

**At a meeting of the EAST SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE, SUNDERLAND on MONDAY, 10<sup>th</sup> JUNE, 2019 at 5.30p.m.**

**Present:-**

Councillor E. Gibson in the Chair

Councillors Bewick, M. Dixon, Essl, Fagan, Hodson, Hunt, Mordey, Oliver, Potts, Scanlan and A. Wood.

**Also Present:-**

Alan Duffy	- Head of Operations, Gentoo
Matthew Jackson	- Governance Services Officer, Sunderland City Council
Shaun Makin	- Station Manager, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service
Nicol McConnell	- Area Officer, Sunderland City Council
Helen Peverley	- Area Co-ordinator, Sunderland City Council
Sarah Reed	- Director of Strategy, Partnerships and Transformation, Sunderland City Council
Jamie Southwell	- Inspector, Northumbria Police

**Chairman's Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and expressed her thanks towards the previous Chairman, Councillor Ellen Ball.

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for Absence were received on behalf of Councillors Marshall, McClennan and P. Wood together with Julie Maven and Lisa Wilson Riddell.

**Declarations of Interest**

Item 2c – Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service Update

Councillor Bewick declared that he worked for Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service

Item 2d – Gentoo Update

Councillor Essl declared that he was a council appointed member of the Gentoo Board.

## **Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2019**

Councillor Hodson expressed concerns over how the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Committee had been appointed. He did not feel that it had been a fair process and it had not involved opposition Members. He asked for assurances that the Committee would be held as an open forum. Councillor Oliver supported this stating that Labour held 100percent of the Chairs but did not have 100percent of the Members.

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2019 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

### **VCS Area Network Progress Report**

There was no update in respect of the VCS Area Network as none of the representatives were in attendance at the meeting.

### **Northumbria Police Update**

Inspector Jamie Southwell provided the Committee with an update on the work of the Police within the area. He advised Members of the crime statistics for the area, broken down into the A1 (City Centre) and A2 (East) areas. The figures were for the most recent 28 day period compared with the previous 28 day period. The main issues in the area were burglary of dwellings and vehicle crimes; in a number of cases entry was being made into properties through unsecured windows and doors. There had been a spate of burglaries of public houses with six such offences occurring within the last two months. Thefts from motor vehicles had increased with there being a number of offences where windows had been smashed in order to steal valuables which had been left on display; there was a campaign ongoing to encourage people not to leave items on display including leafleting of parked vehicles. There would be shift changes taking place to increase night time resources as there had been an increase in the number of offences occurring at night. Antisocial behaviour was still an issue and there were also operations ongoing to tackle crimes relating to drug dealing and use.

Councillor Essl referred to issues around off road motorbikes in his area and referred to the fact that in the Durham Police force area there were specialist officers on off road motorbikes. Inspector Southwell advised that Northumbria Police did not currently have any off road motorbikes; there had been an operation previously which had been a good deterrent; where there were issues air support was used and there was work being done with petrol stations to identify who was filling fuel cans at the garages. There were risks involved with trying to stop the riders so other methods were used including the use of DNA sprays. Where appropriate Section 59 was used to seize bikes which were being used antisocially or illegally. Some residents had asked whether they should film people riding antisocially or illegally; the police

did not recommend this as it was not known how the rider may react to being filmed.

Councillor Mordey then stated that he had been advised of spikes in antisocial behaviour in Barley Mow and Backhouse Parks. There had also been issues around the footbridge at Donnison Gardens as people were sitting around drinking which was intimidating for elderly residents in the area who were going the long way round to avoid these people. Inspector Southwell advised that patrols had been increased in Barley Mow Park; there had been small groups of children in the park but there had not been any antisocial behaviour identified; the patrols would be extended to Backhouse Park. He confirmed that within Mowbray Park there were already patrols in place. He would ask the Neighbourhood Sergeant to look into the issue around Donnison Gardens and would ask him to report back to Councillor Mordey; a community walk would be undertaken.

