

At a meeting of the WASHINGTON AREA COMMITTEE held in WASHINGTON MILLENIUM CENTRE, on THURSDAY, 21st JUNE, 2018 at 6.00p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Lauchlan in the Chair

Councillors Farthing, Fletcher, F. Miller, D.E. Snowdon, Taylor, D. Trueman, H. Trueman and Williams

Also in Attendance:-

Ms. Jemma Amer	-	Area Network Representative
Ms. Louise Butler	-	Area Co-ordinator, Sunderland City Council
Inspector Nick Gjorven	-	Northumbria Police
Mr. Phil McAloon	-	Oxclose and District Young People's Projects
Ms. Joanne Stewart	-	Principal Governance Services Officer, Sunderland City Council
Station Manager Mark Witherspoon	-	Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Services

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting, inviting introductions from those in attendance and advising of the right to record proceedings.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Kelly, G. Miller, Scaplehorn, D. Snowdon and P. Walker

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

Minutes of the last meeting held on 15th March, 2018

Subject to the amendment on page 5 from Mr. Robinson to Mr. Richardson, it was:-

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 15th March, 2018 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Area Committee Annual Report

The Chairman of the Washington Area Committee submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Washington Area's Committee Annual Report 2017-18.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Louise Butler, Area Co-ordinator, advised that the Annual Report of the Area Committees 2017-18 had been submitted to and agreed at the last meeting of the Council and that it was included in the agenda for Members' information, and it was:-

2. RESOLVED that the Annual Report of the Area Committees 2017-18 be received and noted.

Partner Agency Reports – Washington 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 Network.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Jemma Amer took the Committee through the report informing Members of activity, progress, issues and concerns of the sector.

The network had commenced discussions to agree its own work plan to address those priorities and challenges for the forthcoming year which was set out for Members information and included detail of progress and proposal which had been discussed at the network meeting held in May, 2018.

Councillor Snowden referred to the work plan and organisations identifying nearly 500 volunteers working for a range of organisations in Washington and how fantastic this figure was. She commented that the Committee should look in the future, through the relevant Area Committee Board, to show how appreciative of their work Members were.

Members having fully considered the report, it was:-

3. RESOLVED that the content of the report and the opportunities and issues raised by the Washington Area Voluntary and Community Sector Network be received and noted.

Partner Agency Reports – Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Services

The Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Services submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update with regard to deliberate fires across the Washington area.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Station Manager Mark Witherspoon took the Committee through the report advising that annex 1-5 showed the breakdown of fires for each ward from 1st March to 30th May, 2018.

He informed Members that the areas continued to show a steady decrease over previous months where there had been a spike across all of Washington. The figures showed a dramatic decrease of over 200% than last year with the number of deliberate fires having dropped down from 129 to 36.

Councillor Miller referred to the Fire Cadets Campaign and was informed that although it was not provided in the Washington area any young people who were interested in joining could contact and fill in an application to attend sessions run from either Gateshead or Marley Potts Fire Stations. He explained that it was a uniformed youth organisation which was designed to provide young people between the ages of 13 and 17 years old with training and personal development opportunities through fire and rescue related activities at weekly meetings. Councillor Miller advised that she was keen to promote the campaign to young people in the Washington area but the issue of transport to the alternative venues may cause an issue for some.

Councillor H. Trueman raised concerns over an issue around the Havannah Road and Parsons Road area whereby it had been brought to his attention by a resident that around 30 metres of trees had been cut down and removed from the site and others had been set fire to at the base of the trunk. He had reported this and to date had not received any response but had asked who the land belonged to and if it was known who had removed the trees as those remaining were in danger of falling down. The Chairman asked Officers to take the matter away and investigate the issue further and look to provide a combined response from both the fire and rescue services and Northumbria Police to Members of the Committee.

Members having had their questions answered, it was:-

4. RESOLVED that the update from the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service be received and noted.

Partner Agency Reports – Northumbria Police

Northumbria Police submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update on crime and disorder in the Washington area between 2nd March and 6th June, 2018.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Inspector Nick Gjorven of Northumbria Police presented the report to the Committee on the current position with regards to crime and anti-social behaviour data and of any on-going issues in the Washington area. He advised Members that the data for the same period in the previous year had been provided to allow comparisons to be seen.

Councillor Farthing referred to the 'Offwatch Scheme' and commented that there was a lot of work being undertaken across the city to reduce and tackle the issue of underage drinking. She advised that during litter picks in hotspots for underage drinking they were finding numbers of empty smaller, quarter bottles of spirits which were obviously not being provided from home and must have been bought by the young people or someone on their behalf. Inspector Gjorven commented that they consistently tried different ways to tackle the issue, including tagging bottles from off licences, etc but to date they were still finding it difficult to pinpoint where the young people were getting their alcohol from. He also commented that Officers were always happy to consider new ways of addressing the issue should Members have any suggestions.

Councillor Farthing suggested he may find it useful to contact Mr. Tom Terrett, Head of Public Protection and Regulatory Services, regarding the strategies that the Council were using.

Councillor Taylor asked if Officers had tried using Smart Water in the past to identify which outlet bottles were coming from and Inspector Gjorven commented that although a good idea, they would ultimately be reliant upon shop keepers marking up every bottle before putting them out for sale and this was not always possible. Ms. Butler commented that this could be something which could be discussed at LMAPs to look to fund targeting a particular area in the first instance to see how successful it was.

