

**At a meeting of the WEST SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held remotely on WEDNESDAY 16 JUNE, 2021 at 5.30 p.m.**

**Present:-**

Councillor P. Gibson in the Chair

Councillors, Blackett, Burnicle, Crosby, Dunn, Edgeworth, Greener, Haswell, Mann, McDonough, Mullen, Nicholson, Noble, O'Brien, Peacock, G. Smith, P. Smith and Tye.

**Also Present:-**

Jo Bell	Head of Operations, Gentoo
Kelly Brougham	VCS Network Representative, Active Families N.E.
Fiona Brown	Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Sunderland City Council
Victoria Gamblin	Head of Operations, Gentoo
Bill Leach	VCS Network Representative, Pennywell Com. Centre
David Noon	Principal Governance Services Officer, Sunderland City Council
Helen Peverley	Area Arrangements Strategic Manager, Sunderland City Council
Gilly Stanley	Area Community Development Lead, Sunderland City Council

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Kevin Burns (Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service) and Marie Pollock (Northumbria Police).

**Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest made.

**Minutes of the Last Meeting**

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2021 be confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to the inclusion of Councillor Mullen in the list of attendees.

**West Area Committee Delivery Plan 2020-2023**

Councillor Haswell, Chair of the West Area Neighbourhoods and Community Board, presented the report (copy circulated) which:-

i) Presented an annual performance update on the West Neighbourhood Investment Delivery Plan 2020-2023 and;

ii) Provided an update of progress against the Area Priorities associated with the Delivery Plan which would be the focus for the West Sunderland Area Committee during 2021 onwards.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor O'Brien referred to paragraph 3.6 of the report and asked that consideration was given to amending the Committee's representation on the West Sunderland L.M.A.P. The Chairman advised that Councillor O'Brien's proposal was not within the power of the Committee to consider, as appointments to the Council's various Committees, Sub-Committees and outside bodies were reserved to meetings of full Council.

There being no further questions or comments, the Chairman thanked Councillor Haswell for his report and it was:-

2. RESOLVED that:-

i) the progress and performance update with regard to the West Neighbourhood Investment Delivery Plan 2020/23 be noted,

ii) approval be given to the proposals for future delivery as contained within Annex 1 of the report.

The Committee then received and noted a short video presentation detailing the work undertaken to deliver the various components of the West Area Delivery Plan.

### **Report of the West Area Voluntary and Community Sector Network**

The 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 Kelly Brougham which highlighted the following VCS Network activity undertaken since its last report to the Committee:-

i) The West VCS Network virtual meeting held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021, which considered presentations on the Good Vibes and West Area Youth Activities project and the West Improve Digital Skills project, together with an update on the VCSE Alliance including progress to date and the next steps.

ii) The collaboration of West Area VCS groups to submit a successful application to Community Resilience in respect of the Targeted Covid Community Champions project.

iii) The collaboration of West Area VCS to deliver a range of activities including the BIG Lunch as part of the June Month of Community to celebrate community connections and get to know each other better.

- iv) the work of the VCS to deliver more of their much-needed services as restrictions started to ease further, working within government guidelines to keep everyone safe by respecting social distancing and implementing rigorous hygiene procedures.
- v) the use of Community Chest and Walk and Talk budgets by the VCS to deliver activities and support to residents across the West.
- vi) the formation of a Sunderland VCS Alliance to support a strong, vibrant, and accessible VCS which both influenced and supported the delivery of key services in the city. The Alliance was sector-led through the five Area VCS Networks and financially supported by Sunderland City Council, Sunderland Clinical Commissioning Group and Gentoo, alongside external funding secured via the ESIF Community Led Local Development Programme.

Councillor Noble stated that the way the voluntary organisations in all areas of the City had come together in this way to create a bigger and better impact for residents needed to be highlighted and she paid tribute to the Neighbourhoods Team for their leadership in moving things forward.

