

**At a Meeting of the COALFIELD AREA COMMITTEE held at the HETTON CENTRE, WELFARE ROAD, HETTON-LE-HOLE, on WEDNESDAY, 20<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2019 at 6.00 p.m.**

**Present:-**

Councillor Lawson in the Chair

Councillors Blackburn, Cunningham, Heron, Johnston, N. MacKnight, Speding Turner and G. Walker

**Also in Attendance:-**

Debbie Ainscow	VCS Representative	Sunderland Carer's Centre
Charles Bell	Member of the Public	
Kevin Burns	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
Dave Geddis	Member of the Public	
Michael Gibbon	Member of the Public	
Nick Gjorven	Acting Chief Inspector	Northumbria Police
James Harrison	Reporter	Sunderland Echo
Robert Heron	Member of the Public	
Pauline Hopper	Area Community Development Lead, Coalfield	Sunderland City Council
Samantha Humble	Head of Operations	Gentoo
Carol McGlinchey	Member of the Public	
Michael McGlinchey	Member of the Public	
Gillian Robinson	Area Co-Ordinator	Sunderland City Council

Jo Taylor	Member of the Public	
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 introductions were made.

## **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Rowntree and Scullion, Ms Jill Colbert, Chief Executive Together for Children and Director of Children's Services, Sunderland City Council, together with Ms Debbie Hall, Environmental Services Manager.

## **Declarations of Interest**

### **Item 5 – Area Budgets Report**

Councillor Blackburn made an open declaration as a member of the Friends of Hetton Lyons Country Park in respect of the Strategic Initiatives Funding applications detailed in Item 5, Annexes 2 and 3.

Councillor Cunningham made an open declaration as a Local Authority appointed Board Member of Houghton Racecourse Community Association in respect of the Strategic Initiatives Funding application detailed in Item 5, Annex 2.

Councillor Johnston made an open declaration as an employee at Houghton Sports Centre in respect of the Strategic Initiatives Funding applications detailed in Item 5.

Councillor MacKnight made an open declaration as a Coach at Houghton Rugby Club in respect of funding received by the organisation detailed in Item 5.

Councillor Speding made an open declaration as the Chair of Durham County Football Association in respect of the Strategic Initiatives Funding application detailed in Item 5, Annex 2 relating to Hetton Juniors FC.

Councillor Turner made an open declaration as the Secretary of the Management Committee of Hetton New Dawn and as a member of the Friends of Hetton Lyons Country Park in respect of the Strategic Initiatives Funding applications detailed in Item 5, Annexes 2 and 3.

Councillor Walker made an open declaration as a Local Authority appointed Board Member of Penshaw Community Association in respect of the Strategic Initiatives Funding application detailed in Item 5, Annex 2.

### **Minutes of the Last Meeting**

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last ordinary meeting of the Committee held on 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2018 (copy circulated), be confirmed and signed as correct record.

The Chairman referred to the item on the Area Budgets report and asked that the extensive consultation which had been undertaken with young people that Ms Jill Colbert, Chief Executive Together for Children and Director of Children's Services Sunderland City Council had mentioned at the last meeting be chased up and submitted to the Area Committee.

### **Place Board Progress Report**

The Chair of the Place Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update of progress and performance against the current year's, 2018/19 Place Board Work Plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Chair of the Place Board, Councillor Heron briefed the Committee on the report drawing attention to the highways capital maintenance budget and the areas to be included in the 2019/20 programme.

The Chairman also highlighted the area priority to support local shopping areas and the support provided to develop trader groups and initiatives to increase footfall in local shopping centres.

Councillor Heron referred to the support provided to historical events and the Pit Wheel Project, together with the development of the Old Rectory and the social enterprise events taking place in there and to the Architectural Heritage Fund grant application being developed in respect of the building.

In response to Councillor Walker, Ms Pauline Hopper, Coalfield Area Community Development Lead confirmed that the traders at Barnwell had been asked and they had confirmed that they wanted to be included in the Local Shopping Centres project in the future and a similar situation would be developed with regards to the traders at Easington Lane if they were happy to engage.

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

2. RESOLVED that:-

- i) the progress and performance update with regard to the Coalfield Area Place Board's Work Plan for 2018/19 be received and noted and that the proposals for future delivery be approved;
- ii) the Highways Capital Maintenance Programme outlined in bold at Annex 2 be approved; and
- iii) the 2019/20 Place Management Service Schedule at Annex 3 be approved.