Councillor M. Dixon stated that the issues of antisocial behaviour around the old college building in Backhouse Park were being addressed by the new owner. There were concerns around drug dealing within Ashbrooke and work was being done with the police on this; the PACT meeting was expected to be well attended.

Councillor Hunt expressed concerns about the amount of low level antisocial behaviour that took place in parks in Ryhope ward and the amount of resources that were expended tackling the issue.

Councillor Hodson referred to the spate of graffiti incidents in Millfield and Pallion last year; the graffiti had started again in the area around East Moor Road; it was concerning as the graffiti was the same type and location as previously and it named people as well as being offensive. He asked what action the police would be able to take. Inspector Southwell advised that the Council would remove the graffiti however the police would investigate it first to look for any evidence. If there were multiple incidents in the same place discussions would be held with the Council to look at using CCTV; he agreed to discuss this matter further outside of the meeting. The offender for the previous spate of incidents had been caught.

Councillor Hodson then queried whether there would be an update provided to the Committee on the Council's enforcement actions and the Chairman advised that this information would be brought to a meeting of the Place Board.

Councillor Fagan commented that there had been an increased police presence in Doxford due to young people drinking in the parks; Inspector Southwell advised that there was an operation ongoing and he would ask the lead officer to report back to Councillor Fagan with more information.

Councillor Scanlan commented that it was intended to re-instate the walk and talk programme and invited the police to attend these sessions; Inspector Southwell stated that he wanted the police to be involved with the programme.

The Chairman thanked Inspector Southwell for his report and it was:-

2. RESOLVED that the update from Northumbria Police be noted.

### **Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service Update**

Station Manager Shaun Makin presented the Committee with an update on the number of fires in the area and the other work that was being done in the area by the fire service. He advised that the biggest issue within the area was antisocial behaviour and secondary fires; these incidents used a lot of resources from numerous agencies.

Mr Makin then presented the figures for the area for the period January to May 2019 with comparisons to the same period last year. There had been increases in the number of secondary rubbish fires in all of the wards. Hendon had seen 85 such fires compared with 53 last year; Millfield was 56 against 34 last year; in Ryhope there had been 31 compared with 12 last year; St Michael's had seen 20 compared with 17 last year and Doxford had seen 11 compared with 7 last year. It was a seasonal issue with more incidents occurring during warm weather.

There had been 800 home safety checks undertaken during this time. Work was also being done with children in year 6 of school to ensure they had a positive mindset before starting secondary school. Visits to the fire station could be undertaken and he asked Members to contact him if they knew of any groups that wanted to visit.

Mr Makin also advised of the programme that had just started in the long streets area of Hendon; 12 streets had been identified to focus on for multi agency work to improve the issues within the area.

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

### **Gentoo Update**

Alan Duffy, Head of Operations, Gentoo, presented the Committee with an update on the work done by Gentoo. He advised that the review of the delivery model for neighbourhood services was ongoing and was anticipated to be completed by October. The rollout of Universal Credit was ongoing. There had been a review of the janitorial services within the tower blocks and customers had been engaged as part of the review; the janitors had a number of duties other than cleaning however the service was being changed so that they would have more time to spend on cleaning duties. The second customer survey was commencing and it was intended to reach all customers within the next two years; the survey would analyse customer vulnerabilities and the

improvements that were needed. The investment and renewal programme was continuing; Phase 5 of the redevelopment of Doxford Park was ongoing and once this was completed in September 2019 Phase 6 would commence.

Councillor Hodson stated that he had not had any response following the concerns he had raised over the trip hazards within the Solar House car park; there had been residents hospitalised due to injuries suffered after falling due to these hazards. Mr Duffy apologised for no response having been received and advised that ownership was an issue as Gentoo owned the tarmac surface but The Bridges owned the weatherproofing beneath; he agreed to chase up this issue.

