

At a meeting of the WASHINGTON AREA COMMITTEE held at the WASHINGTON MILLENNIUM CENTRE on THURSDAY 15th MARCH 2018 at 6.00 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Williams in the Chair

Councillors Fletcher, Farthing, Kelly, Lauchlan, Middleton, F. Miller, G. Miller, Scaplehorn, D. Snowdon, D.E. Snowdon, Taylor, D. Trueman, H. Trueman and P. Walker.

Karon Purvis	-	Chief Executives
Louise Butler	-	Chief Executives
Andrew Old	-	Place Services
Paul Wood	-	Corporate Services Directorate
Inspector Nick Gjorven	-	Northumbria Police
Station Manager Mark Witherspoon	-	TWFRS
Colin McCartney	-	Gentoo
Lindsay McLeod	-	Foundation of Light
Jemma Amer	-	VCS Representative
David Tatters	-	Member of the Public

Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

Declarations of Interest

Financial Statements and Proposals for further allocation of Resources

REACT (Washington) Project

Councillor Dianne Snowdon made open declaration as a trustee at Washington Mind.

Councillor David Snowdon made an open declaration as secretary of the Millennium Centre and also carried out work for Washington Mind, therefore left the room during discussions on this item.

Councillor Fletcher made an open declaration as a Washington Millennium Centre Trustee and left the room during discussions on this item.

Councillor Peter Walker made an open declaration as a Washington Millennium Centre Trustee and left the room during discussions on this item.

Clean and Green: Support for Friends Group

Councillor Scaplehorn made an open declaration as Chairman of the Keep Washington Tidy group

Minutes of the last meeting held on 16th November, 2017

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 16th November, 2017 (copies circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record subject to the following amendments:-

Councillors Fletcher and P. Walker made open declarations under Item 5 as Washington Millennium Centre Trustees.

Councillor David Snowdon made an open declaration under Item 5 as Secretary of the Millennium Centre.

Councillor Dianne Snowdon made open declaration as a trustee at Washington Mind.

Area Committee Annual Report

The Chair of the Washington Area Committee submitted a report (copy circulated) for the Committee to consider and approve the Washington Area Committee's Annual Report 2017-18.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

The annual report was included as Annex 1 to the report and the Chairman advised that it was important that it be viewed as a collaborative achievement and the Committee would like to thank everyone who had contributed towards the outcomes achieved through the work of the Area Committees and the supporting Place and People Boards.

Councillor Kelly commented that the figures stated were outstanding, the projects were first rate and the community involvement needed to be acknowledged with significant impacts made through the Clean and Green projects for example so congratulations to all involved.

Councillor Scaplehorn personally wished to thank the volunteers involved in the Keep Washington Tidy project for the great service carried out.

Councillor Farthing commented that all the work and projects involving young people had made a real difference in their lives and was a real positive.

2. RESOLVED that the Committee considered and approved the Washington Annual Report for inclusion in the combined Area Committee Annual Report for 2017-18

Partner Agency Reports

(a) Washington Area Community Voluntary Sector

The Washington Area Community Voluntary 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)

Karon Purvis, Area Community Officer presented the report and advised that the Washington Network Annual Report identified some of the challenges and issues facing the local VCS sector and also the successes of organisations, and the priorities which would shape future delivery of services and activities.

Ms Purvis also advised that the report contained some key statistics relating to the Washington Area VCS Network itself and wished to draw Members attention to the fact that of the circa £370,000 Area Committee investment via its Strategic Initiatives Budget during 2017/18, more than 85% had been awarded to the VCS or aligned for the VCS to deliver.

Councillor Farthing referred to the success of the Time to Care Project mentioned in page 12 of the agenda and how it was now to be rolled out City wide and wished to thank the Area Committee for its support on this.

3. RESOLVED that Members noted the contents of the report and considered the opportunities and issues raised by the Washington ACVSN.

(b) TWFRS

Mark Witherspoon, Station Manager submitted a report (copy circulated) providing information showing the number of deliberate fires between 31st October, 2017 and 1st March, 2018.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Mr Witherspoon informed the Committee that the figures were on a downward trend which was good news and he would like to thank the Clean and Green and Keep Washington Tidy Teams for the work they had done as it was really having an impact on the number of fires being started.

The breakdown of incidents by ward were as follows

Central	16 incidents
East	23 incidents
North	16 incidents
South	16 incidents
West	22 incidents

Mr Witherspoon advised that most of the incidents occurred during bonfire night and the Fire Authority did carry out campaigns with the schools which they were aiming to continue with.

