

At a meeting of the WEST SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE, SUNDERLAND on THURSDAY, 3RD JULY, 2008 at 5.00 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor D. Forbes in the Chair

Councillors Gofton, Morrissey, J.B. Scott, S. Watson, A. Wilson and T. Wright.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Allan, Arnott, L. Martin, Old and P. Watson.

Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 10th April, 2008

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 10th April, 2008 (copy circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Declarations of Interest

Item 14 – Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) Regeneration Issues Report

Councillor T. Wright declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the report as Chairman of the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority and left the meeting during consideration of the Phoenix Project application.

Councillor S. Watson declared a personal interest in the Tansy Centre, Marketing and Development Project, as a user of the Centre.

Presentation from Northumbria Police on Crime Rates Relating to the West Area

The Chairman welcomed and introduced Sergeant Bruce Wild of Northumbria Police who presented a report detailing the statistics for total crime in the Sunderland West Area for the month of June 2008.

(For copy statistics – see original minutes).

Councillor Gofton welcomed the clarity of the new style statistics which provided an overall picture across the whole of the West Sunderland Area. The Chairman also welcomed the overall picture provided, but regretted that the detail previously provided on a Ward by Ward basis was now missing. Sgt. Wild confirmed that he would feed Members views back to Northumbria Police.

Councillor T. Wright stated that the decrease in recorded crime shown in the statistics was backed up by a general perception within his ward that crime was decreasing. He believed that what was important now was to tackle people's fear of crime. Sgt. Wild replied that measures were being taken to address this issue and that the Community Support Officers played a major role in providing reassurance to the public.

2. RESOLVED that the information provided in the crime statistics be received and noted.

Local Multi Agency Problem Solving Groups (LMAPs)

Consideration was given to a report of the West Area LMAP (copy circulated) on issues discussed at meetings of the LMAPs held on 8th April and 13th May, 2008.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

3. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Integrated Youth Strategy 2008 – 2011 : Consultation Document

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided details of the Draft Sunderland Integrated Youth Strategy 2008-2011 and the associated consultation process.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Norma Hardy, Head of Performance Improvement and Policy presented the report together with Kath Butchert, Integrated Youth Officer. Members were advised that the Strategy was based on government youth policy, from the initial green paper Youth Matters 2005 to Youth Matters Next Steps 2006 and the Education and Inspections Act 2006. All of these policies required Local Authorities to:-

- Establish Integrated Youth Support Services (IYSS) throughout England by December 2008;
- Work together across traditional boundaries to enable integrated delivery of frontline services;
- Engage all young people in constructive positive activities for a minimum of 2 hours per week.

Local Authorities had a statutory duty to ensure young people had access to a full range of positive activities within integrated frontline delivery. The Draft Strategy and associated consultation would support the Council and the Children's Trust in developing a fully integrated youth support service which was available to all young people and targeted support for those who needed it.

Members were advised that the consultation process would close in September 2008 and the results would be reported to the Committee in the autumn.

4. RESOLVED that the Integrated Youth Strategy 2008 to 2011 Consultation Document and the associated consultation process be supported.

Children and Young People's Participation Strategy 2008 – 2013

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report (copy circulated) which presented the draft of the Children and Young People's Participation Strategy following feedback from the consultation process.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Norah Stevens, Participation Officer presented the report advising that the Strategy would seek to:-

- Ensure all children and young people are given the opportunity, skills and support to actively participate in the decision making processes and shape the services they need;
- Provide a co-ordinated approach across the Children's Trust to developing a culture and practice of participation;
- Provide a framework for developing the safe, effective and genuine participation of children and young people across the Children's Trust;
- Embed children and young people's participation into all aspects of the Children's Trusts aiming for the highest level of children and young people's engagement.

5. RESOLVED that the report 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", specifically the development of the Council's 15 Year Commissioning Framework for Adult Social Care in its 3 year Delivery Plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Phillip Foster, Team Manager, 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.

6. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Proposed Programme for Heritage Open Days 2008

The Director of Community and Cultural Services submitted a report (copy circulated) which updated the Committee on arrangements for the Heritage Open Days Events to be held over the period 11th to 14th September, 2008.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Gofton, Sue Henderson, Project Development Manager replied that the events were publicised via a booklet, publicity in Tourist Information Offices, the Heritage Open Days Web Site and P.R. stories in the Sunderland Echo.

