

At a meeting of the WEST SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held at The TANSY CENTRE, CHURCH ROAD, SOUTH HYLTON, SUNDERLAND on WEDNESDAY 19TH OCTOBER, 2016 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor P. Gibson in the Chair

Councillors, Allan, Atkinson, D. Dixon, Essl, I. Galbraith, Gofton, Smith, Tye, Waller, Waters, S. Watson, A. Wilson and T. Wright.

Also Present:-

Tony Carty	Neighbourhood Inspector	Northumbria Police
Ash Hopper	Sergeant	Northumbria Police
Andrea Lanaghan	VCS Network Representative	Sunderland Carers
Joanne Laverick	VCS Network Representative	Youth Almighty
Bill Leach	VCS Network Representative	Pennywell Com. Centre
David Noon	Principal Governance Services Officer	Sunderland City Council
Helen Peverley	Area Co-ordinator	Sunderland City Council
Ian Richardson	Assistant Head of Street Scene	Sunderland City Council
Gilly Stanley	Area Community Development Lead	Sunderland City Council

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting especially those attending their first meeting of the West Sunderland Area Committee and invited those present to introduce themselves.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors G. Galbraith, Porthouse and P. Watson.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

Minutes of the Last Meetings

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the Committee held on 25th May 2016 and the last ordinary meeting held on 8th June, 2016 be confirmed and signed as correct records.

Place Board Progress Report

The Chairman of the West Sunderland Area Place Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update of progress against the 2016/17 work plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Essl presented the report drawing Members' attention to the initiation of action towards achieving key priorities as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report together with a summary of key areas of influence and achievements of the Place Board in relation to Responsive Local Services and Street Scene, Local Bus Advisory Group, Play and Urban Delivery Plan, Tall Ships 2018, Healthy Homes Project, the Road to Rio event, Safety Works Maximising Greenspace and Improving Derelict Land and Shopping Centres as at 7th October, 2016.

Councillor T. Wright referred to the huge success of the Road to Rio Event. Everyone he had met who had attended had nothing but praise for it. This was in complete contrast to the negative publicity generated in the run up in respect of park security. Councillor Essl advised that crime levels had actually decreased in the park over the corresponding period to last year when security was still in place.

2. RESOLVED that:-

- i) the report be received and noted;
- ii) the proposal agreed through the small grants process for Maximising Greenspace / Derelict Land activity as detailed in Annex 2 to the report be noted and;
- iii) consideration be given to the financial issues arising from the Place Board report later in the meeting at item 5 on the agenda.

People Board Progress Report

The Chairman of the West Sunderland Area People Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update on progress against the 2016/17 People Board Work Plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Atkinson presented the report drawing Members' attention to the initiation of action towards achieving the key priorities as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report, together with a summary of key areas of influence and achievements of the People Board in relation to joint working with the Clinical Commissioning Group, enterprise in schools, community helpers, the Road to Rio event, Holiday Hunger and health and wellbeing as at 7th October, 2016.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor I Galbraith, Ms Peverley advised that Tudor Grove was part of the Pupil Referral Unit based at Stannington Grove.

Councillor T. Wright referred to the Holiday Day Hunger project and believed it was something the Committee should look to fund again. It was difficult to believe that a

project designed to provide sustenance to people in need of a mid-day meal had highlighted the large numbers of people unable to afford breakfast. There being no further comments or questions on the report, it was:-

3. RESOLVED that:-

- i) the report be received and be noted; and
- ii) consideration be given to the financial issues arising from the People Board report later in the meeting at item 5 on the agenda.

Report of the West Area Voluntary and Community Sector Network (AVCSN)

At this juncture the Chairman welcomed and introduced Andrea Lanaghan the newly appointed AVCS Network representative on the Area Committee.

The AVCS Network submitted a progress report (copy circulated) which briefed members on issues pertinent to the Committee and the Voluntary and Community Sector.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Consideration was given to the report presented by Bill Leach which highlighted the following feedback and input arising from the two Voluntary and Community Sector Network meetings held since the Area Committee last met in June:-

- i) discussion over ways in which the network could work together to be more sustainable. Workshops were being planned to include topics such as energy saving ideas, facilities and equipment share and skills.
- ii) work with the West Area Community Development Lead, looking into external funding opportunities using GRANTfinder, together with continuing work to develop effective partnership working. Ideas were already being developed such as an equipment share and how to best utilise the assets within the Area.
- iii) ongoing work to improve the environment with various litter picks, planting and hanging baskets/planters. Support had been received from residents, members and the Royal Horticultural Society. Ideas for next year had been discussed and new initiatives were being developed.
- iv) the involvement of the VCS in the activities delivered at the Road to Rio West Area Event in 2016. Its legacy had led to more groups working in partnership and resources being shared.

