

**At an Extraordinary meeting of the WEST SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in COMMITTEE ROOM 1 of the CIVIC CENTRE SUNDERLAND on WEDNESDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2016 at 5.30 p.m.**

**Present:-**

Councillor P. Gibson in the Chair

Councillors, Dixon, Essl, G. Galbraith, I. Galbraith, Gofton, P. Smith, Waters and A. Wilson.

**Also Present:-**

Bill Blackett	West Area Response Manager	Sunderland City Council
David Noon	Principal Governance Services Officer	Sunderland City Council
Helen Peverley	Area Co-ordinator	Sunderland City Council
Ian Richardson	Assistant Head of Street Scene	Sunderland City Council
Mark Speed	Head of Place Management	Sunderland City Council
Gilly Stanley	Area Community Development Lead	Sunderland City Council

**Chairman's Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited those present to introduce themselves.

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Allan, Tye, Waller, P. Watson, S. Watson and T. Wright.

**Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest made.

**Responsive Local Services**

The Head of Place Management submitted a report (copy circulated) which sought approval for the Responsive Local Services (RLS) Area Delivery Plan for the West of Sunderland for 2016/2017 as recommended by the West Sunderland Area Place Board.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

The Chairman welcomed and introduced Mark Speed, Head of Place Management and invited him to present his report.

The meeting was informed that since 2010 the government had severely cut the funding it gives local authorities, and was continuing to do so. There was also an increasing demand for services, particularly in relation to adults and children's social care. The council had already saved £207million since 2010 whilst protecting and improving front-line services. To-date those savings had been delivered in a planned way in order to protect the city from the worst impact of this financial challenge. The council now needed to make further savings of £110million by 2020 of which at least £40million had to be made in 2016/17.

To enable the efficiencies to be achieved from the Place Management Service, a new operating model for RLS in the West area had been developed by the West Place Board Members.

For benefit of the Committee members unable to attend the Place Board held earlier that afternoon and the members of the public present, Mr Speed outlined the following scheduled of proposed RLS service standards which were being submitted for the Committee's consideration :-

Activity	Proposed Service Standard
<p><b><u>Cleansing</u></b> <i>(incl. Compact sweeper operations, litter and dog bin servicing, fly-tip clearance, litter picking, leaf removal)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open Plan Estates</li> <li>• High Density Areas</li> <li>• Town Centres</li> <li>• City Centre</li> <li>• Resorts</li> <li>• Main arterial routes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fortnightly</li> <li>• Weekly</li> <li>• Daily – 1 visit</li> <li>• No change</li> <li>• No change</li> <li>• Weekly</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>Grass cutting</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Play areas</li> <li>• Open spaces</li> <li>• Residential verge</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 weekly</li> <li>• 3 weekly</li> <li>• 4 weekly</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Main routes verge</li> <li>• Priority route verge</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 weekly</li> <li>• Fortnightly</li> </ul>
<b><u>Parks</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key Park</li> <li>• Non-Key Parks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Barnes</li> <li>• 3 weekly grass-cutting</li> </ul>
<b><u>Sports pitches</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initial meeting held with Football League Secretaries to identify potential rationalisation of number of pitches provided for next season. To seek to confirm after league AGM's in June when number of teams for season 16/17 is known.</li> <li>• Meeting held with bowls clubs in April, all were made aware of reduction in revenue budget and implication on future provision. Agreed to produce questionnaire and capture baseline information from clubs. Further meeting held with Bowls Alliance on 13 May with potential options now to be collaboratively produced on future provision</li> </ul>
<b><u>Fixed Play</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cost to decommission identified sites to be determined summer 2016.</li> <li>• Play Delivery Plan currently being compiled for presentation at future Place Board</li> </ul>
<b><u>Shrub beds</u></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 50 % rationalisation – specific locations to be identified for removal winter 16/17</li> <li>• 3 year maintenance programme to all remaining shrub beds</li> </ul>
<b><u>Graffiti Removal</u></b> (non-offensive)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 working days</li> </ul>

With regard to the parks Mr Speed advised that Barnes park having been identified as a key park would be maintained as it had been previously. Councillor Gofton stated that while all aspects of Barnes park, including the bowling green, would be maintained as before, there were other parks within the west area which would not.

At this juncture a member of the public queried how Mr Speed would be able to guarantee the maintenance of the park given the removal of the park security.

Helen Peverley, Area Coordinator advised that the issue of security was not within the remit of this Committee. The extraordinary meeting had been called specifically to consider the operating model for Responsive Local Services in the west Sunderland area. Council security was the responsibility of a different service.

Mr Speed advised the public gallery that if anyone wished to remain until the end of the meeting he would be more than happy to provide his contact details and look at any concerns they may have.

There being no further comments or questions on the report, it was:-

1. RESOLVED that:-

- i) Approval be given to the West Sunderland Place Board's Responsive Local Services Area Delivery Plan for 2016/2017 and
- ii) the responsibility to oversee the development and delivery of the 2016/2017 Responsive Local Services Area Delivery Plan be delegated to the West Sunderland Place Board.

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

(Signed) P. GIBSON,  
Chairman.