and signed as a correct record

Washington Area Committee Annual Report 2018-19

The Chair of the Washington Area Committee submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided the Washington Area Committee's Annual Report 2018-19.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

2. RESOLVED that Members noted the Washington Annual Report for inclusion in the combined Area Committee Annual Report for 2018-19

Partner Agency Reports – Washington Area Voluntary and Community Sector Network

The Voluntary and Community Sector Network submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update with regard to the Washington Area Community and Voluntary Sector Network.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Mrs Karon Purvis Area Officer, took the Committee through the report informing Members of activity, progress, issues and concerns of the sector.

Members having fully considered the report, it was: -

3. RESOLVED that the content of the report and the opportunities and issues raised by the Washington Area Voluntary and Community Sector Network be received and noted.

Partner Agency Reports – Northumbria Police

Northumbria Police submitted a verbal report and a circulatory report which provided an update on crime and disorder in the Washington area between 1st April 2019 and 15th June, 2019.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Inspector Nick Gjorven of Northumbria Police presented the report to the Committee on the current position with regards to crime and anti-social behaviour data and of any on-going issues in the Washington area.

Inspector Gjorven referred to the ASB figures and advised that these were relatively low in comparison to other areas across the city.

In relation to Burglary other than dwellings this was due to sheds and garages being broken into, funding had been provided for shed alarms to be given out so hopefully this would help tackle the issue.

Inspector Gjorven also advised of the work undertaken by the two teams within the area including a drugs warrant within Glebe resulting in over £20,000 of drugs being seized, money being seized and arrests made. This had been a great success all through community intelligence.

The teams had also targeted hot spots, seizing a number of alcohol and worked with licenses premises and schools in the area.

Councillor Williams referred to the Central Wards meeting with Gentoo and the Police to look at potential issues coming up in Glebe and enquired if this would be happening across all of Washington.

Colin McCartney, Gentoo, advised that this was something that could be shared across all areas of Washington and he could explore this further.

In response to Councillor Taylors query, Inspector Gjorven advised that officers were aware of youths congregating at James Steel Park, and also at Princess Anne Park.

Councillor Kelly raised the issue of disability scooters being unable to access underpasses, yet motorbikes could and requested consideration be given on this. Councillor Kelly also enquired if the ultra violet sprays had been useful. Inspector Gjorven advised that the sprays had not been activated yet but he would be able to bring back the figures for the next meeting.

Councillor Armstrong referred to the low figures for hate crimes and enquired if this had been down to a particular piece of work and if so, could this be shared with the rest of the City. Inspector Gjorven advised that they had worked closely with the schools but it could be that the residents of Washington were a more tolerant people.

Members thanked Inspector Gjorven for his informative report and thanked him for his attendance, and it was:-

4. RESOLVED that the update from the Northumbria Police be received and noted.

People Board Proposed Priorities and Governance Arrangements for 2019/2020

The Chairman of the Washington Area People Board submitted a report (copy circulated) to seek the Committees approval for priorities to be taken forward as part of the Work Plan for 2019/20 and to provide an update on People Board Governance Arrangements for 2019/20.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor D. Trueman presented the report and asked Members for further input and suggestions going forward.

In response to Councillor H. Trueman's call for a Washington State of the Area debate, Mrs Purvis advised that as part of the Area Arrangement Review they were looking at a Community engagement programme.

Councillor Kelly commented that he would be happy to support a Washington State of the Area debate with our key partners to be invited also.

Councillor Farthing suggested that if a debate were to take place it would allow for an opportunity for the Voluntary Sector to put up stalls to show what services were on offer.

Members having fully considered the report, it was:-

5. RESOLVED that the Committee:-
 - (i) Considered and agreed the Washington Area People Board Work Plan and Priorities for 2019/20 attached to the report as Item 4 Annex 1 and in paragraph 3.1 to 3.3 of the main report; and
 - (ii) Noted the Area Governance arrangements for 2019/20 outlined in Section4 of the report and Item 4 Annex 2.

Place Board Progress Report

The Chairman of the Washington Area Place Board submitted a report (copy circulated) to seek the Committees approval for priorities to be taken forward as part of the Work Plan for 2019/20 and to provide an update on Place Board Governance Arrangements for 2019/20.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor F. Miller presented the report and asked Members for further input and suggestions going forward.

Councillor H. Trueman wished to thank Colin McCartney for the presentation given in relation to the tree management strategy and now they were tagging all trees the information was invaluable.

Councillor Farthing welcomed the introduction of a tree management strategy on the agenda and suggested that this needed to be linked to our Carbon Strategy.

Councillor Kelly advised of the imminent departure of Ms Susan Williams from the Clean and Green Steering Board. Councillor Kelly advised that she had been an absolute asset to the Area and requested that a letter of thanks be sent out to Ms Williams as the Clean and Green work had been fantastic in inspiring lots of people to take pride in their areas.

