

At a meeting of the NORTH SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in the BUNNY HILL CENTRE, HYLTON LANE, SUNDERLAND on MONDAY, 30th JANUARY, 2012 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Bonallie in the Chair

Councillors Curran, S. Foster, Francis, Howe, MacKnight, Shattock, Stewart, Walton and Wiper

Also in Attendance:-

Mr. Ian Bower	- Community Heritage Development Officer, Sunderland City Council
Mr. Les Clark	- Head of Streetscene, Sunderland City Council
Mr. Phill Connolly	- Community Heritage Development Officer, Sunderland City Council
Ms. Angela Cousins	- Area Community Co-ordinator, Sunderland City Council
Ms. Jane Eland	- Quality Assurance Manager, Sunderland City Council
Ms. Julie Lynn	- Area Officer (North), Sunderland City Council
Ms. Vicki Medhurst	- Cultural Heritage Manager, Sunderland City Council
Mr. Ron Odunaiya	- Executive Director City Services, ALE (Area Lead Executive), Sunderland City Council
Mr. Andy Old	- Area Response Officer, Sunderland City Council
Ms. Joanne Stewart	- Principal Governance Services Officer, Sunderland City Council
Mr. Gary Yates	- Tyne and Wear Fire Service

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman invited introductions around the room and opened the meeting.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Bell, Charlton, Copeland, T. Foster and N. Wright.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 21st November, 2011

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 21st November, 2011 (copy circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Community Action in the North – Identifying Issues and Agreeing Actions (2011/2012 Work Plan)

Process for the Review of Local Area Plans for 2012

The Chairman moved that this item be deferred to the March meeting of the Committee to allow a more detailed report to be submitted to the Committee.

Members agreed with this motion to defer the item to the next meeting of the Committee, and it was:-

2. RESOLVED that the item be deferred to the March meeting of the Committee to allow a further, more detailed report to be produced.

Community Action in the North – Progress Review

Activities for Young People

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which informed Members of the work that had been undertaken in relation to the activities for young people priority.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Julie Lynn (Area Officer North) presented the report advising of two proposals the Committee were being asked to consider regarding the delivery of activities from the purpose built youth centre at Redhouse Academy and the relaying of the multi use games area (MUGA) at CastleView Academy.

Councillor Shattock referred to the resurfacing of the MUGA at a cost of approximately £66,000 and commented that it seemed quite a lot, asking what needed doing at the site and how big it was. Ms. Lynn advised it was a standard sized MUGA and having received a number of quotes, it had been one of the cheapest that had been awarded the contract. She explained that the MUGA would be completely resurfaced and last for a further ten years.

Councillor Howe supported the resurfacing of the MUGA and asked how the Academy intended to find the further £36,000 funding. Ms. Lynn advised that they had supported the Academy to identify other funding opportunities to access and that the Castle Ward would support the development with Section 106 funding, as well as the school making some contribution.

Councillor Francis asked how old the current surface was, what the factors were in leading to its deterioration and over the range of quotes what the difference in materials used was, as going with the cheapest quote was not always the best. Ms. Lynn advised that she would get back to Members with the technical information but she could confirm that the current surface had been in place for around nine years and she knew the MUGA was very well used which would have led toward the deterioration.

3. RESOLVED that:-

- i) the content of the report be received and noted;
- ii) the SIB funding of £46,000 to deliver targeted and generalist youth provision from the RHAY centre for the North Sunderland Area; and
- iii) the alignment of SIB funding of £30,000 to the repair of Castleview Academy MUGA, subject to a full application, consultation and appraisal subject to recommended conditions.

Anti Social Behaviour

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update on progress against agreed actions in the current years work plan with regards to the Anti Social Behaviour Priority.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Lynn presented the report advising the Committee of the projects that had been undertaken in the North Sunderland Area to address Anti Social Behaviour and areas for continued improvement in the future.

Councillor Curran referred to the problems that had been in and around Roker Park with youths congregating and was pleased to say that this had now moved on and was pleased to see that the Police's approach had worked.

Councillor Francis referred to paragraph 3.2 of the report and asked for further information on the successes of the prevent training which had been provided to the ring leaders of youth disorder. Ms. Lynn agreed to liaise with Northumbria Police to get feedback on the training that had been provided and circulate those findings to the Committee.

In response to comments from Councillor Howe regarding incidents at the Fulwell Quarry site, Ms. Lynn advised that they did find that issues in that area tended to be seasonal and actions to counteract disorder in that area would be reinstated as it was felt necessary.

Councillor Foster asked if the Castletown Warden Scheme had restarted yet and was advised that the full SIB application had recently been received and

following its consideration the recruitment process would be undertaken through the SNCBC. Councillor Foster commented that it would be difficult for it to be as successful as the previous scheme due to the relationships the wardens had built with young people in the area but felt it was important that the new warden started to build similar relationships as soon as possible.