**People Board Progress Report**

The Chair of the People Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update of progress and performance against the current year's, 2018/19 People Board Work Plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Chair of the People Board, Councillor Johnston briefed the Committee on the report drawing attention to the projects being undertaken to increase digital inclusion in communities and reduce stress caused by financial concerns by providing access to advice services.

The Chair highlighted the proposed project to provide access to support for carers and the work to support the local VCS groups to build capacity.

Councillor Johnston referred to the project being developed to provide holiday activity for children and young people and to the initiative to support local VCS groups to provide sanitary-ware in female toilets for users and visitors of projects as part of the 'Period Dignity' agenda. He added that this would be picked up and rolled out by the Council to Primary and Secondary schools going forward.

The Chair thanked the Committee for its support and work done over the year to deliver the projects with a relatively small amount of funding as well as the enthusiasm of the VCS Network to work with the Committee.

Councillor Walker commented on the need to look at the wider public health issues and to work with employers.

Councillor Cunningham commented on the success of the digital projects and projects to reduce social isolation.

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

3. RESOLVED that the progress and performance update with regard to the Coalfield Area People Board's Work Plan for 2018/19 be received and noted and that the proposals for future delivery be approved.

## **Partner Agency Reports – Coalfield Area Voluntary and Community Sector Network 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).

Ms Wendy Cook, 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 November 2018. The report provided details of the issues and activities discussed at the meetings including phase 2 of the Path to Excellence – working together to improve hospital services in Sunderland and South Tyneside which was introduced by Patrick Garner. There had also been an awareness raising session about the services ShARP offer regarding benefits and advice and an overview provided of the Recovery College which supports people who have used experience of mental health problems to learn new skills and abilities in a friendly and supportive manner. Ms Cook advised that the College was based in Sunderland but was starting to do work in the Coalfield area.

Ms Cook thanked the Area Committee for the support it provided to the Network.

The Chairman thanked the VCS network for the work it was doing commenting on the enthusiasm shown by the volunteers to get things done.

The Chairman pointed out that there were organisations such as Age UK and the Citizens Advice Bureau which did not have a presence in the Coalfield Area and needed to attend the VCS meetings to get a feel for what was happening in the area and understand the difficulties for people in getting to the city centre to access support.

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

### **4. RESOLVED that:-**

- (i) the contents of the report be received and noted;
- (ii) the Area Committee continue to support the Sector when developing and implementing actions against local priorities; and
- (iii) information gathered from Network meetings be used to inform current and future priorities.

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

Acting Chief Inspector Nick Gjørven, Northumbria Police submitted a report (copy circulated), providing data in respect of Crime and Disorder for Houghton comparing year to date figures with the preceding year, together with data for the same period the previous year for comparison purposes.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Acting Chief Inspector Gjorven reported that violent crime and burglary had reduced in the Coalfield area and it was essentially a safe place to live.

Acting Chief Inspector Gjorven advised that there had been a notable decrease in anti-social behaviour and he briefed the Committee on the action the Police had been taking which was also detailed in the report in relation to motorcycle disorder.

Acting Chief Inspector Gjorven advised that their priority in recent months had been to combat burglaries and that they had recently charged and remanded four burglars from the area.

There had been an increase in shed and garage break-ins and commercial premises in Hetton and Houghton had been targeted but in the main vacant premises were being burgled for their boilers and scrap. Violent crime in the area was the second lowest in Sunderland. The Police were looking to support as many community events in the area during the summer as possible to build confidence and bring closer links with communities and increase visibility.

Councillor MacKnight commented that anti-social behaviour had reduced in Houghton and thanked Acting Chief Inspector Gjorven and his Officers for the work undertaken in this respect.

Councillor Heron referred to a violent incident she had seen reported on Facebook which Acting Chief Inspector Gjorven stated he had no knowledge of and he asked her to provide further details outside of the meeting so as he could look into the matter.

Councillor Speding referred to the programme the Police used to operate around shed security and Acting Chief Inspector Gjorven advised that they had given out lots of locks to those people who had wanted them in the area.

The Chairman and Councillor Speding commented on the importance of keeping Councillors informed of serious incidents in the area as residents expected them to be informed.

Acting Chief Inspector Gjorven stated that he would look to improve communications with Councillors.

The Chairman added that Members would share information with the community where it was appropriate to do so but could be trusted not to when the information needed to remain confidential.

