

At a meeting of the WASHINGTON AREA COMMITTEE held at THE MILLENNIUM CENTRE on THURSDAY 25TH APRIL, 2013 at 6.00 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor D.E. Snowdon in the Chair

Councillors Farthing, Fletcher, Kelly, G. Miller, Padgett, D. Snowdon, Thompson, Walker and Williams.

Mike Poulter	-	City Services
Carol Dougherty	-	City Services
Karon Purvis	-	Chief Executives
Paul Wood	-	Commercial and Corporate Services
Jane Eland	-	Children's Services
Lorraine Hughes	-	Children's Services/Sunderland PCT
Neil Revely	-	Health, Housing and Adult Services
Alan Caddick	-	Health, Housing and Adult Services
Jacqui Reeves	-	Washington Mind
John Rostron	-	VCS Representative
Colin McCartney	-	Gentoo
Steve Anderson	-	Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service
Paul Stewart	-	Northumbria Police
Wayne Sinclair	-	Northumbria Police
Claire Fisher	-	Nexus

Members of the Washington Community.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors F. Miller, Lauchlan, Scaplehorn, D. Trueman and H. Trueman. Brian Hodgkinson and John Chapman

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 15th January, 2013

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 15th January, 2013 (copy circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 19th March, 2013

2. RESOLVED that the minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the Committee held on 19th March, 2013 (copy circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Washington Area Committee Annual Report 2012/13

The Chair of the Washington Area Committee submitted a report (copy circulated) for Members to approve the Washington Area Committee's Annual Report as part of the combined Area Committees Annual Report 2012/13 to be presented to Full Council.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

3, RESOLVED that Members considered and approved the Washington Annual Report for inclusion in the combined Area Committees Annual Report for 2012/13.

Place Board – Progress Report

The Chair of the Place Board submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide the Committee with an end of year performance update on the 2012/13 Place Board Work Plan and requested the Area Committees approval of the board's proposed refresh of Work Plan priorities for 2013/14.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Karon Purvis, Area Community Officer presented the report and was on hand to answer Members queries.

Councillor Walker referred to the proposed Work Plan and the Park Improvement Plan for Princess Anne Park and requested reassurance that other green spaces would not be excluded, such as Albany Park for example.

Mrs Purvis advised that the project matrix would include an initiative to look at a whole number of parks, Albany Park being one of those.

Councillor Kelly commented that it would be useful to understand what Members were looking for in terms of Heritage and what was important to their areas. Councillor Kelly advised that a report on Washington Heritage had been compiled around three years ago on Washington Heritage and it may be worth the consideration of the Board.

Councillor Kelly also commented that a lot of work had been carried out around the Business sector, such as successful Business Breakfasts which they had not had any feedback on. The Chairman advised that this would be touched on in the People Board progress report.

4. RESOLVED that the Committee

- (i) Considered the Annual Performance Update with regard to the Washington Area Place Board's Work Plan for 2012/13
- (ii) Agreed the Washington Area Place Board Work Plan for 2013/14.

People Board – Progress Report

The Chair of the People Board submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide the Committee with an end of year performance update on the 2012/13 People Board Work Plan and requested Area Committee approval of the Board's proposed refresh of Work Plan priorities for 2013/14.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Williams presented the report and requested Members feedback on the work carried out by the Board and comments on the proposed actions that should be taken forward as part of the Work Plan.

Councillor G. Miller referred to action 6 of the 2012/13 Work Plan and commented that whilst the action was closed, no detail had been given as to the approach to take. Mrs Purvis advised that the Board had received a detailed report but as it was a massive issue that needed officer attention to develop a joined up approach with other Areas, the action was closed for the Washington People Board whilst a City wide approach was confirmed.

Councillor Miller commented that he would still like to see us action this.

Councillor Kelly referred to the action on tackling health inequalities and commented that at a previous area debate, the issue had been raised that young people were unwilling to travel to sexual health clinics outside of the area and might be something the People Board wanted to look into.

Lorraine Hughes, Sunderland PCT advised that youths can get a service through their GP's or they could arrange for home visits and there was a young persons clinic at the Washington Primary Care Centre but this was not a full service on offer.

Councillor Kelly commented that this appeared to be the problem in the fact that there needed to be a full service on offer, which Washington was missing and that it would be good to see the figures based on Washington. Ms Hughes advised that she could supply the figures and would pick this up outside of the meeting.