The Chairman having thanked the Officer for their report and Members queries having been answered, it was:-

4. RESOLVED that:-

- i) the content of the report be received and noted;
- ii) the identified actions to continue to improve response to anti social behaviour be implemented through LMAPS;
- iii) the progression of the educational awareness sessions in schools across the North Sunderland area be supported; and
- iv) the remit of the Community Warden project be agreed.

Heritage

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Members with information on the progress against the actions which had been agreed as part of the Heritage Priority.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Medhurst, Cultural Heritage Manager, presented the report advising that there were now two Community Heritage Development Officers, Mr. Ian Bower and Mr. Phill Connolly, in post who would cover both the North Sunderland and Coalfield areas. The Officers would be in post for a year and as part of their role would continue to look for external funding opportunities to support the future sustainability of the post from November 2012.

In response to a query from Councillor Wiper regarding Hylton Castle, Ms. Medhurst advised that there was a keyholder and the site was opened every day for public access. There was also an Education Officer on site and Councillor MacKnight advised that heritage open days were held at the site but due to health and safety issues public were no longer allowed up inside the castle.

Councillor Shattock advised that Committee that she was a member of the task and finish group and that following Mr. Bower's attendance at the last meeting she had been excited by his ideas and focus for the future.

5. RESOLVED that:-

- i) the content of the report be received and noted; and
- ii) further update reports regarding heritage in the North Sunderland Area be received by the Committee.

North Area Committee 2011/12 Work Plan

Ms. Lynn, Area Officer, presented the work plan which was set out as an Annex to the progress report. She advised that if Members had any queries they could either raise them at the meeting or get in contact with her outside of the meeting.

Mr. Andy Old, North Area Response Manager, gave Members an update on upcoming projects in the North Sunderland Area such as the Northumbria in Bloom, Britain in Bloom, Love Where You Live, Spring Clean Week, Wild about Wildflowers and the RHS National Garden Week, all of which, Councillors, community groups and residents would be asked to be involved in.

Mr. Old advised that as part of the Spring Clean Week Members were asked to identify one site to be part of a large scheme that week with other wards being undertaken in the weeks following the project and they would be looking for ideas for the site to be considered.

Councillor Howe asked how the local community were to be involved or if they had to contact Mr. Old directly. Mr. Old advised that that was one option but informed Members that it was an agenda item for discussion at the next meeting of the VCS network to get involvement in all of the proposed schemes and ensure input from as many groups in the area as possible as this was looked favourably on by the judges for both Northumbria and Britain in Bloom.

Councillor MacKnight referred to Hylton Castle having won a prize in the past and asked if it would be visited during the judges tour of the City. Mr. Old commented that it may be included as part of the Northumbria in Bloom route but advised that they ran to very structured itinerary on the day with every site being given an allotted time. He agreed to check and advise Members directly, and it was:-

6. RESOLVED that the Work Plan for 2011/12 be noted.

Community Chest, Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) and Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) – Financial Statement and Proposals for Further Allocation of Resources

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which requested Members to give consideration to requests for funding from Strategic Initiatives Budget, Strategic Investment Plan and Community Chest to support initiatives which would benefit the area.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

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Ms. Lynn presented the report and advised Members of the applications for funding which were set out as an Annex to the report and advised that an exercise to reclaim underspends and unused community chest grants had been undertaken and a table showing the amount of grant reclaimed per ward was attached as an Annex to the report.

Councillor Shattock referred to the SIB application for the Last Man Standing project and commented that although she thought it was a brilliant idea it came across as being a male orientated event, which may exclude females wanting to take part. Ms. Lynn advised that the name was a nationally/internationally recognised project and could not be changed but understood the Councillor's concerns.

Mr. Odunaiya, Area Lead Executive, suggested that a condition be included as part of the funding grant that the organisers actively promote the project towards females, using marketing materials that clearly identified this.

Councillor Francis referred to the application for SIP funding for the Fishermen's Cottages and an area of paving on approach to the area that was in need of repair. Mr. Old agreed to visit the area and gather costings to repair the damages, and it was:-

7. RESOLVED that:-

- i) the financial statement as set out in paragraph 2.1 of the report be noted;
- ii) approval be given to the allocation of SIB funding from the 2011/12 budget of £6,750 as a contribution towards the Last Man Standing project, subject to an additional condition regarding marketing towards females;
- iii) approval be given to the allocation of SIB funding from the 2011/12 budget of £46,000 as a contribution towards the Redhouse Academy Youth Centre – Youth Development;
- iv) approval be given to the allocation of SIB funding from the 2011/12 budget of £12,000 as a contribution towards the St Margaret's Avenue project;
- v) approval be given to the allocation of SIP funding (Fulwell Ward) from the 2011/12 budget of £800 as a contribution towards the Dene Lane Bollards;
- vi) approval be given to the allocation of SIP funding (Fulwell Ward) from the 2011/12 budget of £670 as a contribution towards the Fisherman's Cottages;
- vii) approval be given to the 2 proposals for support from the 2011/12 Community Chest as set out in the Annex to the report, and;
- viii) approval be given to the 37 reclaimed Community Chest grants as set out in the Annex to the report.

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

(Signed) S. BONALLIE,
Chairman.