Councillor G. Miller commented that he fully supported the Place Board proposals and that the Area Committee Report was great, however his concern was that residents never get to read or hear about the work that is carried out and he would like the Place Board to consider a mechanism of communicating what we are doing and focusing on what is being done on residents behalf in Washington.

Councillor G. Miller raised concern that we ran the risk of losing volunteers as we did not raise awareness or raise the profile of the Area Committee and we must tell residents what we are doing and ask them to work with us.

Mrs Purvis advised that they were looking at how they can get better at highlighting what they were working on and how to use our partners better. There was to be a programme of publicity and a communications plan to be added to each work plan.

Ms Margaret Stafford, a resident of Washington, agreed with Councillor G. Miller in relation to communications and that she struggled with the terminology used in the agenda papers. Ms Stafford confirmed that the Gentoo meetings had been very informative and that they needed the Council to get better with including the public.

Ms Stafford also confirmed that Ms Williams had been invaluable through her work on the Clean and Green Project.

Councillor Kelly advised that the North Sunderland Area Committee was working on a similar publication for communication that may be worth looking at and we most likely needed a bi-monthly newsletter.

Councillor Kelly also advised that he was happy to support the much needed Tree Management Strategy and also agreed that the capturing of carbon

needed to be explored in areas such as Princess Anne Park where he would like to see more traditional trees planted.

Councillor Taylor commented that he fully supported the proposals in the report and referred to the Road Safety schemes and enquired as to what had happened with the Community Speed Watch. The Committee was advised that the scheme had been doing well until the loss of 2 officers and it was suggested that the Fire Authority Officers may be able to step in and help with this.

Mrs Purvis advised that the next Place Board in July would be discussing Road Safety and finance proposals.

Members having fully considered the report, it was:-

6. RESOLVED that the Committee:-

- (i) Considered and agreed the Washington Area Place Board Work Plan Priorities for 2019/20 attached as Item 5 Annex 1 and in paragraph 3.1 to 3.3 of the main report; and
- (ii) Noted the Area Governance arrangements for 2019/20 outlined in Section 4 of the main report and Annex 2.

Financial Statement and Proposals for Further Allocation of Resources

The Assistant Director of Community Resilience submitted a report (copy circulated) which requested Members to give consideration to a financial statement as an up to date position in relation to the allocation of Strategic Initiatives Budget and Community Chest and presented proposals for further funding requests.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Mrs Purvis, presented the report drawing attention to the recommendations detailed within the report.

Councillor Kelly referred to paragraph 2.5 of the report with regards to the grant from Sunderland CCG and commented that he was keen for this to come to the People Board to discuss using the money to support initiatives already running and to add value to what we already have.

Councillor Farthing referred to paragraph 3.2 of the report and in relation to healthy relationships suggested that we speak to Harragate Foundation for input.

Mrs Purvis also advised that the Washington Youth Council had undertaken a survey on a whole range of issues which they could try and build into this.

With regards to paragraph 4.2 of the report and the Usworth Park improvement plan, Councillor Kelly commented that the priority had to be the

locking of the gates and also advised of events taking place in the park which leaflets would be produced and made available for Members.

Having fully discussed the applications and Members having had any questions answered, it was:-

8. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the financial statements as set out in the report be received and noted;
- (ii) £20,000 area funding for youth activity as detailed in Paragraph 2.4 of the report be accepted;
- (iii) £40,000 CCG funding as detailed in Paragraph 2.5 be accepted;
- (iv) approval be given for the award of £20,000 SIB funding from the 2019/20 budget for the Call for Projects and Project Brief for Positive Activities for Children and Young People Holiday Programme as detailed in Annex 1 to the report;
- (v) approval be given for the award of £40,000 SIB funding from the 2018/19 budget for the Call for Projects and Project Brief for the Washington Safe Care Project as detailed in Annex 2 of the report;
- (vi) approval be given for the award of £12,000 SIB funding from the 2019/20 budget for the Phoenix Project as detailed in Annex 3 and Paragraph 3.3 of the report;
- (vii) approval be given for the award of £50,000 SIB funding from the 2019/20 budget for a Washington Road Safety Scheme as detailed in Paragraph 4.1 and Annex 3 of the report;
- (viii) approval be given for the award (amended from report) of £30,000 SIB funding from the 2019/20 budget to deliver the Usworth Park Improvement Plan and agree Place Board to determine the final detail of the Project Brief and Call for Projects as detailed in Annex 4 of the report;
- (ix) the Washington Ward Improvement balances as detailed in Paragraph 5 of the report be noted; and
- (x) the Community Chest balances as detailed in Paragraph 6 and Annex 5 of the report be noted.

Planning Applications – For Information Only

Current Planning Applications relating to the Washington Area for the period 1st April, 2019 to 20th May, 2019 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) L. LAUHLAN,
Chairman.