

**At a Meeting of the COALFIELD AREA COMMITTEE held at the HETTON CENTRE, WELFARE ROAD, HETTON LE HOLE, on MONDAY, 11<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2018 at 6.00 p.m.**

**Present:-**

Councillor Lawson in the Chair

Councillors Blackburn, Heron, Johnston, N. MacKnight, Rowntree, Scullion, Turner and G. Walker.

**Also in Attendance:-**

|                  |  |  |
|------------------|--|--|
| Debbie Ainscow   | VCS Representative, Carer Locality Lead              | Sunderland Carers Centre                   |
| Kerrie Austin    | VCS Representative                                   | Sunderland North Community Business Centre |
| Steve Burdis     | Station Manager                                      | Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service      |
| Wendy Cook       | VCS Representative, Youth and Community Co-ordinator | Sunderland North Community Business Centre |
| Paul Finch       | VCS Representative                                   | Hetton New Dawn                            |
| David Geddis     | Member of the Public                                 |  |
| Nick Gjorven     | Neighbourhood Inspector                              | Northumbria Police                         |
| James Harrison   | Reporter   | Sunderland Echo                            |
| Pauline Hopper   | Area Community Development Lead, Coalfield           | Sunderland City Council                    |
| Samantha Humble  | Head of Operations                                   | Gentoo                                     |
| Gillian Robinson | Area Co-Ordinator                                    | Sunderland City Council                    |
| Christine Tilley | Community Governance Services Team Leader            | Sunderland City Council                    |
| Susan Waterston  | Councillor   | Hetton Town Council                        |

## **Chairman's Welcome and Introductions**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and in particular Councillors N. MacKnight and Rowntree, the newly elected Councillors for Houghton and Hetton wards respectively and introductions were made.

## **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Cunningham and Speding, together with Ms Debbie Hall, Environmental Services Manager.

## **Declarations of Interest**

### **Item 5 – Area Budgets Report**

Councillors Heron, Johnston, Lawson and Turner made open declarations as Members of Houghton Feast Steering Committee in respect of the Strategic Initiatives Funding application detailed in Item 5, Annex 4.

Councillor G. Walker took the chair for this application at the appropriate time in the meeting.

## **Minutes of the Last Meeting**

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last ordinary meeting of the Committee held on 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 (copy circulated), be confirmed and signed as correct record subject to the reference made to 'Ms Turner' on page 6 concerning the Northumbria Police report, being amended to 'Ms Thomas'.

## **Place Board Progress Report**

The Chair of the Place Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an annual update of the 2017/18 Work Plan, including SIB funded projects, seeking Area Committee approval for Place priorities to be taken forward as part of the Work Plan for 2018/19 and providing an update on Place Board Governance Arrangements for 2018/19.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Chair of the Place Board, Councillor Heron briefed the Committee on the report drawing attention to the 2017/18 Work Plan which provided an annual update on performance and the proposed work plan for 2018/19.

Councillor Heron briefed the Committee on the Houghton and Hetton Shopping Centres Traders' meetings and the work undertaken by local groups in their communities. She congratulated the local groups on the phenomenal amount of activities and valuable work they had done over the last year.

The Chairman of the Area Committee, Councillor Lawson referred the Committee to the Place Board Membership set out at paragraph 5.3 of the report and pointed out that all Members had been allocated a place on either the Place or People Board but that they were welcome to attend the alternate Board also.

Members of the Committee having considered the report; it was:-

2. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the Annual Performance Update with regard to the Coalfield Area Place Board's Work Plan for 2017/18 attached at Annex 1, be noted;
- (ii) the Coalfield Area Place Board Work Plan priorities for 2018/19 attached at Annex 2, be approved; and
- (iii) the Area Governance arrangements for 2018/19, outlined in Section 5 and Annex 3 of the report, be approved.

