At a meeting of the WASHINGTON AREA COMMITTEE held at WASHINGTON FIRE AUTHORITY MAIN HEADQUARTERS, BARMSTON MERE, WASHINGTON on THURSDAY 4TH JUNE, 2015 at 6.00 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Williams in the Chair

Councillors Farthing, Fletcher, F. Miller, G. Miller, Scaplehorn, David Snowdon, Dianne Snowdon, D. Trueman, and H. Trueman.

Louise Butler	-	Chief Executives
Paul Wood	-	Commercial and Corporate Services
John Rostron	-	VCS Representative
Colin McCartney	-	Gentoo
Michelle Green	-	Gentoo
Wayne Sinclair	-	Northumbria Police
Ev Ripley – Day	-	Foundation of Light

Members of the Washington Community.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Kelly, Lauchlan, Middleton, Taylor and P. Walker. Neil Revely, Steve Graham, David Hardy, Lorraine Hughes and Inspector Paul Stewart.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 5th March, 2015

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 5th March, 2015 (copy circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Partner Agency Reports

(a) Report of the Washington Area Community Voluntary Sector Network

The Washington Area Community Voluntary Sector Network submitted a report (copy circulated) to inform the Committee of activity, progress, issues and concerns of the sector.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

John Rostron, VCS Representative, presented the report and wished to place on record the Networks gratitude to former chairman of the Washington Area Committee, Councillor Scaplehorn for his support over the years.

2. RESOLVED that Members noted the contents of the report.

(b) Northumbria Police

Sergeant Wayne Sinclair of Northumbria Police presented the Washington Sector Performance Update – Initial 8 week financial year performance data.

Sgt Sinclair advised that the figures presented were from April 2015 to 22nd May 2015 in comparison to April 2014 to May 2014.

Sgt Sinclair informed the Committee that the statistics for burglary were down 22% due to the arrest of a significant repeat offender.

Theft and Violent Crime figures were high but looking at violent crime across the whole force, Washington was the below the average. A lot of work was going on to tackle violent crime such as Pubwatch and Operation Dove. The Police were having input with the comprehensive schools with 20 sessions scheduled in the next 8 weeks.

The increase in Theft figures were mainly due to Wheelie Bin thefts and the change in Council policy requiring a crime number before a replacement would be issued.

Sgt Sinclair advised that there was a great deal of change occurring in the Police Authority with different ways of working, new equipment (Phablets/Tablets) and a new command team.

Sgt Sinclair also advised that Sgt Ron Hyde was to retire and he had requested his thanks be passed onto the Committee for their support. His successor was still to be appointed and Members would be informed once they were in place.

Members commented that they would like their thanks to be passed on to Sergeant Hyde as he had carried out a great deal of good work over the years.

3. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Place Board – Progress Report

The Chair of the Place Board submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide the Committee with the annual update of the 2014/15 Work Plan, including SIB funded projects. The report also sought approval for priorities to be taken forward as part of the Work Plan for 2015/16 and to provide an update on Place Board Governance Arrangements for 2015/16.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Fiona Miller, Chair of the Place Board presented the report and advised that suggestions had been put forward for the proposed 2015/16 work plan to

- Develop a strategy for Washington and use as part of the Core Strategy
- Commission a study/consultation in respect of Albany Park and include the refresh of the Heritage Document Report
- Align £30,000 SIB in respect of Heritage to generate opportunities to use heritage and culture for a positive impact on the community and attract match funding to maximise potential.

Members noted the suggestions put forward.

Councillor F. Miller referred to paragraph 5.3 – Area Governance and requested Members consideration of the proposed Place Board Core Membership. Members agreed the Core Membership proposal.

In relation to the Highways Maintenance Local Priorities Councillor F. Miller advised that officers' recommendations for the additional spend of £75,000 had been considered at an extraordinary meeting of the Place Board and were outlined in Annex 5 for Members agreement. However since that meeting, Members of the Washington North Ward had asked that the recommendation be changed so that Pensher View be resurfaced rather than Waterloo Road – part – Phase 1. This would then leave an underspend of £5,000.

Members requested that Officers of Highways be approached to see if the £5,000 underspend could be put towards the £22,000 resurfacing costs for Craggyknowe and if Highways would be able to obtain the remaining costs needed..

Members agreed the schemes listed in Annex 5 with the amendment to change Waterloo Road to Pensher View.

5. RESOLVED that the Committee

i) Considered the Annual performance update with regard to the Washington Place Board's Work Plan for 2014/15 as detailed in Annex 1 and 2 of the report

ii) Considered and agreed the Washington Area Place Board Work Plan Priorities for 2015/16 attached as Item 3 Annex 3 to the report

iii) Noted the Area Governance arrangements for 2015/16 outlined in Section 5 and Item 3 Annex 4 of the report

iv) Considered and agreed the recommendations of the Place Board regarding the additional funding for Ward based highways capital maintenance attached at Annex 5 of the report subject to the amendment of resurfacing Pensher View rather than Waterloo Road.

People Board – Progress Report

The Chair of the People Board submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide the Committee with the annual update of the 2014/15 Work Plan, including SIB funded projects. The report also sought approval for priorities to be taken forward as part of the Work Plan for 2015/16 and to provide an update on People Board Governance Arrangements for 2015/16.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Farthing presented the report and advised that suggestions had been put forward for the proposed 2015/16 work plan to

- Develop smaller community groups and encourage residents to become involved in Area Committee. Look at venues for meetings, publicity of meetings etc.

Councillor Farthing referred to Paragraph 5.3 of the report and sought Members approval for the Core Membership of the People Board. Members agreed the Core Membership as outlined in the report.

Councillor Farthing also advised Members that the next Washington People Board would be held on the 14th July, 2015 at the earlier time of 2pm.

6. RESOLVED that the Committee

(i) Considered the Annual performance update with regards to the Washington People Board Work Plan for 2014/2015, as detailed in Annex 1 and 2 of the report

(ii) Considered and agreed the Washington Area People Board Work Plan Priorities for 2015/16 attached as Annex 3 to the report

(iii) Noted the Area Governance arrangements for 2015/16 outlined in Section 5 and Annex 4 of the report

Financial Statement and Proposals for further allocation of Resources

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide a financial statement as an update position on progress in relation to allocating SIB and Community Chest and present proposals for further funding requests.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

7. RESOLVED that the Committee:-

i) Noted the financial statements set out in the report.

ii) Noted the 18 Community Chest approvals as listed in the report.

Planning Applications – For Information Only

Current Planning Applications relating to the Washington Area for the period 1st April to 20th April 2015 were submitted for Members information only (copy circulated).

(For copy report – see original minutes)

8. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting

(Signed) L. WILLIAMS,
Chairman.