The lighter night's campaign would be starting shortly but with reduced resources they could not guarantee visits to every school. Due to lack of funding the reliance of online resource was now utilised for Year Groups 2 and 5.

Councillor Kelly commented that he was delighted to see the figures decreasing but had concerns over the resources for education and requested that the Boards look at discussing support for a potential educational project as investment from the Area Committee could have a significant impact.

Councillor Farthing commented that it was good for the pupils to have Officers visit the schools and enquired if there was a volunteer force. Mr Witherspoon advised that there was through the Princes Trust but they have a certain remit that they were looking to see if they could broaden.

Councillor Farthing suggested that there may be retired officers or teachers that may wish to provide the talks to schools and was something worth investigating as an alternative way of developing the service.

Councillor Scaplehorn referred to the increase in wheelie bins stolen and set alight and the issue of pensioners being unable to afford the fee to replace the bins and enquired if there were any suggestions.

Mr Witherspoon commented that the problem was that residents (mainly elderly) were putting their wheelie bins out the night before collection therefore they were more susceptible to be being stolen and that if these residents were known, community groups could put the bins out on a morning for them. Councillor Scaplehorn advised that this was something the refuse collectors could do.

Mr Witherspoon believed that the key to reducing the theft of wheelie bins was for them to be left out on the street for as little time as possible and brought back onto resident's properties as soon as possible.

In response to Councillor Fletcher's enquiry over the promotion of Young Fire Fighters in the schools, Mr Witherspoon advised that they do still run the scheme but he was not sure on how much it was promoted within the schools. The programme was to educate children but the scheme did not always attract the demographic that needed to be targeted.

Councillor Dianne Snowden referred to the difficulties for residents in Glebe Ward who did not have option of storing their wheelie bins away from the street. Mr Witherspoon advised that he appreciated the difficulties faced but the securing of bins to properties suggested would be a concern as they did not want any potential wheelie bin fires, spreading to the property.

Councillor Dianne Snowden requested her thanks be passed on to the volunteers from the Fire Service that had participated in the litter picks carried out.

Councillor Taylor wished to place on record his thanks to Mr Tommy Richardson for the time and effort put into the water safety training and campaign provided. Mr Witherspoon advised that the message of water safety was very high on the Authority's agenda and he would pass the comments on to Mr Robinson.

The Chairman commented on the lack of resources, resulting in fewer school visits and suggested something similar to the national first aid campaign which had been delivered through a video programme. The Chairman commented that this did have an impact on the children and something similar could be produced by the Fire Authority.

Mr Witherspoon agreed that this was something to investigate further and suggested the Arts Centre may be able to offer help on producing a video that caters for a range of subjects.

Councillor Kelly commented that the Water Safety Project could be massively expanded and suggested the Area Committee could commission a DVD through the community groups via the Time for Care project possibly.

4. RESOLVED that the comments be noted

(c) Police Report

Northumbria Police submitted a report (copy circulated) to inform the Committee of the Crime and Disorder figures in the Washington Area for the period of 30th November, 2017 to 2nd March, 2018.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Inspector Nick Gjorven introduced himself to the Committee and advised of an error within the report as ASB Reports should read that incidents had reduced by 16 not increased.

Inspector Gjorven advised that the main issues were around Albany Park, Sulgrave Flats, Concord, Usworth Park and Oxclose where they were putting on additional patrols similar to the work going on in Houghton at present.

Anti-social behaviour was usually alcohol based therefore they were going to target Licensees and premises selling alcohol.

Councillor H. Trueman commented that having been a member of the Licensing Committee where they had previously withdrawn licenses from individuals for selling alcohol to underage customers, the license had then been transferred to a family member. Inspector Gjorven advised that they would be seeking to have the license removed from the premises rather than individuals to stop this from happening.

In response to Councillor G. Miller's statement on the need for the ASB in Galleries Car Parks to be tackled, Inspector Gjorven advised that dispersal orders for the youths were being handed out and an officer was to meet with the Galleries management and the restaurants to look at tackling the issue.

Inspector Gjorven informed the Committee that Burglary OTD had reduced due to the capture of a perpetrator who has since been charged with 8 offences and a campaign was to begin in the summer to educate residents on what to keep in their sheds etc.

Assaults had increased by 35 and the Authority's intention was to focus on Domestic Violence and the force priority to safeguard victims.

Damage to motor vehicles had been as a result of children throwing rocks from the bridges on to roads causing windscreens to break and Inspector Gjorven commented on the need to nip this dangerous trend in the bud through patrols.