Councillor Farthing commented that in relation to Chlamydia testing, there was a real resistance by young people to travel to Sunderland for further testing and that the Washington G.P Clinical Commissioning Group has sexual health as a priority so this might be something that we may want to commission.

In relation to the issue around Sulgrave flats, Councillor Kelly advised that Alan Caddick and his team, along with the Police had carried out fantastic work, reports of Anti Social Behaviour were down but it was still early days and there were still a number of problems.

Mr Caddick advised that they would be proposing a selective licensing scheme similar to the practice carried out in Hendon, which would allow the Council to work intensively with the landlords, and this was a suggested way forward that would be brought to a future meeting of the Area Committee.

Councillor David Snowdon commented that he would like to see items 6, 8 and 10 (Access to employment opportunities) become a priority on the Boards new work plan and would like to look at these in greater detail in the future.

In response to Councillor Kelly's request for more detail on item 16 of the new work plan, Mrs Purvis advised that this action was about maintaining regular contact with the established youth group and working with them to identify sources of ASB and such like.

Councillor Kelly commented that it could only be a positive to have young people involved and if there was a good youth forum established, he would love to have them become more involved with Area Committee. Mrs Purvis advised that Jim Kennedy, Area Youth Lead (Washington) was looking to set up events for them to attend through the new Washington Young People's Forum set up through Area Committee funding.

Councillor Kelly also commented that it was vital we support the VCS, who were struggling immensely.

5. RESOLVED that the Committee

- (i) Considered the Annual Performance Update with regard to the Washington Area People Board's Work Plan for 2012/13
- (ii) Considered and agreed the Washington Area People Board Work Plan for 2013/14

Financial Statement and Proposals for further allocation of Resources

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to request the Committee's consideration of the financial statement of the Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) and to note the Community Chest initiatives that would benefit the area.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

6. RESOLVED that the Committee:-

- i) Noted the financial statements set out in the report
- ii) Noted the 18 applications for Community Chest agreed and supported from the 2013/14 allocation, between January – April 2013 as set out in Annex 1

Area Community Voluntary Sector Network

The Washington Area Community Voluntary Sector Network submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide an update with regard to the Washington Area Community and Voluntary Sector Network

John Rostron provided a verbal presentation to the Committee and advised that positive priorities came out of the meeting they attended with the People Board and the sector was keen to move forward, keen to understand how the Area Arrangements would work.

There was a need pull together the issues of mental health strategically and for the VCS to know how they can influence from the bottom up as Area Arrangements evolve, where they sit, to make their voice heard and they were keen to develop the good relationship already in place.

Mrs Purvis advised that now we had shared priorities going forward and with the new workplan approved, the Chair of the Area Committee was very keen to facilitate the VCS possibly by utilising the Strategic Initiatives Budget. In terms of the area arrangements, a project was underway to look at who has what role and hopefully through those workstreams the relationships would become clearer.

7. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Tyne and Wear Fire Service Update

The Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service Submitted a report (copy circulated via email) to provide the Committee with Performance Monitoring details in relation to the Local Indicators for the Washington area.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Steve Anderson presented the report and was on hand to answer Members queries.

The Chairman referred to the figures provided and commented that it was good to see the numbers decreasing due to the preventative measures being carried out.

8. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Northumbria Police Update

Inspector Paul Stewart of Northumbria Police provided a verbal report (copy circulated via email) on the crime statistics for the Washington Area.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Inspector Stewart advised the Committee that they were proud of their performance and recognised that this had been achieved with the help of partners such as LMAPS.

In response to Councillor Thompson's request for statistics on burglary thefts, Inspector Stewart advised that he could provide these at future meetings. Mr Caddick also advised that as part of the Safer Sunderland Partnership Plan they could also provide these statistics to Members as their priorities matched the Police Commissioners.

Councillor Thompson commented on the need to raise awareness and if it could be done in forums such as this through statistics. Councillor Thompson also commented that the Washington area had the best reduction figures for Anti Social Behaviour.

The Chairman commented that it was very challenging due to the area having such a large shopping centre that instances of crime could occur in. Inspector Stewart acknowledged that there was still work to do.

Councillor Thompson wished to thank the Police, having studied the figures he believed to be exceptional and showed that the system was working.

9. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Councillor Peter Walker wished to place on record, the Committees gratitude to the Chair and Vice Chairs of the Committee and to all of the Officers for all of the work that they had carried out throughout the year.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting

(Signed) D. E. SNOWDON,
Chairman.