

At a meeting of the COALFIELD AREA COMMITTEE held in the Council Chamber at City Hall, Sunderland on WEDNESDAY 15th JUNE, 2022 at 6.00 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Blackburn in the Chair

Councillors Burrell, Heron (Vice Chair), K. Johnston, Mason-Gage, Price, Rowntree, Scott, D. Snowdon and Thornton

Also Present:-

Wendy Cook	Area Network Representative	Sunderland North Community Business Centre
Tracy Dodds	Member of the Public	
Steven Gordon	Neighbourhood Operations Manger	Gentoo
Bob Heron	Member of the Public	Sunderland City Council
Pauline Hopper	Area Community Development Lead, Coalfield	
Bill Little	Councillor	Hetton Town Council
Nic Marko	Local Democracy Reporter	
Andrew Nelson	Station Manager	Tyne and Wear Fire Service
Steve Passey	Inspector	Northumbria Police
Helen Peverley	Area Arrangements, Strategic Manager	Sunderland City Council
Sandra Stephenson	VCS Community Support Officer	
Gerry Taylor	Executive Director Health Housing and Communities	Sunderland City Council
Christine Tilley	Community Governance Services Team Leader	Sunderland City Council

Chairman's Welcome and Introductions

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Coalfield Area Committee meeting and in particular newly elected Councillor Mark Burrell and Councillor Bill Little, Steven Gordon

and Gerry Taylor who were attending their first meetings of the Area Committee and introductions were made.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Speding and Area Network Representatives, Eileen Bewick, Amy Swan and Emerly Christie.

Declarations of Interest

The following declarations were received:-

Item 4 – Area Budgets Report

Councillors Blackburn, Heron, Johnston and Mason-Gage made open declarations in relation to paragraph 2.4 of the report and Application No 4, as Members of Houghton Feast Steering Group and withdrew from the meeting during consideration of this item.

Councillor Rowntree made an open declaration in respect of the Holiday Activities for Young Children applications as a Member of the ELCAP Board and withdrew from the meeting during consideration of this item.

Councillor Mason-Gage made an open declaration in relation to Holiday Activities for Young Children applications as an employee for Groundwork and as a Member of the Board of Penshaw Community Association and withdrew from the meeting during consideration of this item.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 16th March, 2022 (copy circulated), be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Neighbourhood and Community Board Report

The Chair of the Coalfield Neighbourhood and Community Board submitted a report (copy circulated), which provided an update on the progress against the Area Priorities associated with the Delivery Plan, which would be the focus for the Coalfield Area Committee during 2022-23.

The report also provided an update on Neighbourhood and Community Board Governance Arrangements for 2022-2023.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Chair of the Coalfield Neighbourhood and Community Board, Councillor Heron presented the report and highlighted a number of projects contained within the Delivery Plan, in particular the Digital Survey, the Stephenson Trail Project and the work of the VCS Network.

At this juncture, the Chair of the Coalfield Neighbourhood and Community Board introduced Wendy Cook, Area Network Representative to give a presentation on Coalfields Youth 2022. The presentation informed of the additional funding secured, the engagement carried out within Coalfield, the venues used in the four wards, challenges faced, what worked well and also provided quotes from the young people.

The Chair thanked all the Officers supporting the Area Committee.

In response to Councillor Burrell, the Chair advised that Outreach workers were working in the Fence Houses area and Ms Cook confirmed that there were young people from Fence Houses engaging in activities.

Full consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

2. RESOLVED that:-

- a) the progress and performance update regarding the Coalfield Area Committee Delivery Plan 2020/23 be noted and the proposals for future delivery as contained within Annex 1, be approved;
- b) the Area Committee Governance arrangements for 2022-2023 outlined in Section 3 and Annex 2 of the report be noted;
- c) the Year in Numbers outlined in Section 4 and Annex 3 of the report be noted; and
- d) the Communications Plan outlined in Section 4 and Annex 4 of the report be noted.

Tyne and Wear Fire Service Update

Station Manager Andrew Nelson, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service (TWFRS) submitted a report (copy circulated), providing Performance Monitoring details in relation to the Local Indicators for the Coalfield Area Committee area from 1st April 2022 to 6th June 2022 compared with the same period the previous year.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Heron commented that it was nice to see the Princes Trust were going to do some work with the Halo Project.

Councillor Scott thanked the Fire Authority for all the work they were doing.

Councillor Rowntree commended the Halo Project and the fantastic progress they had made in such a short space of time which was really making a difference.

Full consideration having been given to the report, the Chairman thanked Mr Nelson for his attendance and it was:-

3. RESOLVED that the content of the report be received and noted.

Northumbria Police Update

Inspector Passey, Northumbria Police provided a verbal update to the Committee, giving an overview of crime in the Coalfield area in relation to burglary, criminal damage, anti-social behaviour and motorcycle disorder.