Councillor Gofton having paid tribute to the fantastic outcomes being delivered by the VCS for residents since the formalisation of links to the Area Committee, it was:-

4. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Report of the Northumbria Police – Sunderland West

Inspector Carty of Northumbria Police presented a report (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with an update on the Force's most recent performance indicators for the period 21st May 2016 to 4th October 2016.

Particular reference was paid to crime levels in relation to violent crime, vehicle crime, burglary from dwelling, burglary other than dwelling, criminal damage, shoplifting, youth ASB, Non Youth ASB and drug crime.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

In addition Inspector Carty briefed members on:-

- i) the lack of any discernible increase in calls to Police following the removal of park security. The situation would continue to be monitored.
- ii) Preparations for the darker nights campaign including Leaflet/ Letter Drops and joint Police / Fire Service presentations to schools.
- iii) Northumbria Police Priorities for the remainder of 2016/17.
- iv) The continuing increase in overall recorded crime following the changes made nationally to how crime was recorded. It was anticipated that the figures would level off in the coming months.

Inspector Carty having addressed comments and questions from members, the Chairman thanked him for his report and, it was:-

5. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Report of the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service

The report of the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service (TWFRS) (copy circulated) was submitted which provided the Committee with an update on the Service's performance indicators for the period 1st June, 2016 to 1st October, 2016 with particular reference to:-

- i) the number of deaths from all fires (none),
- ii) deliberate property fires (10),
- iii) deliberate vehicle fires (8), and
- iv) secondary fires not involving property or road vehicles (77).

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Apologies for absence having been submitted on behalf of Station Manager Steve Burdis, Helen Peverley, Area Coordinator, briefed Members on the report advising that she would relay any questions she was unable to answer to Mr Burdis.

Councillor Essel having noted that the problem of grassland fires experienced in Barnes now seemed to be occurring in Sandhill, it was:-

6. RESOLVED the report be received and noted.

Report of Gentoo

Alan Duffy, Head of Operations, Gentoo Group presented a report (copy circulated) which briefed the Committee on Gentoo developments, projects and priorities undertaken during the period June to October 2016

(For copy report – see original minutes)

There being no questions or comments for Mr Duffy, the Chairman thanked him for his attendance and it was:-

7. RESOLVED the report be received and noted.

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

The Head of Scrutiny and Area Arrangements submitted a report (copy circulated) in respect of the above matter.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

At this juncture the Chairman referred to paragraph 2.1 of the report which showed that the Committee had allocated £60,000 (£10,000 per ward) to its Walk and Talk budget at its last meeting held on 8th June 2016. He asked whether Members felt that £10,000 per ward was sufficient or whether the allocation should be increased to £15,000 per ward. Members indicated that they would support an increase to £15,000 per ward.

Helen Peverley, Area Coordinator, then proceeded to present the report highlighting the Committee's financial statement, the approval under the small grants process of a project in relation to the Maximisation of Green Space, details of 15 projects approved under delegated powers for support from the 2016/17 Community Chest budget and details of proposals for the allocation of SIB funding.

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

8. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the Area Committee's funding statement be received and noted;
- (ii) approval be given to an increase in the allocation of SIB funding in respect of the West Walk and Talk Programme from £60,000 to £90,000 (£15,000 per ward);

- (iii) approval be given to the allocation of £4,250 SIB funding for the West Safety Works Transport Project as detailed in annex 1 of the report;
- (iv) the approval of 1 project through the small grants process for Maximising Green Space as detailed in annex 2 of the report, be noted;
- (v) approval be given to the allocation of the £48,579 Health to support Mental Health and Wellbeing as detailed in annex 3 of the report;
- (vi) the approval of the 15 Community Chest applications from the 2016/17 budget as detailed in Annex 4 of the report be noted;

The Chairman then closed the meeting having thanked everyone for their attendance and contributions and especially to all at the Tansy Centre for their kindness and assistance in hosting the meeting and the associated community event.

(Signed) P. GIBSON,
Chairman.