

**At a meeting of the NORTH SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in COMMITTEE ROOM 1 of the CITY HALL, PLATER WAY, SUNDERLAND on 22 JUNE, 2023 at 5.30 p.m.**

**Present:-**

Councillor Wilson in the Chair

Councillors Bond, Butler, Chequer, Chisnall, Foster, Hartnack, Johnston, A. Smith, Stewart, Usher, Vera and Walton

**Also in Attendance:-**

Ms. Judith Britton	-	Sunderland Community Action Group
Mr. Peter Curtis	-	Area Network Representative
Mr. Richy Duggan	-	Area Network Representative
Mr. Neil Guthrie	-	Development Director (Residential), Sunderland City Council
Ms. Vivienne Metcalfe	-	Area Community Development Lead, Sunderland City Council
Insp. Stephen Prested	-	Northumbria Police
Ms. Joanne Stewart	-	Principal Governance Services Officer, Sunderland City Council
Ms. Ruth Walker	-	Area Network Representative

**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 McKeith and Samuels and from Lee Bell of Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service and Beth Wilkie of Gentoo.

**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 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2023 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

## **North Area Committee Area Plan 2023-2026**

The Assistant Director of Housing and Communities submitted a report (copy circulated) which presented for consideration and approval the North Sunderland Area Committee Area Plan for 2023-26 and provided an update on the Area Committee Area Plan Governance arrangements.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Vivienne Metcalfe, Partnership and Community Resilience Manager (North), presented the report advising that the role of the Area Committee was to lead on the development, implementation and effective delivery of the plan which included all main priorities for the area, subject to its approval by Cabinet in July, 2023.

The Area Plan was a three year plan and was directly aligned to the themes of the City Plan and other significant strategies for the city. The five Area Committee Area Plans and City Plan would then form a suite of strategic documents for the city and would be produced using the Folian software so they would all have the same format, look and feel.

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

### **2. RESOLVED that:-**

- The draft Area Committee Area Plan for 2023-2026, external priorities be agreed for referral to Cabinet for approval;
- The internal priorities, as discussed at the workshop in June 2023, be shared with Council Service Leads and Partners to consider the feasibility of delivery and provide feedback;
- The Committee agree to continue to discuss Service Plans with Council Service Leads and develop a list of Area Priorities for the North Sunderland Area;
- The Committee agree to continue to collaborate with key partners to provide their plans for future activity in the North Sunderland Area; and
- The Terms of Reference as set out in annex two to the report be noted.

## **Change to the Order of Business**

At this juncture, it was agreed to change the order of business.

## **North Sunderland Area Committee Budget Report**

The Assistant Director of Housing and Communities submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided a financial statement as an update position on progress in relation to allocating Area Committee Neighbourhood Funds 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.

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

### 3. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the financial statements as set out in tables 1 and 2 be received and noted;
- (ii) approval be given to the allocation of £10,000 from the Neighbourhood Fund to Sunderland City Council for the Roker and Seaburn Washing Facilities Project;
- (iii) approval be given to the allocation of £5,000 from the Neighbourhood Fund to North East Bus Preservation Trust for the All Aboard the Crossley Project;
- (iv) approval be given to the allocation of £6,000 from the Neighbourhood Fund to Fulwell Community Library for the Christmas at Fulwell Project;
- (v) approval be given to the alignment of £250,000 from the Neighbourhood Fund towards the following six projects;-
  - Downhill Wheeled Sports Park Project - £100,000
  - Castle Ward Improvement Project - £30,000
  - Redhill Ward Improvement Project - £30,000
  - Southwick Ward Improvement Project - £30,000
  - Fulwell Ward Improvement Project - £30,000
  - St. Peter's Ward Improvement Project - £30,000; and
- (vi) the approvals for Community Chest supported from 2022/2023 and 2023/2023 as set out in the report 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. Peter Curtis, Area Network Representative, took Members through the report advising that the network had met in June, 2023 and shared the agenda items that had been covered. He advised the Committee that the Network was vital to allow local intelligence to be shared and groups could make each other aware as to what was happening within their ward area.

