At a meeting of the WASHINGTON AREA COMMITTEE held at THE LIFEHOUSE, GRASMERE TERRACE on THURSDAY 15TH OCTOBER, 2015 at 6.00 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Williams in the Chair

Councillors Farthing, Fletcher, Kelly, Middleton, F. Miller, Scaplehorn, Dianne Snowdon, Taylor, D. Trueman, and Walker.

Louise Butler	-	Chief Executives
Karon Purvis	-	Chief Executives
Paul Wood	-	Commercial and Corporate Services
David Hardy	-	Community Services
Jacqui Reeves	-	VCS Representative
Colin McCartney	-	Gentoo
Jackie Pitt	-	Gentoo
Inspector Steve Pescod	-	Northumbria Police
Steve Graham	-	Fire Authority
Ian Stafford	-	Citizens Advice Bureau
Slyvia Copley	-	Sharp

Members of the Washington Community.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Lauchlan, G. Miller, D. Snowdon and H. Trueman.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 4th June, 2015

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 4th June, 2015 (copy circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Partner Agency Reports

(a) Report of the Washington Area Community Voluntary Sector Network

The Washington Area Community Voluntary Sector Network submitted a report (copy circulated) to inform the Committee of activity, progress, issues and concerns of the sector.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Jacqui Reeves, VCS Representative, presented the report and advised that the Network was to work on a Washington Area Plan.

Councillor Kelly commented that this was a worthwhile project and was willing to support in any way he could.

2. RESOLVED that Members noted the contents of the report.

(b) Northumbria Police

Inspector Steve Pescod of Northumbria Police presented the Washington Sector Performance Update.

Inspector Pescod advised that the figures presented were from April 2015 to October 2015 in comparison to April 2014 to October 2014.

The increase in Theft figures were mainly due to Wheelie Bin thefts and the change in Council policy requiring a crime number before a replacement would be issued.

Inspector Pescod informed the Committee that there had been a notable rise in Anti-Social Behaviour in the Lambton/Concord Front Street area there would be a heavy presence of officers patrolling and issuing dispersal orders.

Councillor D. E Snowdon enquired as to how the dispersal order would work with young children. Inspector Pescod advised that it would depend on the age range and Officers would not let very young children wander off on their own.

Councillor Kelly referred to the youth providers working in the area and suggested it be useful for them to work with the Police. Councillor Scaplehorn advised that Phil McAloon was due to meet with the Police soon.

In response to Councillor P. Walker's concerns that a dispersal order may be forcing the youths into a different area, Inspector Pescod advised that they were fully aware of the issue and they did not want to transfer the problem into another area so they would be taking details of all youths encountered.

3. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

c) Fire Authority

Steve Graham, Station Manager was in attendance and advised that extra resources would be in place for Bonfire night.

In response to Councillor D. E. Snowdon's enquiry over who to report issues of litter to on the night, David Hardy, Area Response Manager advised that it would be the same procedures as usual.

Colin McCartney, Gentoo advised that they had a planned schedule also and he would share this with Mr Hardy's Team.

People Board – Progress Report

The Chair of the People Board submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide the Committee with an update of the progress against the current year's (2015/2016) People Board Work Plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Farthing presented the report and referred to the Washington Strategic Partners Health Group and requested consideration of which Members to appoint to the group. The Committee agreed that Councillors Farthing and Fletcher sit on the Strategic Partners Health Group.

With regard to the Financial Inclusion project Councillor Kelly commented that he supported the proposal but cautioned that there were a lot of areas to cover under this.

Councillor Farthing advised that this was very much an unknown quantity at the moment and would be looked at in greater detail once the first tranche of people had been affected under the new plans.

Karon Purvis, Area Officer (Washington) advised that this would be looked at during the working groups.

4. RESOLVED that the Committee

(i) Considered the progress with regard to the Washington People Board's Work Plan for 2015/16 as detailed in Annex 1 and the agenda report.

