

At a meeting of the NORTH SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held at COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL, SUNDERLAND on TUESDAY, 14th DECEMBER, 2021 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor D. Wilson in the Chair

Councillors Butler, Doyle, Foster, Hartnack, Jenkins, Johnston, Leadbitter, McKeith, Samuels, A. Smith and Stewart

Also in Attendance:-

Ms. Joanne Coulson	-	Community Support Worker, Sunderland City Council
Mr. Peter Curtis	-	Area Network Representative
Mr. Colin McCartney	-	Head of Operations, Gentoo Housing
Ms. Vivienne Metcalfe	-	Area Community Development Lead, Sunderland City Council
Ms. Joanne Stewart	-	Principal Governance Services Officer, Sunderland City Council

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Chequer and MacKnight and also on behalf of Mr. Richy Duggan and Mr. Peter McIntyre.

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 30th September, 2021 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

North Sunderland Area Neighbourhood Delivery Plan 2020 – 2023

The Chairman of the North Sunderland Area Committee Neighbourhood and Community Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which presented the North Sunderland Neighbourhood Delivery Plan 2020-2023 and provided an update of progress against the Area Priorities associated with the Delivery Plan.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Foster took Members through the report providing a summary of the key areas of action and/or progress of the Board, up to November 2021, with greater detail set out in the annex to the report, which informed the Area Activity Tracker to allow residents to monitor Area Committee's progress throughout the year.

Councillor Foster advised Members that a link to the short video presentation which summarised the support to socially isolated and vulnerable residents would be circulated following the meeting.

Councillor Doyle referred to the improvements at Roker Park and the plans for Roker Park Lodge / Café and asked if any of the funding could be allocated to repair the damages to the Roker Park Bandstand. The Chairman advised that the November Board had undertaken a full discussion on the planned improvements for Roker Park following a presentation from Officers who could provide feedback to the Councillor on any planned repairs.

The information in the report having been fully considered, it was:-

2. RESOLVED that:-

- The progress and performance update with regard to the North Sunderland Neighbourhood Delivery Plan for 2020/23 be received and noted and the proposals for future delivery as set out in annex 1 to the report be agreed; and
- The Area Committee video update which would summarise the support to the socially isolated and vulnerable residents be circulated.

North Sunderland Area Committee Budget Report

The Assistant Director of Community Resilience submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided a financial statement as an update position on progress in relation to allocating Area Committee Neighbourhood Funds, Neighbourhood Investment Capital Programme and Community Chest and presented proposals for further funding requests.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Metcalfe, Area Community Development Lead, presented the report drawing attention to the recommendations detailed within the report.

Councillor Butler referred to the CCTV project and asked if it would be possible to have statistics from that project to see how effective and successful it was and Ms. Metcalfe commented that Members should receive this as part of the monitoring report on the project but she would ask the relevant Officer to provide a report and circulate it to the Committee.

Councillor Butler also asked that his thanks be recorded to Ms. Metcalfe for the work undertaken to ensure that the Southwick Illuminations Switch On Event could take place on an evening when the weather could have seen it be postponed.

Members having had any questions answered, it was:-

3. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the financial statements as set out in tables one, two and three of the report be received and noted; and
- (ii) approval be given to the allocation of £50,000 from the Neighbourhood Fund towards the Community Opportunities and Castle Raising Aspirations Phase 3 project;
- (iii) approval be given to the allocation of £50,000 from the Neighbourhood Fund towards the Community Opportunities and Redhill Raising Aspirations Phase 3 project;
- (iv) approval be given to the allocation of £50,000 from the Neighbourhood Fund towards the North East Sport and Fulwell Raising Aspirations Phase 3 project;
- (v) approval be given to the allocation of £50,000 from the Neighbourhood Fund towards the Southwick Neighbourhood Youth Project and Southwick Raising Aspirations Phase 3 project;
- (vi) approval be given to the allocation of £50,000 from the Neighbourhood Fund towards the Sunderland Community Action Group and St Peter's Raising Aspirations Phase 3 project; and
- (vii) the twenty-one approvals for Community Chest supported from 2021/2022 be noted.

Partner Agency Reports - Report of the North Area Voluntary and Community Sector Network

The Voluntary and Community Sector Network submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update with regard to the North Sunderland Area Voluntary and Community Sector network.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Mr. Curtis, Area Network Representative took Members through the report advising that the network had met in October and December via Microsoft Teams since the last meeting of the Area Committee and shared the agenda items that had been covered.

Members of the Committee were advised that the pandemic had brought providers together over the five wards to help provide support to the North Sunderland Area and that they continued to work together and plan ahead for future programmes and support work in the community.

Mr. Curtis advised that the food drive had proved successful and many of the issues they were hearing from residents as they visited were the concerns over their deteriorating health and mental health issues given that some of them had been at home for almost two years due to the pandemic. He had real concerns over the stresses some of the housebound in the area had suffered during the pandemic and felt that it was going to prove difficult to kickstart them reintegrating in society.

Members praised the work of the VCS Network throughout the pandemic and appreciated all that had been carried out in supporting some of the most vulnerable in the community.

The report having been considered, it was:-

4. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Northumbria Police Update

Members were advised that Inspector Prested had to submit his apologies but had provided a written report which had been circulated prior to the meeting. Should any Members have any queries they could forward them to Ms. Metcalfe who would forward them for response.

Members having thanked the Officer for the update, it was:-

5. RESOLVED that the update from the Northumbria Police be received and noted.

Partner Agency Reports – Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Services

Ms. Metcalfe advised that in the absence of a presenting officer, should Members have any questions, they could be emailed to herself and she would ensure that a response was provided.

Members thanked the Officer for the update, and it was:-

6. RESOLVED that any questions be forwarded to the Area Community Development Lead to gather a response.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.

(Signed) D. WILSON,
Chairman.