Councillor Walton asked if there was information sharing and links with the statutory agencies and was informed by the Network Representatives that there was to some extent but it needed improving. Agency representatives were invited along to sector

meetings and they recognised the value of the VCS and the new system would streamline things and make it easier for all parties to work together. The Chairman advised Councillor Walton that he could attend a future meeting if he wished to see how they worked in practice.

In response to a question from Councillor Bond regarding the cost of living increases and how it was affecting the residents they dealt with, the Network Representatives informed the Committee that a lot of families were struggling and were being priced out of taking part and engaging in activities. They were trying, where possible, to engage with the whole family and give young people experiences they would never usually be able to access or afford had they not been free such as the sailing trip. Sport and fitness activities were becoming out of reach for families and this would only result in young people disengaging and ultimately a rise in anti social behaviour in the area.

Members raised concerns around working families who may be disenfranchised or not accessing services and were advised that the Council recognised it as an issue and there was a hardship fund with a focus on working families. Children and young people were invited to take part regardless of their family situation and they actively looked for sponsorships from local businesses to help with sports kit and strips.

The Chairman referred to previous concerns Members had raised around local schools not allowing local children to use their facilities outside of the school day. Some schools in the area had state of the art facilities and they were not being utilised to their full potential. The recent visit to the Rotunda at Monkwearmouth Academy had shown how facilities could be accessed by local young people and help offset anti social behaviour and disruption in their area.

Councillor Chequer shared information regarding the new Links for Life model, which incorporated social prescribing and linked residents to services and self-help resources and how it was critical that something was done to make sports and fitness activities more affordable for all within the city.

In closing, Ms. Metcalfe advised that the VCS Network meetings were open for all Members to attend should they wish and advised that she would circulate the date of the next meeting to the Committee.

Members having no further comments or questions, it was:-

4. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

### **Partner Agency Reports - Gentoo Update**

Gentoo submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update with regard to the work done by Gentoo between April and June, 2023.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

There being no representative in attendance, Ms. Metcalfe advised that any queries could be forwarded to herself via email and she would pass them on to Gentoo for a direct response, and it was:-

5. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

### **Partner Agency Reports – Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service**

There being no representative in attendance, Ms. Metcalfe advised that any queries could be forwarded to herself via email and she would pass them on to TWFRS for a direct response, and it was:-

6. RESOLVED that the item be received and noted.

### **Partner Agency Reports - Northumbria Police Update**

Inspector Stephen Prested, Northumbria Police, presented the update report and provided the Committee with a verbal update on the current numbers in relation to anti-social behaviour, burglaries, vehicle and violent crime in the North Sunderland Area.

He also provided Members with an update on other incidents of note in the North Sunderland Area including a number of incidents of youth disorder in Witherwack, the deer sightings in Hylton Dene and motorcycle disorder. He advised the Committee that they would be receiving a number of additional resources which would see a large increase in staffing levels and give the team opportunities to be more proactive to solve ongoing issues.

In response to a question regarding policing at the seafront as it was having just as much of a night-time economy as the city centre, Inspector Prested advised that the situation was monitored on a regular basis and they had found that although there had been an increase in the numbers of licensed premises along the seafront this had not seen a significant increase in the numbers of incidents which remained static. Premises at the seafront were well maintained and well ran and the city centre continued to have more additional concerns where the main focus lay at the moment.

In relation to incidents of crime and disorder around the metro stations with graffiti, drug use and intimidation by youths, Inspector Prested advised that there was a neighbourhood meeting which look at all the transport issues on a continuous basis. The issues were discussed every Thursday and they would continue to focus a presence around the stations that caused concern. Mr. Duggan advised that they could ask their detached youth workers to target those areas and during the school summer break they would usually find more young people travelling into the area from South Hylton and South Tyneside.

Inspector Prested added that they had improved the area around McDonalds, Roker and they were keen to ensure that this continued. Mr. Duggan also advised that they could inform young people of areas where free WiFi was available as this was the usual draw to the McDonalds site.

Members having fully considered the report and asked all that they wished to, thanked Inspector Prested for his report and it was:-

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

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

(Signed) D. WILSON,  
Chairman.