(ii) Agreed to support the People Board recommendation to align SIB funding as detailed under Annex 2 to implement a strategic approach to addressing health and well-being of local residents and agreed for Councillors Farthing and Fletcher be part of the membership of the Washington Strategic Health Group.

(iii) Agreed to support the People Board's recommendation for a Call for Projects for a young person's 'Can DO' Project as detailed in Annex 3 of the report.

(iv) Agreed to support the People Board's recommendation to align SIB to develop a Financial Inclusion Project as detailed in the report and Annex 5 of the agenda.

Place Board – Progress Report

The Chair of the Place Board submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide the Committee with an update of progress against the current years (2015/16) Place Board Work Plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Fiona Miller, Chair of the Place Board presented the report and advised that views had been sought from Members regarding the reopening of Fatfield Slipway. Place Board Members fed back their view, as part of a wider consultation, for the slip-way to remain closed.

In relation to the Neighbourhood Improvement Project, Mr Hardy advised that invites would be sent out to Members to discuss the progress of the Neighbourhood Improvement Project and the Village Centre Improvement Project.

5. RESOLVED that the Committee

i) Considered the progress and performance update with regard to the Washington Place Board's Work Plan for 2015/16 as detailed in Annex 1 of the report.

ii) Noted the Place Board's recommendation to keep the Fatfield Slipway closed as detailed in the report.

iii) Agreed to support the Place Board recommendation to align SIB funding to develop a local business watch scheme as detailed in the report. Funding levels were considered under Item 6 Finance Report.

iv) Agreed to support the Place Board recommendation to align SIB funding to develop the Washington Events Programme for 2016 as detailed in the report. Funding levels were considered under Item 6 Finance Report

v) Agreed to support the Place Board recommendation to align SIB funding to support and develop the Heritage offer in Washington as detailed in the report. Funding levels were considered under Item 6 Finance Report

Financial Statement and Proposals for further allocation of Resources

The Head of Scrutiny and Area Arrangements submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide a financial statement as an update position on progress in relation to allocating SIB and Community Chest and present proposals for further funding requests.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

In relation to the Washington Young People's 'CAN DO' Fund, Councillor Kelly proposed that the funding level be increased to £1,000 per project and increase the overall budget to £20,000.

Councillor Scaplehorn commented that he thought the project was a great idea and agreed with the proposal to increase the budget to £20,000.

6. RESOLVED that the Committee:-

i) Noted the financial statements set out in the report.

ii) Considered and approved the alignment of £50,000 SIB 2015/16 for the development of a collaborative and partnership approach for a Health and Family Support Project, for families of young people who self-harm as detailed in paragraph 3.1 of the report and in Item 3 People Board Progress Report.

iii) Considered and agreed the approval of £20,000 (amended) SIB 2015/16 for the Washington 'Can do' Project as detailed in the report and approved the project brief for the Washington 'Can Do' Project as outlined under Annex 1 to the report

iv) Considered and approved the alignment of £40,000 SIB 2015/16 for the development of a Washington Financial Inclusion Project as detailed in paragraph 3.3 of the report and in Item 3 People Board Progress Report

v) Agreed to the return of £20,000 SIB aligned to develop Employability Support Services

vi) Considered and approved the alignment of £30,000 SIB 2015/16 to support the local heritage and culture offer as detailed in paragraph 4.1 and in Item 4 Place Board Progress Report

vii) Considered and approved the alignment of £10,000 SIB 2015/16 to develop a local business watch scheme as detailed in paragraph 4.2 of the report and in Item 4 Place Board Progress Report

viii) Considered and approved the alignment of £50,000 SIB 2015/16 to support the development of the Washington Events Programme 2016 as detailed in paragraph 4.3 of the report and in Tem 4 Place Board Progress Report

ix) Noted the 12 Approvals of Community Chest detailed within the report.

Planning Applications – For Information Only

Current Planning Applications relating to the Washington Area for the period 1st September to 22nd September 2015 were submitted for Members information only (copy circulated).

(For copy report – see original minutes)

8. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting

(Signed) L. WILLIAMS,
Chairman.