### **People Board Progress Report**

The Chair of the People Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an annual update of the 2017/18 Work Plan, including SIB funded projects, seeking Area Committee approval for priorities to be taken forward as part of the Work Plan for 2018/19 and providing an update on People Board Governance Arrangements for 2018/19.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Chair of the People Board, Councillor K. Johnston briefed the Committee on the report drawing attention to the projects being undertaken to address issues that affect residents' emotional and mental wellbeing, reduce social isolation and enhance life and employability skills set out on the 2017/18 Work Plan at Annex 1 and the proposed work plan for 2018/19 at Annex 2. He highlighted the number of residents becoming involved in training opportunities and the number of community groups that had been supported to develop their organisation. Councillor Johnston thanked the volunteers for their support and dedication over the last year.

Full consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

3. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the Annual Performance Update with regard to the Coalfield Area People Board's Work Plan for 2017/18 attached at Annex 1 be noted;
- (iv) the Coalfield Area People Board Work Plan priorities for 2018/19 attached at Annex 2 be approved; and
- (v) the Area Governance arrangements for 2018/19, outlined in Section 5 and at Annex 3 of the report, be approved.

## **Partner Agency Reports – Coalfield Area Voluntary and Community Sector Network Progress Update**

Ms Wendy Cook, Ms Debbie Ainscow and Mr Paul Finch, Area Network Representatives submitted a joint report (copy circulated), providing an update with regard to the Coalfield Area Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Network.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Mr Paul Finch, Area Network Representative briefed the Committee on the activities of the Network, which had met three times since the last report to the Area Committee in March. The report provided details of an update the VCS Network had received on Sunderland Culture and the funding the City had received in respect of four projects, a presentation the Network had received on the Sunderland Community Hub which provides online information about services, activities and events in Sunderland and an event to celebrate 100 years of Votes for Women.

Mr Finch advised that the VCS meetings continued to be well attended.

The Chairman thanked the VCS network for the work it was doing and commented that the Committee could not deliver its area priorities without the support of the VCS.

Full consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

4. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the contents of the report be received and noted; and
- (ii) the Area Committee continue to support the Sector when developing and implementing actions against local priorities.

## **Partner Agency Reports – Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service**

Station Manager Steve Burdis, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service submitted a report (copy circulated), providing Performance Monitoring details in relation to the Local Indicators for the Coalfield Area Committee area from 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2018 to 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2018 compared with the same period in 2017.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Station Manager Steve Burdis, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service briefed the Committee on the report highlighting that there had been no deaths from fires recorded during the period of the report. He was pleased to say that there had been a decrease in incidents of 46% across the Coalfield from the same period last year.

Station Manager Burdis highlighted however, that they were seeing a rise in the number of calls to allotments/small holdings for either controlled burning or more

significant fires caused by controlled burning getting out of control and damaging surrounding sheds and allotments. The main concern with this was propane cylinders and the like in sheds which might explode.

Full consideration having being given to the report, it was:-

5. RESOLVED that the contents of the report be received and noted.

### **Partner Agency Reports – Northumbria Police**

Neighbourhood Inspector Nick Gjorven, Northumbria Police submitted a report (copy circulated), providing data in respect of Crime and Disorder for Houghton covering the period 30<sup>th</sup> November 2017 to 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2018, together with data for the same period the previous year for comparison purposes.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Neighbourhood Inspector Gjorven briefed the Committee on the report advising that there had been a noted decrease in anti-social behaviour and that this might be as a result of the ongoing work of the police and partners in Houghton and Hetton to address the issue of youth disorder in the Towns at night.

Neighbourhood Inspector Gjorven advised that youth disorder was down to 72 reported incidents as a whole which was down on the same period last year when there were 98 recorded incidents. This was also linked to the motorcycle disorder in and around Hetton Park. Neighbourhood Inspector Gjorven advised that the Police had handed out over 2000 leaflets to addresses in the affected areas requesting information on where the bikes were being stored but to date had had nothing back from the community.

