

At a meeting of the EAST SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE, SUNDERLAND on MONDAY, 14th MARCH, 2016 at 5.30p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Ball in the Chair

Councillors M. Dixon, Emerson, English, Forbes, E. Gibson, Marshall, McClennan, Mordey, O'Neil, Price and Scanlan

Also Present:-

Hazel Clark	- VCS Representative
Alan Duffy	- Head of Operations, Gentoo
Paula Hunt	- VCS Representative
Matthew Jackson	- Governance Services Officer, Sunderland City Council
Sarah Reed	- Assistant Chief Executive & Area Lead Executive, Sunderland City Council
Gillian Robinson	- Area Co-ordinator, 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 Farr, Kay and Wood together with Jeff Boath, Jen McKevitt and Nicol Trueman.

Declarations of Interest

Item 6 – Area Budgets Report

Councillor Marshall declared that she was a Council appointed Member of the Box Youth Project.

Councillor McClennan declared that she was a Council appointed Member of CHANCE

Councillor Mordey declared that he was a Member of the board of the East Community Association

Councillor Price declared that he was a governor of Millfield Nursery.

Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 7th December, 2015

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 7th December, 2015 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

VCS Area Network Progress Report

Hazel Clark delivered a verbal update on the work of the VCS Network. There had been two meetings of the network and a number of presentations had been received including a presentation from Councillor H. Trueman on Devolution; and presentations from the CAB; Maritime Heritage; Sonora Trust and Connecting Coastal Communities.

The Chairman thanked Ms Clark for her report and it was:-

2. RESOLVED that the VCS Network progress report be noted.

Northumbria Police Update

Inspector Jamie Southwell presented the update from Northumbria Police; he advised that on Sunday there was the Tyne-Wear derby football match which was a significant operation for Northumbria Police. Each year there were changes made to the policing methods to ensure that while the policing method appeared to be relaxed there were sufficient resources in place. This year rather than having a convoy of coaches being escorted to St. James' Park there would instead be coaches leaving Sunderland as soon as they were full and no escort would be provided. Additional resources would be in place in Sunderland City Centre until the early hours of the morning to ensure the safety of supporters following the match.

There had been an incident where a window had been shot at; this had been part of a dispute between two organised criminal groups and an operation was underway to tackle this. There had been 21 arrests made in connection with this so far. It was important to note that incidents like this were very rare in Sunderland and it was not believed that there would be any risk to the general public.

Operation Impact was tackling burglaries of dwellings; there had been additional resources put into the area and at the weekend there had not been any burglaries.

Awards had been given including a national award for the shopwatch scheme being the best in England and also an award given to Paul Thomas in recognition of his work with the Bangladeshi community.

Inspector Southwell then introduced the crime figures for the central area. He advised that total crime had increased by 20 percent; this increase was much less than the increase in other sectors and was mainly due to changes in the reporting standards which saw many incidents being recorded as crimes which previously would not have been recorded.

Burglary of dwellings had reduced by 5 percent which was a reduction of 4 offences. Over the last 28 days there had only been 9 offences and on Friday there had been an offender imprisoned. Burglaries of properties other than dwellings had reduced by 10 percent which was 19 fewer crimes; there had been some offenders had been prosecuted however these were now back on the streets; they were being watched closely and were adhering to their bail conditions.

Shoplifting had reduced by 10 percent which was 76 fewer offences. There had also been a reduction in antisocial behaviour incidents with there being a 13 percent reduction which was 400 fewer offences; there had also been 115 fewer incidents of youth antisocial behaviour.

Inspector Southwell also informed Members of a disturbing incident which had occurred outside of the Fire Station where the police team were currently based. When two female officers had been returning to their cars after their shift late at night they had been threatened by a man with a large knife. There had not been any injuries and the man had been charged with the offence; he was not considered to be a threat to the general public.

Inspector Southwell then introduced the crime figures for the Hendon, Ryhope and Doxford area. He advised that as with other areas due to the changes in reporting standards there had been an increase in crime. This had also been due to violent crimes being reported at Hopewood Park Hospital; these violent crimes had not necessarily been actual violent crimes but could be incidents such as patients threatening to break windows.

Theft from motor vehicles had reduced by 28 percent however there was still a problem with smash and grab thefts where people had left valuables on display in parked cars.