Mr. Phil McAloon commented that the sale of alcohol to young people by shop keepers in the area seemed to be better than it had been for a long time and that he found that a large majority of alcohol given to young people was by older people or even parents providing it. He commented that he noted nowadays that the use of cannabis by young people was at an all-time high and supplies seemed so easy for them to get access to. Inspector Gjorven advised that it was a continuing problem which the service looked to tackle; and they were finding that the strain of the drug was higher than ever before and could go on to have long term effects on the mental health of those young people who were using it.

Members thanked Inspector Gjorven for his informative report and thanked him for his attendance, and it was:-

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

People Board Progress Report

The Chairman of the Washington Area People Board submitted a report (copy circulated) in respect of the above matter.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Lauchlan presented the report which provided an annual update of the 2017/18 work plan, sought the Committee's approval for priorities to be taken forward and provided an update on the governance arrangements for 2018/2019.

Councillor Lauchlan drew Members attention to the membership of the People Board in light of the report which had been submitted to Council on 20th June, 2018 and confirmed with the Committee that the Chairman of the People Board was now Councillor H. Trueman. Councillor H. Trueman would therefore also be the Elected Member representative on the Children's Centres Local Advisory Board (CCAB) to replace Councillor Middleton.

Members having fully considered the report, it was:-

6. RESOLVED that:-
 - The annual performance update with regard to the Washington Area People Board Work Plan for 2017/2018 be received and noted;
 - The Washington Area People Board Work Plan Priorities for 2018/2019 be agreed;
 - The area governance arrangements for 2018/2019 be received and noted; and
 - The replacement of Councillor H. Trueman as Chairman of the People Board and therefore Elected Member Representative on the Children's Centres Local Advisory Partnerships Board (CCAB) be noted.

Place Board Progress Report

The Chairman of the Washington Area Place Board submitted a report (copy circulated) in respect of the above matter.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor F. Miller presented the report which provided an annual update of the 2017/18 work plan, sought the Committee's approval for priorities to be

taken forward and provided an update on the governance arrangements for 2018/2019.

Councillor Miller drew Members attention to the membership of the Place Board and it was moved and agreed that Councillor Middleton should be replaced by Councillor Farthing as the Place Board Member for the Washington South ward.

Members having fully considered the report, it was:-

7. RESOLVED that:-

- The annual performance update with regard to the Washington Area Place Board Work Plan for 2017/2018 be received and noted;
- The Washington Area Place Board Work Plan Priorities for 2018/2019 be agreed;
- The area governance arrangements for 2018/2019 be received and noted; and
- The replacement of Councillor Middleton with Councillor Farthing as the Washington South ward representative be agreed.

Financial Statement and Proposals for Further Allocation of Resources

The Head of Strategy, Partnerships and Transformation Directorate submitted a report (copy circulated) which requested Members to give consideration to a financial statement as an up to date position in relation to the allocation of Strategic Initiatives Budget and Community Chest and presented proposals for further funding requests.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Butler, Area Co-ordinator, presented the report drawing attention to the recommendations detailed within the report.

Having fully discussed the applications and Members having had any questions answered, it was:-

8. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the financial statements as set out in the report be received and noted;
- (ii) the sum of £28,020 match funding from Sunderland City Council to support the delivery of youth activity projects within the Washington area be formally accepted by the Committee;
- (iii) the sum of £25,000 match funding from Public Health to support the Health and Heritage Project be formally accepted by the Committee;

- (iv) approval be given to the alignment of £25,000 SIB funding from the budget for 2018/19 to support the Washington Healthy Lifestyles Projects;
- (v) approval be given to the allocation of £50,000 SIB funding, which had been previously aligned by the Committee, for the Washington Health and Heritage Project;
- (vi) approval be given to the alignment of £30,000 SIB funding, which had been previously aligned by the Committee, for the Washington Individual Support Project;
- (vii) approval be given to the allocation of £50,000 SIB funding, from the 2018/19 budget and the project briefs as set out for the Holiday Activities Programme for children and young people;
- (viii) approval be given to the project brief as set out for the Volunteer and Community Support Project;
- (ix) approval be given to the allocation of £10,000 SIB funding from the 2018/19 budget to continue with the evidence gathering and to develop a partnership approach for the Washington Safe Project;
- (x) approval be given to the alignment of a further £40,000 SIB funding from the 2018/19 budget to support the development of a longer term approach via a specific partnership approach for the Washington Safe Project;
- (xi) approval be given to the allocation of £5,000 SIB funding from the 2018/19 budget to deliver the Washington Fire Safety Education Project;
- (xii) approval be given to the alignment of £50,000 SIB funding from the 2018/19 budget for the further development of the Washington Clean and Green Project;
- (xiii) approval be given to the allocation of £20,000 SIB funding from the 2018/19 budget and the project brief for the Usworth Park Management Plan;
- (xiv) approval be given to the allocation of £50,000 SIB funding from the 2018/19 budget to the Community Partnership Service to support and deliver the Washington Ward Improvement Project;
- (xv) approval be given to the alignment of £40,000 SIB funding from the 2018/19 budget for the Washington Events Programme 2019;
- (xvi) the twenty-three approvals for Community Chest supported from the 2017/18 budget as set out in Annex 5 to the report be noted; and
- (xvii) the ten approvals for Community Chest supported from the 2018/19 budget as set out in Annex 6 to the report be noted

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

(Signed) L. LAUHLAN,
Chairman.