Inspector Passey informed the Committee that ASB had increased 31% since the last Area Committee and this was due to the lighter nights and fairer weather as well as there being lots of open spaces in the area. The hotspots included Easington Lane, Houghton le Spring Town Centre, Hetton and Shiney Row. A lot of work was being done and the Halo Team had done a lot of work around the Hetton area. He encouraged people to report issues and advised that they were working with Outreach Workers, adding that motorcycle disorder accounted for over half of ASB offences.

Inspector Passey advised that all other crime had gone down apart from commercial and residential burglaries. The latter being up by 18% largely due to known criminals.

Inspector Passey commended the work of the Halo Team and advised that a similar project was going to be launched for the Easington Lane area.

Councillors Rowntree and Thornton commented positively on the work of the Halo Project and the confidence this was providing to residents to report issues in the Hetton ward as they were seeing results because of this.

The Committee having discussed the report, the Chairman thanked Inspector Passey for his attendance and it was:-

4. RESOLVED that the update be received and noted.

Coalfield Voluntary and Community Sector Network Update

The Coalfield Voluntary and Community Sector Network submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide the Committee with an update on the work of the Sector to date.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Sandra Stephenson VCS Community Support Officer and Wendy Cook, Area Network Representative presented the report and were on hand to answer Members queries.

Ms Stephenson advised that the June meeting had been held the previous week and had focussed on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund looking to identify priorities for Sunderland for the Coalfield area and a lot of valuable input had been received. Expressions of interest were due to close on 21 June.

The Committee having discussed the report, the Chairman thanked Ms Stephenson and Ms Cook for their attendance, it was:-

5. RESOLVED that the update be received and noted.

Gentoo Update

Gentoo submitted a report (copy circulated) providing an update on their work from March 2022 to June 2022.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Steve Gordon, Neighbourhood Operations Manager briefed the Committee on Neighbourhood Services and the proposed Investment Plan programme for Houghton

and Hetton during 2022/23. He advised that there had been an increase of 6% in Universal Credit claimants.

In response to Members' questions Mr Gordon briefed on the specific criteria of the Crisis Fund and on the delays being encountered in relation to the investment plan programme and the reasons for this.

The Committee having discussed the report and the Chairman having advised that he had asked for a meeting to be arranged with Members to discuss specific ward issues with Gentoo, he thanked Mr Gordon for his attendance and it was:-

6. RESOLVED that the above information be received and noted.

Coalfield Area Budget Report

The Assistant Director of Community Resilience, Neighbourhoods submitted a report (copy circulated), providing a financial statement as an updated position on progress in relation to allocating Area Committee Neighbourhood Funding, Neighbourhood Investment Plan Capital Programme and Community Chest and presenting proposals for further funding requests.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms Pauline Hopper, Coalfield Area Community Development Lead, presented the report, drawing the Committee's attention to the current financial position of the Area Committee Neighbourhood Fund 2022/2023 as set out in paragraph 2.1, the Neighbourhood Investment Capital Programme 2020 – 2023 in paragraph 3.1 and the Community Chest approvals in paragraph 4.1.

Ms Hopper briefed the Committee on the applications for funding set out in paragraphs 2.3, 2.4 and 2.5 explaining the budgetary implications set out in paragraph 2.6. She also referred Members to paragraph 3.4 detailing one application for funding from the Neighbourhood Investment Capital Programme.

With regards to Application No 4 (Houghton Feast Community Programme) as Councillor Blackburn had declared an interest in this item and had withdrawn from the room, Councillor Thornton took the Chair for consideration of this application. Councillor Blackburn resumed the Chair for the remaining 3 applications set out in 7 (c) below.

Full consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

7. RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the financial statements set out in sections 2.1, 3.1 and 4.1, be noted;
- (b) the one Neighbourhood Fund application from a previously aligned budget set out in Section 2.3 and at Annex 1, be approved;
- (c) the 4 Neighbourhood Fund applications from the 2022/23 budget as set out in Section 2.4 and Annex 2, be approved;
- (d) the 11 Neighbourhood Fund applications for 'Holiday Activities for Children and Young People' set out in Section 2.5 and Annex 3, be approved;
- (e) the Neighbourhood Investment Capital Programme application set out in 3.4 and Annex 4, be approved; and

- (f) the Community Chest approvals supported from 2021/2022 and 2022/2023, as detailed in Annex 5 and Annex 6, be noted.

Current Planning Applications (Coalfields Area)

A schedule (copy circulated) of current planning applications lodged during the period 1st May and 31st May, 2022 was submitted for Members' information only.

(For copy schedule – see original minutes).

8. RESOLVED that the schedule be received and noted.

Before closing the meeting, the Chairman thanked Members and Officers for their attendance and participation at the meeting.

(Signed) J. BLACKBURN,
Chairman.