7. 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, 6th 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:-

8. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

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 1st September 2007 – 31st March 2008.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor T. Wright referred to the ice rink and expressed disappointment that it had been relocated away from Mowbray Park which seemed to be the most suitable venue. With regard to the Penshaw Bowl, he noted that although it had been held on its traditional date, it was unfortunate that this year it had not coincided with the

school holidays. He believed the Armistice commemoration was a great advert for Sunderland and suggested that to promote the educational aspect of the event, head boys/girls of the City's secondary schools be invited to lay wreaths at the ceremony.

In response to enquiries from Councillors S. Watson and Gofton, Ms. Henderson advised that she would provide them with a guide to events to be held at Herrington Country Park once it was available.

9. RESOLVED that the 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 Initiatives Budget.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

10. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

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

The Chief Executive (Acting) submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with information on the following project which it had previously funded through its SIB allocation:-

- Pallion Action Group's Outreach Welfare Rights Project

Richard Parry, Area Regeneration Officer, introduced Doreen Buckingham, Centre Manager and Annabelle Snowden, Senior Advice Worker in respect of the Project who proceeded to provide Members with a commentary on their feedback report and answer questions thereon.

The Chairman having thanked Ms. Buckingham and Ms. Snowball for their presentation, it was:-

11. RESOLVED that the feedback report be received and noted.

Urgent Item

In accordance with Section 100(B) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Chairman stated that the following item was to be considered at this meeting as a matter of urgent business as the Tansy Centre was scheduled to open in September and the West Area Committee would not meet again until 2nd October, 2008.

Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) : Regeneration Issues Report – The Tansy Centre, Marketing and Development

The Chief Executive (Acting) submitted a report (copy tabled) on the proposed allocation of Strategic Initiatives Budget funding totalling £14,527 in respect of the Tansy Centre, Marketing and Development Project.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

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

12. RESOLVED that approval be given to the granting of £14,527 Strategic Initiatives Budget funding to the South Hylton Community Centre in respect of the Tansy Centre, Marketing and Development Project.

Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) : Regeneration Issues Report

The Director of Development and Regeneration submitted a report (copy circulated) on the proposed allocation of Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) funding to support the following initiatives of benefit to the area:-

- (i) £9,006 as a contribution to Red Machine Allotment site's Improving Access Project;
- (ii) £25,000 as a contribution to St. Anne's Community Hall's Improvement Project;
- (iii) £24,670 as a contribution to Grindon Church Community Project's 'Natural Play Area' Project;
- (iv) £7,600 as a contribution to Plains Farm and Humbledon Community Initiative's 'Service Development Project'; and

A request for the extension and variation of previously agreed funding for the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service's 'Phoenix Project'.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Richard Parry, Area Regeneration Officer, presented the report and advised that the 4 applications for funding before the Committee were requesting £66,276 in total from the 2008/09 budget. Should the Committee grant these requests in addition to the award granted above to the Tansy Centre, a balance of £160,770 would be left in the budget.

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

13. RESOLVED that:-

- (a) approval be given to the allocation of Strategic Initiatives Budget funding of:-
 - (i) £9,006 as a contribution to Red Machine Allotment site's Improving Access project;
 - (ii) £25,000 as a contribution to St. Anne's Community Hall's Improvement Project;
 - (iii) £24,670 as a contribution to Grindon Church Community Project's 'Natural Play Area' project;
 - (iv) £7,600 as a contribution to Plains Farm and Humbledon Community Initiative's 'Service Development Project'; and
- (b) approval be given to the extension and variation of previously agreed funding for the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service's 'Phoenix Project' as detailed in Annex 3 to the report.

Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) 2008/09 Ward-Based Community Chest

The Director of Development and Regeneration submitted a report (copy circulated) on 15 projects recommended for support from the 2008/09 Community Chest Scheme in respect of the Barnes, Pallion, Sandhill and St. Anne's Wards.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

14. RESOLVED that approval be given to the 15 projects recommended for support from the 2008/09 Community Chest budget with a total value of £8,092 as detailed in Annex 1, 1A and 1B of the report.

(Signed) D. FORBES,
Chairman.