

Item 1d

At a meeting of the WEST SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL, on WEDNESDAY 7 DECEMBER 2022 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor P. Gibson in the Chair

Councillors, Burnicle, Crosby, Dunn, Edgeworth, Greener, Haswell, Mullen, Peacock, Tye and Watson.

Also Present:-

Kelly Brougham	VCS Network Representative, Active Families N.E.
Vicky Gamblin	Head of Operations, Gentoo
Joanne Laverick	VCS Network Representative, Youth Almighty
Andy Nelson	Station Manager, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service
Karen Noble	VCS Network Representative, Pallion Action Group
David Noon	Principal Governance Services Officer, Sunderland City Council
Gilly Stanley	Area Community Development Lead, Sunderland City Council
Gerry Taylor	Executive Director of Health, Housing and Communities, Sunderland City Council

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Ayre, Nicholson, O'Brien and P. Smith.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 21 September, 2022 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Report of Northumbria Police

Northumbria Police submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with an update on key performance information in relation to the Sunderland West area.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

The Committee was informed that owing to a family member having Covid, the Police Officer due to present the report was unable to attend the meeting. Members having

any questions on the report were advised to email Ms Gilly Stanley, Area Community Development Lead who would contact Northumbria Police for a response.

Councillor Tye referred to the growth in youth anti-social behaviour in the West Sunderland area reflected in the report, noting that the largest increase was in the St Anne's Ward. He believed that this was as a direct consequence of the decrease in youth provision in the Ward and in particular following the closure of the Pennywell Youth Project which had operated from a purpose-built premises, funded from SRB finance, on land owned by the Church of England. He expressed in the strongest possible terms his disappointment at the role played by the Church of England in the closure and asked that the Chief Executive be requested to make representations to the Church that the loss of youth provision in St Anne's was satisfactorily addressed.

Councillor Watson concurred with the views expressed by Councillor Tye stating that she had been extremely disappointed with the decision of the Church as the Pennywell Youth Project not only catered for the young people of St Anne's but also those of South Hylton and Nookside.

Councillor Mullen expressed concern at the lack of notification from Northumbria Police to Ward Councillors regarding significant periods of staff absence and requested that Northumbria Police were asked to provide an explanation. Councillor Edgeworth asked that any response received was relayed to all Members of the Committee.

Councillor Dunn referred to the last paragraph of the report and asked if the Police could provide further details on the success of the Darker Nights Campaign.

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

2. RESOLVED the report be received and noted.

Report of the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service

Station Manager Andy Nelson presented a report of the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service (TWFRS) (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with an update on the Service's performance indicators for the period 1st April, 2022 to 21st November, 2022 with particular reference to the L133 Incidents (all deliberate fires).

(For copy report – see original minutes)

The Chairman thanked Mr Nelson for his report and invited questions from Members.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Burnicle regarding the reason for the increase in the number of car fires, Mr Nelson advised that regular weekly meetings were held with Northumbria Police regarding the cause of fire. In the recent past the increase had been attributed to low level organised crime, however there was no discernible pattern to the latest increase. Often it was something as simple as an object left in a vehicle overheating.

Councillor Tye condemned the growing trend of people who believed it was alright to attack 'Blue Light' Officers attending the scene of a fire, highlighting the latest incidents

of assault in Shrewsbury Road. He stated that such behaviour was absolutely unacceptable.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Crosby regarding the 'Safe and Well' visits referenced in the report, Mr Nelson advised that they entailed offering general fire prevention and home safety advice. This would include checks on smoke and CO2 detectors / alarms and advice on things to avoid such as overloading electrical sockets and the use of 'alternative' home heating methods in response to the cost of living crisis.

There being no further questions or comments for Mr Nelson, it was:-

3. RESOLVED the report be received and noted

Report of Gentoo

Vicky Gamblin, Head of Operations, Gentoo Group presented a report, (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with an update on current Gentoo developments, projects and priorities for the period September to December 2022.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Ms Gamblin referred to the recent coverage around the tragic impact mould and damp could have within the home and the concern this could cause tenants. She advised that the health and safety of its tenants was Gentoo's number one priority and to this end a dedicated team had been set up to deal with any concern and provide the necessary support. This included a dedicated phone line (525 5500) where tenants could report any concerns about mould or damp.

The Chairman thanked Ms Gamblin for her report and invited questions and comments from the Committee.

Councillor Haswell stated he appreciated the efforts being made regarding the prevention of damp and mould but noted that in the past it had usually taken 3 or 4 requests from a tenant or the intervention of a ward Councillor to have an issue assessed. He asked what had been done to rectify this and prevent the escalation to a local Councillor. Ms Gamblin replied that there was probably little in the way of change with regard to the approach taken, however Gentoo now had more staff to address the issue. She acknowledged that it might not always have got things right in the past, but tenants needed to continue to report issues as they occurred. The problem was made more difficult as people were understandably reluctant to leave their heating on with the windows open in the middle of a cost of living crisis.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Greener, Ms Gamblin advised that Gentoo did not install de-humidifiers but did use damp metres to monitor condensation in homes.