Burglary of dwellings had reduced by 5 percent which was 4 fewer crimes. There had been no change in the number of burglaries of premises other than dwellings.

Shoplifting had increased by 7 offences; this was partly due to people stealing alcohol from petrol stations which did not have much CCTV coverage within the shop.

Antisocial behaviour had reduced by 5 percent which was 57 fewer incidents; youth antisocial behaviour had reduced by 25 percent which was 64 fewer incidents. This was in part due to the closure of the 'Hippydrome' store which had been supplying legal highs; there were now no stores in Sunderland which sold legal highs and this had helped to reduce antisocial behaviour

levels. Another store in the city centre had agreed not to sell legal highs and had been warned that if they did then it was likely they would be served with a closure order.

There had been work done to tackle the problem of bin-raking in the city centre and there had been prosecutions. There had also been work to tackle the beggars in the city centre; these were often the same people who were bin-raking and they were not homeless people but criminals with long and varied records. There had been 8 arrests for persistent begging and there had been large fines issued.

Councillor Mordey commented that he had heard from residents that the new police shop on Waterloo Place looked uninviting as the window was completely opaque. Inspector Southwell agreed and advised that it would be changed.

Councillor Emerson advised that he had been informed by residents that there were unusual activities taking place at Ryhope Dene. Inspector Southwell agreed to investigate.

Councillor Mordey referred to the historic antisocial behaviour issues in Sunnyside; as there was to be further investment in the area he asked whether there was still a problem with antisocial behaviour. Inspector Southwell advised that there were still some reports of problems which were mostly linked to tenants of certain bed and breakfast premises and their visitors.

The Chairman thanked Inspector Southwell for his presentation and it was:-

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

Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service Update

There was no update from Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service.

Gentoo Update

Mr Alan Duffy advised that he had nothing to report and welcomed any questions from Members.

Councillor Mordey queried how the work on the high rise properties in Hendon was progressing. He was informed that work was still ongoing to the schedule. There would be a report brought to the next meeting of the Area Committee.

4. RESOLVED that the information from Gentoo be noted.

East Sunderland Area Committee Annual Report 2015/16

The Chair of the East Sunderland Area Committee submitted a report (copy circulated) which sought Members approval of the annual report which would be included in the Area Committee Annual Report 2015/16 which would be presented to Full Council at its meeting in June.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Gillian Robinson introduced the report and advised the Committee of the work that had been done and the spending associated with it for the last year.

Councillor Mordey commented that it was pleasing to see the one page summary of the work done by the Committee and the Boards; the summary showed how hard they had been working over the last year.

Councillor M. Dixon referred to the camping exchange scheme and queried how well received the project was as the take-up had been limited in St Michael's Ward. Ms Robinson advised that the project was still in its early days and that it had been difficult to get schools on board in some wards. There had been a reasonable take-up within some of the wards.

5. RESOLVED that approval be given to the inclusion of the East Sunderland Area Committee Annual Report in the Combined Area Committee Annual Report 2015/16.

East Sunderland Area Place Board Progress Report

The Chair of the East Sunderland Area Place Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update on the work of the Place Board against the priorities set out in the work plan for 2015/16.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor E. Gibson introduced the report and advised the Committee of the work the board had done over the last year which was set out in the table at paragraph 2.1 of the report and also in the attached work plan.

Councillor Scanlan queried when Members would be receiving the list of Highways works to be carried out by the authority which was normally received before Members were asked to agree the additional works. Councillor Mordey advised that the list had not yet been signed off; it would be provided to Members once it was finalised.

Councillor Mordey advised that the rear lane of St Bede's Terrace would be removed from the Highways programme as he felt that there were front streets which were a higher priority. On the improving cycle ways priority he referred to enforcement action against vehicles parked obstructing cycle ways and advised that the Chief Constable had delegated powers to PCSOs to

issue tickets to vehicles which were parked obstructing cycle ways. Councillor McClennan asked that the police provide figures for the number of tickets issued for obstructing cycle ways in 6 months.