Neighbourhood Inspector Gjorven reported that the priority in recent months had been to combat burglaries to both dwellings and Commercial premises. He stated that thieves would be targeting sheds and garages for gardening tools and bikes over the summer. He had managed to secure some funds from the Local Authority for some bike locks and shed alarms and would be handing them to the more vulnerable in the community. He advised that much of the crime in the period had been to new building sites and 'plant' left overnight that had had their diesel syphoned off.

Neighbourhood Inspector Gjorven stated that burglaries had risen slightly on the same period last year but that this was after a particularly bad February with 38 incidents in that month alone. The issue had moved from the racecourse estate to empty properties in Easington Lane and times varied from early evening to overnight.

Neighbourhood Inspector Gjorven advised that his priority in the upcoming period was the theft from motor vehicles as in the last ten days there had been a total of 45 which was a significant increase. Many of the incidents had been in the Shiney Row and Penshaw areas with particular focus on parkland where owners

were leaving vehicles in secluded car parks to go for walks. The Police had identified the offender and he was currently wanted for these. There had also been a spate of spare wheels and parts being removed from vehicles overnight. Much of the harassment and stalking figures were made up of instances of domestic violence, neighbourly disputes and social media. This continued to be a force objective.

Neighbourhood Inspector Gjorven stated that all forms of assault were on the increase and that he would expect this to get worse during the summer months due to increased drinking and the World Cup. He was insisting on more stringent controls of the local 'problem pubs' and they had already got the ball rolling on licensing controls with their 'Offwatch Schemes' which should also have a positive knock on effect on ASB.

Several Members raised the issue of problems with Quad Bikes in their wards and Neighbourhood Inspector Gjorven advised that the Police had a policy of zero tolerance with the issue and were looking to tackle the problem starting with Hetton.

Ms Wendy Cook, VCS Representative, Youth and Community Co-ordinator, Sunderland North Community Business Centre reported the issue of young people asking adults to purchase alcohol at local stores on their behalf. Neighbourhood Inspector Gjorven advised that he would look into the matter.

Councillor Scullion referred to the recent death and fire and subsequent prosecution of individuals relating to a high profile incident which took place at Philadelphia and thanked the Services for the resources put into solving the crime.

Full consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

6. RESOLVED that the update be received and noted.

### **Partner Agency Reports – Gentoo Update**

Ms Samantha Humble, Head of Operations, Gentoo provided an update for the Coalfield Area to June 2018.

Ms Humble briefed the Committee on the work Gentoo was doing with the Council in respect of fly tipping, trying to identify offenders and take action where there was sufficient evidence.

Ms Humble advised that metal fencing had been installed in the Flatts Lane area to disturb the gathering of youths, however unfortunately the new brickwork had been kicked down on two occasions and it was booked in for a third time in July. Surveillance cameras had been installed to try to identify the perpetrators.

Ms Humble advised that motorcycle/quad bike disorder continued across the area predominantly in Burnside at the moment and they were working with the Police to

identify the individuals as they could take action against them if they were Gentoo tenants.

Gentoo was also working closely with the Council in relation to antisocial behaviour in East Rainton.

Ms Humble briefed the Committee on the Community Partnership activity Gentoo was involved in and the grant funding available to local community groups.

Ms Humble advised of the investment and renewal works being undertaken at Easington Lane and on the Racecourse Estate at Houghton and the new build programme at Meadow View, Houghton and Broomhill Hetton.

The Chairman drew attention to the Digital Programme the Area Committee was providing to highlight to the Community Partnership Co-ordinator.

In response to Councillor MacKnight's enquiry about holiday hunger for school children, the Chairman advised that the People Board was looking at a number of summer activities which would also provide some food for those taking part.

Full consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

7. RESOLVED that the update be received and noted.

### **Area Budgets Report**

The Head of Member Support and Community Partnerships submitted a report (copy circulated), providing a financial statement as an update position on progress in relation to allocating Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) and Community Chest funding and presenting proposals for further funding requests.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms Pauline Hopper, Coalfield Area Community Development Lead, presented the report drawing the Committee's attention to the financial position as set out in paragraph 2.1 which showed an SIB total balance of £241,514 for 2018/2019.