There being no further questions or comments for Ms Brougham, the Chairman thanked her for her report, and it was:-

3. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

### **Report of Gentoo**

Jo Bell, Head of Operations, Central Area, Gentoo Group presented a report, (copy circulated) which briefed the Committee on:-

- The renewal of the intercom system at all multi-storey and sheltered blocks which would improve ease of access, increase security, and improve the safety of tenants, leaseholders, and residents. The installation started in March and was expected to be completed by August.
- Introduced Vicky Gamblin who was had recently taken over as Head of Operations for the south area following Alan Duffy's move to cover the Washington area.
- Updates in respect of the investment and renewal work being undertaken on the Chester Gate, Prestbury Road, Churchfields and Silksworth sites.
- Garage demolition on three sites at Gairloch Road, Round Robin (off Hylton Road on Ford Estate) and Hollinside Road.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

The Chairman paid tribute to Mr Duffy whom he described as a stalwart of the West area having given excellent service to residents and the Committee over many, many years. On behalf of Members, he asked Ms Bell to convey the Committee's thanks to

Mr Duffy for all his work on their behalf and their best wishes for his future in Washington. Ms Bell confirmed that she would be happy to do so.

In response to enquiries from Councillor Mann regarding the Austin Place site, Ms Bell confirmed that all homes provided on the site would be for rent and that she would get back to Councillor Mann in respect as to whether the 10 home site had been originally planned to accommodate 7 homes.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor O'Brien regarding whether the rents payable on the properties would be 'affordable' or 'social' rents, the Committee was advised that the rents would be 'affordable'. Councillor O'Brien further asked how the market rents were quantified and whether they were based on the totality of the city as a whole, or on a locality basis where presumably the rents on properties in Hendon would be cheaper than those in Seaburn for example? Ms Gamblin advised that she would check and get back to Councillor O'Brien.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Noble regarding the feedback from residents on the garage demolition programme, the Committee was advised that 2 letters of complaint had been received together with one query regarding what would be done with the land following demolition. Councillor Edgeworth asked that the Committee received an update on the future land use once this had been determined. Councillor Haswell noted the reference in paragraph 4.4 of the report that the area would be made 'presentable' following demolition and asked for a definition of 'presentable'. The Committee was advised that rubble would be removed and the land made level.

Councillor McDonough thanked Ms Bell and Ms Gamblin for the walk round undertaken with St Chad's ward members and advised that a residents meeting was to be arranged in respect of the Community Garden at Lakeside. Councillor Burnicle referred to the walk round and advised that he had received a couple of complaints from elderly residents that the new intercom systems no longer allowed them to call each other directly. Ms Bell advised that feedback on the old system had indicated that this function was rarely used but that it had been used in the past by anti-social tenants to make nuisance calls. She would however investigate the matter and report back to Councillor Burnicle. Councillor McDonough asked that elderly residents received advice from Gentoo on the operation of the new system.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Haswell regarding a Section 106 agreement in respect of the Chester Gate site planning approval, Ms Bell advised that she believed that Gentoo homes had already replied directly via email.

There being no further questions or comments, the Chairman thanked Ms Gamblin and Ms Bell for their attendance and it was :-

4. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

### **Report of the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service**

A 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 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2021 with particular reference to the L133 Incidents (deliberate fires) broken down by property type.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

The Chairman advised that in the absence of the presenting officer, the report was submitted for information only. If members had any questions on the report, they should be emailed to Ms Stanley who would ensure that they received a reply in writing.

5. RESOLVED the report be received and noted

### **Report of Northumbria Police**

A report of the Northumbria Police Service (copy circulated) was submitted which provided the Committee with an update on and key performance information in relation to the Sunderland West area for the period March to May 2021

(For copy report – see original minutes)

The Chairman advised that in the absence of the presenting officer, the report (copy circulated) was submitted for information only. If members had any questions on the report, they should be emailed to Ms Stanley who would ensure that they received a reply in writing.

6. RESOLVED the report be received and noted.

### **West Area Budget Report**

The Assistant Director of Community Resilience submitted a report (copy circulated) in respect of the above matter.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Gilly Stanley Area Community Development Lead, presented the report highlighting the Committee's financial statement, details of projects approved under delegated powers for support from the 2020/21 and 2021/22 Community Chest budgets, together with details of a proposal for the allocation of funds from the Neighbourhood Investment Capital Fund.

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

7. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the Area Committee's funding statement as detailed in paragraphs 2.1, 3.1 and 4.1 of the report be received and noted;
- (ii) approval be given to the granting of £50,000 funding from the Neighbourhood Capital Investment Programme budget in respect of the

Festive Lights and Celebration proposal as detailed in paragraph 3.2 of the report;

- (iii) the approval of the 14 Community Chest applications from the 2020/21 budget as detailed in Annex 1 of the report be noted; and
- (iv) the approval of the 2 Community Chest applications from the 2021/22 budget as detailed in Annex 2 of the report be noted.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting having thanked everyone for their attendance and contributions.

(Signed) P. GIBSON,  
Chairman.