The Chairman then put the recommendations to the Committee and with all Members being in agreement it was:-

6. RESOLVED that:-

- a. The East Sunderland Area Place Board Work Plan as set out at Annex 1 be noted
- b. The additional resource secured by the heritage coast to connect coastal communities to their coastline be noted
- c. The progress made against the development of an East Sunderland Cycle Way Strategic Network Plan be noted and a future report be received.
- d. The list of streets for inclusion in the capital works under the Highways Maintenance Programme 2016/17 as set out in annex 2 be approved subject to the removal of the rear lane of St Bede's Terrace from the list.
- e. A report on the new RLS operating model be received at a future meeting of the Committee
- f. The Area Board support for the SIB pipeline projects as set out in Item 6 be noted
- g. It be noted that the development of the new Area Work Plan 2016/17 would commence in April 2016.

East Sunderland Area People Board Progress Report

The Chairman of the East Sunderland Area People Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with an update on the work of the People Board against the priorities set out in the work plan for 2015/16.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Marshall introduced the report and informed the Committee of the work done by the board which was set out in the table at paragraph 2.1 and in the work plan attached at annex 1.

Councillor Mordey referred to the Holiday Hunger priority and asked whether officers were confident that £15,000 would be sufficient for the project. Ms Robinson advised that it was expected to be but if it was not sufficient it would be possible to come back to the area committee for additional funding. Councillor Mordey then queried how much of this money would be spent on administration costs for the scheme. Ms Robinson advised that there would be minimal administration. When the project had last run the Children's Services department had provided some funding; there would be a call for projects and it would be necessary to see who responded to the call for projects.

Councillor Mordey then stated that some children who attended schools in the East area lived in the West area; he queried whether the scheme would be based on home address or which school the child attended. Ms Robinson advised that it was likely that the child's home address would be used to determine eligibility however the various options would be put to Members. Councillor M. Dixon stated that he thought that it would be better to base eligibility on which school the child attended; Councillor English added that including letters with school reports would be a good way of promoting the scheme to those who were eligible.

The recommendations were then put to the Committee and it was:-

7. RESOLVED that:-

- a. The East Sunderland Area People Board work plan as set out at annex1 be noted
- b. The recommendation to approve £15,000 of SIB funding towards the Holiday Hunger Scheme 2016 and £10,000 of SIB towards promoting alternative access to urgent care services across the East be noted
- c. The progress made against the community e-learning lounge and integrated health teams be noted
- d. The board's support for the SIN pipeline projects set out in the area budget report at item 6 be noted
- e. It be noted that the development of the new Area Work Plan for 2016/17 would commence in April 2016.

Area Budgets Report

The Head of Scrutiny and Area Arrangements submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Members with the financial statement which detailed the current position on progress in relation to allocations of SIB and Community Chest funding and which sought Members approval of proposals for funding.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Ms Robinson introduced the report and advised Members of the financial statements which were set out at paragraphs 2.1 and 3.1. Following the last meeting of the Committee there had been £203,577 SIB remaining to be allocated. There were proposals for approval totalling £202,000 which would leave £1,577 of SIB funding remaining at the end of the financial year 2015/16. These proposals were set out in paragraph 2.6 and in annex 1 to the report.

Since the last meeting of the Area Committee there had been 15 community chest applications approved which were detailed in annex 2. There was a balance of £12,458.59 remaining in the budget for the area to be allocated across the five wards.

8. RESOLVED that:-

- a. The financial statements set out in sections 2 and 3 be noted
- b. £10,000 be aligned to the 'reducing demand on A&E services' priority
- c. Funding of £9,661 be approved to fund five Community Leaders projects.
- d. £50,000 be aligned to the delivery of a series of environmental projects which would clean up communities
- e. £10,000 be aligned to provide a community assets transfer programme which would provide impartial guidance, support and advice on the management of community assets
- f. £50,000 be aligned to develop a 'Re-use Network' which would provide an alternative to the council's bulky waste collection service
- g. Approval be given to £2,000 being provided to the Council's Business Investment Team to carry out surveys and workshops with independent traders across the East Area
- h. £55,000 be aligned to establish an employment and enterprise programme for people with learning disabilities and/or autism
- i. £20,000 be aligned to enable the co-ordination of a social action and volunteering programme in Doxford, Millfield and St. Michael's complementing the Fourteen programme work being delivered in Hendon and Ryhope
- j. £15,000 be approved to support the rollout of a programme which would contribute towards reducing holiday hunger during the summer school holidays
- k. The 15 Community Chest approvals from the 2015/16 budget be noted.

Planning Applications – For Information Only

Current Planning Applications relating to the East Sunderland Area for the period 1st January to 16th February 2016 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. BALL,
Chairman.