A perpetrator had been caught and charged in relation to thefts from motor vehicles with the majority of break ins occurring to Transit vans. Owners had been advised to remove any valuables from the vans overnight.

Inspector Gjorven also advised of a new Sergeant that would be brought across into the Washington Team with the current model reworked in order to provide double the cover. Updates would start to be given regularly to each Ward Member also.

Councillor Kelly commented that he was delighted to see intentions for tougher stances over Licensed Premises and also felt there was a need for further action in relation to drug taking. Councillor Kelly also stated that this Area Committee had suffered a lack of consistency with regards to the number of Inspectors assigned to the Washington Area only to go elsewhere 18 months later and requested a commitment of stability so that trust could be built up between the Police and Members to ensure a good working relationship.

Inspector Gjorven advised that he had no plans to leave for another area and it was his wish to bring the level of stability required as was evidenced by his bringing across of Officers from other teams.

Councillor Scaplehorn requested that Members receive up to date contact lists of the Officers once they were in place. Inspector Gjorven advised that once all the Officers were settled in they would be implementing campaigns with leaflet drops etc.

In response to Councillor H. Trueman's enquiry in relation to how the Police authorities are requirement to record crimes, Inspector Gjorven advised that they did have to record an incident depending on the view of the victim.

Councillor Farthing commented that it would be welcome and refreshing to see a permanent Inspector for the area and enquired in relation to the installation of cameras at Rickleton Bus Station which had been vandalised through anti-social behaviour. Inspector Gjorven advised that he would look into this.

Councillor Taylor suggested that the vandalism of the bus shelters had appeared to increase since the introduction of the late evening bus services.

Inspector Gjorven advised that reports of smashed bus shelters and such like was usually reported to Nexus and they did not report this to the Police.

The Chairman advised that this would be something that could be fed into the next meeting of the Bus operators Board.

5. RESOLVED that the report of the Police be received and noted.

People Board Progress Report

The Chair of the People Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update on the 2017/18 work plan, including SIB funded projects.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Lauchlan introduced the report and drew Members attention to the work plan for 2017/18 and gave a summary of the key areas of influence and achievements of the Board up to 28th February 2018.

6. RESOLVED that Members:-

- (i) Considered the progress and performance update with regard to the Washington Area People Board's Work Plan for 2017/18 as detailed in Annex 1 of the report;
- (ii) Considered and agreed the People Board Recommendations.

Place Board Progress Report

The Chair of the Place Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update on the 2017/18 work plan, including SIB funded projects.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor F. Miller introduced the report and drew Members attention to the work plan for 2017/18 and gave a summary of the key areas of influence and achievements of the Board up to 28th February 2018.

Members having considered the report, it was:-

7. RESOLVED that Members:-

- a. Considered the progress and performance update with regard to the Washington Area Place Board's Work Plan for 2017/18 as detailed in Annex 1 of the report
- b. Agreed the recommended schedule for Place Services 2018/19 as detailed at Item 5 Annex 2
- c. Agreed the recommendations for the completion of Highways Maintenance Capital Maintenance programmes in the Washington area for 2018/19, as detailed at Item 5 Annex 3 of the report.

Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) Community Chest – Financial Statement and Proposals for Further Allocation of Resources

The Head of Area Arrangements, Scrutiny and Member Support Service submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Members with the financial statements as an update on the progress in allocating SIB and Community Chest and which presented proposals for further funding requests.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Members having fully considered the report, it was:-

8. RESOLVED that the Committee:-

- a. Noted the financial statement set out in the report;
- b. Considered and approved £10,000 for the VCS Support Project as detailed under paragraph 3.1 of the report;
- c. Considered and approved the officer recommendation to approve £100,000 (SIB 2017/18 budget) for the REACT Project as detailed in Annex 1 of the report;
- d. Considered and approved the officer recommendation to approve £68,000 (SIB 2017/19 budget) for the Washington Events Programme 2018 as detailed in Annex 2 of the report
- e. Considered and aligned £14,155 for the Washington Illuminations as detailed under paragraph 4.2 of the report
- f. Considered and approved the change to project for the Clean & Green Support for Friends Groups Project as detailed in Annex 3 of the report
- g. Noted the Ward Improvement Project balances as detailed in Annex 4 of the report; and
- h. Noted the Community Chest balances as detailed in Annex 5 of the report.

Planning Applications – For Information Only

Current Planning Applications relating to the Washington Area for the period 1st January, 2018 to 28th February, 2018 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. WILLIAMS,
Chairman.