4. RESOLVED that the update from Gentoo be noted.

### **East Sunderland Area Place Board Proposed Priorities and Governance Arrangements for 2019/20**

The Chair of the East Sunderland Area Place Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which sought the Committee's approval of the priorities to be taken forward as part of the Local Neighbourhood Plan for 2019/20 and which provided an update on the Board's governance arrangements for 2019/20.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

The Chair of the Place Board, Councillor Scanlan, introduced the report and advised Members of the work that had been done by the board over the last year and the proposed priorities for the coming year. It had been proposed that the walk and talk scheme be restarted with £10,000 of SIB allocated to each ward; there had been discussions since that meeting of the board and it was now proposed that there be £15,000 per ward allocated to the programme. The proposed membership of the board was set out in the report.

Councillor Essl expressed his support for the allocation of £15,000 per ward to the walk and talk programme. He also asked that Nicky Rowland be invited to a future meeting to provide an update on local services.

Councillor Hodson agreed that the £15,000 allocation would be of benefit to each ward; he referred to the statement from paragraph 4.4 of the report that the funds could be used to resolve issues which were outside of the remit of core council services and asked how flexible this was. Ms Peverley advised that the funds could be used to improve issues in the area such as repainting railings; work could be done with the VCS to identify issues.

Councillor Hodson then commented that the timings of the walks were important; he felt that there needed to be night time walks in Millfield and the City Centre as in those areas there were different issues at night to those during the day.

Councillor Mordey commented that the city centre covered three wards and asked whether consideration had been given to the possibility of having a separate fund for the city centre; Councillor Scanlan advised that this had been discussed at the Place Board; it would be worth looking at what the Board could actually influence within the city centre.

Councillor Hodson then referred to the Highways Maintenance programme and asked that the ongoing projects be included in the report so that they did not slip off people's radar. Councillor Mordey suggested that a RAG rating system could be included in the report to show the progress made on the projects.

Councillor Bewick referred to the board memberships and stated that he would have liked to have had his name put forward to sit on this board; there had not been discussions between ward councillors on the matter. Councillor Scanlan stated that there had been discussions held after the last Place Board meeting and it had been agreed that Councillor Essl would be the Ryhope representative on the Place Board with Councillor Hunt being the People Board representative.

The Chairman then put the recommendations to the Committee and with all Members being in agreement it was:-

5. RESOLVED that:-

- a. The end of year update on 2018/19 as set out in Section 3 and Annex 1 be noted
- b. Approval be given to the Place Board neighbourhood plan priorities for 2019/20 as set out in Section 4 and Annex 2
- c. The Place Board recommendation that £75,000 SIB be approved to carry out the Walk and Talk programme be noted
- d. The terms of reference of the board as set out in Annex 3 be noted
- e. Approval be given to the membership of the Place Board for 2019/20 as set out in Section 5.3 of the report.

### **East Sunderland Area People Board Progress Report**

The Chair of the East Sunderland Area People Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which sought the Committee's approval of the priorities to be taken forward as part of the Local Neighbourhood Plan for 2019/20 and which provided an update on the Board's governance arrangements for 2019/20.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Helen Peverley, Area Co-ordinator, introduced the report and advised the Committee of the work that had been done by the board over the last year as well as the proposed priorities for the coming year. The proposed Memberships of the board and also of the other local groups were set out in the report for approval.

Councillor Hodson asked whether the area committee could receive feedback from the LMAPS group; he also endorsed working with the University and BID to develop better relationships with them. Ms McConnell stated that there would be a need to speak to the Safer Sunderland Partnership to see if they could provide any information from the LMAPS; the meetings discussed specific issues and people so there would be a need for generic information to be provided. Councillors M. Dixon and Mordey agreed that information being provided from LMAPS would be a good idea and Councillor Mordey also stated that he was the Chairman of the Safer Sunderland Partnership and there was currently a review ongoing into how LMAPS worked.