Councillor Burnicle referred to the Gentoo window replacement programme and highlighted the importance of installing windows with built in ventilators. It was a growing problem that modern homes were being built with windows that made them

virtually airtight. Ms Gamblin advised that she would email Councillor Burnicle a copy of the specification of the windows being used.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Edgeworth regarding the current position in respect of the area of green open space at Gartland Road, Ms Gamblin replied that she believed an application had been submitted to the local Planning Authority but that the matter was currently on hold.

Councillor Peacock referred to paragraph 4.2 regarding the phase 1 Pennywell Regeneration Scheme and offered his thanks to Ms Gamblin and the team at Gentoo for the work undertaken to date, particularly in relation to the asbestos removal.

Councillor Crosby referred to the damage caused by storm Arwen and asked for an update in respect of the outstanding fence repairs as some residents had raised concerns over security. In reply, Ms Gamblin stated that the appointed contractors were following a programme starting in the Coalfield area of the city where the outstanding repairs had now been completed. She asked Councillor Crosby to email her details of areas where security concerns had been raised.

There being no further questions or comments, the Chairman thanked Ms Gamblin for her attendance and it was:-

4. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Report of the West Area Voluntary and Community Sector Network

The Network submitted a progress report (copy circulated) which briefed members on issues pertinent to the Committee and the Voluntary and Community Sector.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Consideration was given to the report presented by Karen Noble which highlighted the following VCS Network activity undertaken since its last report to the Committee:-

- The receipt of presentations from Wearside Women in Need and Yitka Graham from Sunderland University around evaluation and monitoring.
- The invitation to West area organisations who manage community buildings to apply for funding from Sunderland City Council, in partnership with Sunderland's Community Led Local Development Programme (CLLD). The funding was to support organisations to help keep their doors open and offer 'Warm Spaces' for those most in need during the autumn and winter months.
- The provision of 16 Warm Spaces in the West area of Sunderland. The Warm Spaces in Sunderland had been represented nationally on BBC Breakfast in October by Pallion Action Group who highlighted the support the Kayll Road Library Hub Warm Space provided.
- The distribution by West Area Organisations of Round 3 of the Sunderland City Council Household Support Funding.
- The receipt of funding by West Area Organisations to deliver phase 2 Positive Steps' – 1-2-1 wrap around support designed around the individual and phase 3

to deliver social prescribing activity to support people with a wide range of social, emotional or practical needs.

There being no questions or comments for Ms Noble, the Chairman thanked her for report, and welcomed and introduced Sam Hunter and Harry Young of the If U Care Share organisation who provided the Committee with a Comprehensive presentation highlighting the work of the charity in respect of young peoples' emotional and mental health.

5. RESOLVED that the report and presentation be received and noted.

West Area Committee Delivery Plan 2020-2023

Councillor Haswell, Chair of the West Area Neighbourhoods and Community Board, presented the report (copy circulated) which:-

- i) Presented a performance update on the West Neighbourhood Investment Delivery Plan 2020-2023
- ii) Provided an update of progress against the Area Priorities associated with the Delivery Plan which would be the focus for the West Sunderland Area Committee during 2022 /23 and;
- iii) Provided an update on the Neighbourhood and Community Board Governance Arrangements for 2022 /23

(For copy report – see original minutes)

The Chairman thanked Councillor Haswell for his report and it was:-

6. RESOLVED that:-

- i) the progress and performance update with regard to the West Neighbourhood Investment Delivery Plan 2020/23 be noted; and,
- ii) approval be given to the proposals for the future delivery as contained within Annex 1 of the report.

West Area Budget Report

The Assistant Director of Community Resilience submitted a report (copy circulated) in respect of the above matter.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Gilly Stanley Area Community Development Lead, presented the report highlighting the Committee's financial statement, details of projects approved under delegated powers for support from the 2022/23 Community Chest budget, together with details of proposals for the allocation of funds from the Neighbourhood Investment Fund.

Consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

7. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the Area Committee's funding statement as detailed in paragraphs 2.1 and 3.1 of the report be received and noted;
- (ii) Approval be given to the granting of NF funding of £27,000 to — Springboard in respect of Pallion Clean and Green as detailed in Item 4 Annex 1 of the report
- (iii) The application for NF funding of £27,000 received from Community Opportunities in respect of Pallion Clean and Green be rejected for the reasons detailed in Item 4 Annex 1 of the report
- (iv) the approval of the 27 Community Chest applications from the 2022/23 budget as detailed in Annex 2 of the report be noted.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting having thanked everyone for their attendance and contributions.

(Signed) P. GIBSON,
Chairman.