Ms Hopper referred to paragraph 2.2 which reported that Council had agreed that £28,020 be allocated to each Area Committee to support Youth Activities. The Area Committee was therefore requested to formally accept the Coalfield allocation of £28,020 match funding to enable the Area Committee to fund the Local Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) to deliver youth activity projects within the community.

Ms Hopper referred the Committee to the Call for Projects to provide activities and initiatives for Young People aged 11-19 and Summer holiday activity made by the People Board in May 2018 and the projects which were recommended as a result of this detailed in paragraph 2.3.

Ms Hopper referred the Committee to the Call for Projects made via the Coalfield VCS Network to deliver projects which provide activities to improve emotional and mental wellbeing in adults which had been considered by the People Board and were recommended for approval and detailed in paragraph 2.4.

Ms Hopper highlighted the project developed by the People Board in partnership with ShARP and Springboard to prepare and support clients moving on to Universal Credit detailed in paragraph 2.5.

Ms Hopper referred Members to the 3 recommendations for additional SIB funding from the 2018/19 budget detailed in paragraph 2.6 and to the approvals for Community Chest funding supported from the 2017/2018 and 2018/2019 Community Chest.

Consideration having been given to the report it was:-

8. RESOLVED that:-

- a) the financial statements set out in sections 2.1 and 3.1 of the report be noted;
- b) the 5 projects in paragraph 2.3 and Annex1, totalling £21,474, from the previously allocated Activities for Young People budget, as set out below, be approved:-
 

|                                 |                          |        |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|--------|
| • Urban Art                     | Bethany Christian Centre | £1,642 |
| • Summer Skills                 | Keep Active              | £4,940 |
| • Youth @ Copt Hill & Hetton    | SNCBC                    | £5,000 |
| • Youth @ Houghton & Shiney Row | SNCBC                    | £5,000 |
| • Engaging Young People         | Washington Mind          | £4,892 |
- c) the 6 projects in paragraph 2.4 and Annex 2, from the previously allocated Emotional and Mental Wellbeing budget, as set out below, be approved:-
 

|                                |                            |        |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--------|
| • Social Motivator             | B Active N B Fit CIC       | £3,000 |
| • Arts for Better Living       | MBC Arts Wellbeing CIC     | £2,877 |
| • ShARP Explorers              | ShARP                      | £2,880 |
| • Space 4 Exploring Creativity | Space                      | £2,954 |
| • Improving Health             | Washington Mind            | £2,966 |
| • Movers on the Move           | Empire – Creative Learning | £3,000 |
- d) the Getting Ready for Universal Credit project in paragraph 2.5 and detailed in Annex 3 to the value of £25,000, from the previously allocated budget, be approved;
- e) the 3 SIB projects in Paragraph 2.6 and Annex 4, from the 2018/2019 budget, as detailed below, be approved;
 

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| • Celebrations, Events and Heritage 2018/19 | £10,000 |
| • Houghton Feast 2018 Community Programme   | £10,000 |
| • School Opportunities Coalfield, SNCBC     | £5,000  |



- f) the 6 Community Chest approvals supported from 2017/2018 Community Chest as set out in Annex 5, be approved;
- g) the 5 Community Chest approvals supported from 2018/2019 Community Chest as set out in Annex 6, be approved; and
- h) the £28,020 match funding from Sunderland City Council to support delivery of youth activity projects within the Coalfield, be accepted.

N.B. Councillor Lawson vacated the Chair for the application in respect of Houghton Feast 2018 Community Programme and Councillor G. Walker took the chair for this application at the appropriate time in the meeting.

### **Current Planning Applications (Coalfields Area)**

A schedule (copy circulated) of current planning applications lodged during the period 1<sup>st</sup> April and 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2018 was submitted for Members' information only.

(For copy schedule – see original minutes).

9. RESOLVED that the schedule be received and noted.

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

(Signed) A. LAWSON,  
Chairman.