Councillor Scanlan queried the Health and Wellbeing priority within the new work plan and Ms McConnell advised that the results of the lifestyle survey had been presented to the board in March; it had been apparent that males were not becoming involved in the community and were more likely to smoke and drink; if they could be encouraged into activities it could help to reduce the unhealthy behaviours.

Councillor M. Dixon commented that the lifestyle survey had produced some confusing conclusions and there was a need for Members to look closely at what impact they could have on the issues raised.

Ms McConnell advised that there would be a call for projects, using the aligned £50,000, in relation to Health and Wellbeing to increase participation by older males and to teach parents how to engage in play and development.

The Chairman then put the recommendations to the Committee and with all Members being in agreement it was:-

6. RESOLVED that:-

- a. Approval be given to the People Board neighbourhood plan priorities for 2018/19 as set out in section 3 and annex 1.
- b. Approval be given to the People Board neighbourhood plan priorities for 2019/20 as set out in section 4 and annex 2.
- c. The recommendation to approve £110,000 SIB from the People Board to deliver the Community Connectors Programme be noted.
- d. The terms of reference of the People Board set out in annex 3 be noted.
- e. Approval be given to the membership of the People Board for 2019/20 as set out in section 5.3.
- f. Approval be given to the membership of the other local groups and boards as set out in section 5.4.

## **Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB), Community Chest – Financial Statement and Proposals for Further Allocation of Resources**

The Assistant Director of Community Resilience submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Members with an update on the financial statements for Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) and Community Chest.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Nicol McConnell introduced the report and drew Members attention to the various applications for SIB funding and advised that the application for Bethany City Church under the Fancy a Day Out programme was recommended for deferral to allow further discussions with them to see if the cost of the project could be reduced. Members agreed that this project needed to be looked at further; although the number of young people to be worked with had increased the cost had increased by a significantly larger amount.

Councillor M. Dixon referred to the application for Sunderland Community Action Group under the Fancy a Day Out programme; this group was based at Southmoor School and he asked that it be publicised in the Hill View area. Ms McConnell advised that there was a £500 marketing budget and that TFC had been approached to get a list of local children who received free school meals who could then be provided with information on the project.

Member gave consideration to the applications and it was:-

### **7. RESOLVED that:-**

- a. The financial statements set out in tables 1, 2 and 3 be noted.
- b. The £40,000 from Sunderland CCG to improve health outcomes be accepted and approval be given to the delegation of approvals of small grants to the People Board with updates presented to the area committee for information
- c. Approval be given to £28,490 SIB to deliver the Fancy a Day Out Programme as set out in annex 1.
- d. The application from Bethany City Church for the Fancy a Day Out Programme as set out in annex 1a be deferred.
- e. Approval be given to the £75,000 SIB to deliver the Walk and Talk programme and the decision making powers be delegated to ward Members as set out in annex 2.
- f. Approval be given to £110,000 SIB to deliver the call for projects for the Community Connectors Programme as set out in annex 3.
- g. The approved Community Chest grants between March 2018 and May 2019 as set out in annexes 4 and 5 be noted.



## **East Sunderland Area Committee Annual Report 2018/19**

The Chair of the East Sunderland Area Committee submitted a report (copy circulated) which sought Members approval of the Area Committee's annual report for 2018/19.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Ms McConnell introduced the report and drew Members attention to the figures set out within the annex and advised that should Members agree the report would be included in the combined annual report which would then be submitted to Council.

8. RESOLVED that approval be given to the inclusion of the East Sunderland Area Committee Annual Report in the combined Area Committees Annual Report for 2018/19.

## **Planning Applications – For Information Only**

Current Planning Applications relating to the East Sunderland Area for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April to 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019 were submitted for Members information only (copy circulated).

(For copy report – see original minutes)

9. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

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

(Signed) E. GIBSON,  
Chairman.