In response to Members, Acting Chief Inspector Gjorven advised that priorities included vulnerability and the management of sex offenders and added that the Police required as much intelligence as possible re quad bikes that were causing a nuisance so as they could be seized.

The Chairman having thanked Acting Chief Inspector Gjorven for his report, it was:-

5. RESOLVED that the update be received and noted.

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

Station Manager Kevin Burns, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service (TWFRS) 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> November, 2018 to 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2019 compared with the same period in 2017/18.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Station Manager Kevin Burns, TWFRS briefed the Committee on the report drawing attention to the fact that there had been one death from fire recorded during the period of the report. The incident had occurred at Manor House, Easington Lane.

Station Manager Burns advised that TWFRS had carried out an initiative post incident to fit smoke alarms and give fire safety advice to residents within the community. 86 Home safety checks had been completed and 63 smoke alarms fitted.

Station Manager Burns advised that there had been an increase in the number of deliberate fires incorporating secondary fires from 112 to 117 which was a 4.5% increase.

Station Manager Burns highlighted the increase in Hetton Ward in incidents from 26-55. The main area of concern was Moorsley Road and Hazard Lane and was due to loose refuse/wheelie bin fires.

Station Manager Burns highlighted the Lighter Nights programme and the ongoing work with partners to record fire risks.

Station Manager Burns mentioned the work being undertaken with the Area Committee to reduce social isolation and carry out safety checks and fit smoke detector alarms in the area.

Councillor Blackburn expressed concern at the number of fires in the Hetton Ward.

The Chairman queried the reference made in the report to problematic loose refuse fires in the area of Brinkburn Crescent and Newbottle street in Houghton Ward and enquired about the traders refuse bins near the Lidl supermarket.

Station Manager Burns responded by saying that they would drill down and find out what these problematic fires were, advising that work had been focussed on the issues in the Hetton ward and he added that it was difficult for traders to

decide where to locate their refuse bins as putting them too close to the building would endanger the building if they were set on fire.

The Chairman thanked Station Manager Burns for his report and, it was:-

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

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

Ms Samantha Humble, Head of Operations, Gentoo provided an update for the Coalfield Area Committee from November 2018 to March 2019.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms Humble briefed the Committee on the roll out of Universal Credit and advised that within the Coalfield area Gentoo now had 500 customers in receipt of UC which was having an effect on arrears.

Ms Humble highlighted that the cash facilities at Houghton Skyline and Southwick offices would close at the end of March 2019.

Ms Humble advised the Committee that fly tipping remained an issue across the Coalfield Area and that Gentoo was working very closely with the Council in relation to the matter to identify the perpetrators. The Team had gone out to 1000 incidents picking up what had been left for fear that it would be set alight. There were plans to put up signage to inform people that they would face prosecution if caught fly tipping.

Ms Humble also referred the Committee to the construction underway at 'Bramblewood' where 128 new homes were being built.

In response to Councillor Blackburn, Ms Humble confirmed that there were pockets of land in the Coalfield Area which were neither owned by the Council or Gentoo, however it was about working together where possible and that she would be able to provide maps showing land ownership.

With regards to the closure of cash facilities at Houghton Skyline, Councillor Blackburn advised that Members had been asking for alternative payment facilities where residents could pay their rent and Council tax in the Coalfield area.

In response to Councillor Speding, Ms Humble advised that the Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Team would be able to inform of the location of safe houses in the area and that Gentoo used to offer the same rate to do rooves for private property owners, however this was no longer the case and they no longer carried out this work.

The Chairman thanked Ms Humble for her 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 a SIB total balance of £2,978 for 2018/2019.

Ms Hopper referred to paragraph 2.2 which reported on a Call for Projects to address Loneliness and Social Isolation and added that the Fire Service and Carers Centre would be invited to discuss the projects. Ms Hopper pointed out that the 'Evening Walking Football' project would be deferred until June 2019.

Ms Hopper referred the Committee to the Call for Projects to provide activities for Children and Young People set out at Paragraph 2.3 and to the Call for Projects to provide Environmental Education and Improvements set out at Paragraph 2.4.

Ms Hopper drew attention to the proposal to support the delivery of the Phoenix Project in the Coalfield Area, the project developed in partnership with the Sunderland Carers Centre as well as the RU Ready for UC project currently being delivered in partnership by Springboard and ShARP.

Ms Hopper advised that should all the projects proposed be approved the balance from the main 2018/19 budget would be £540 and the balance from the 2018/19 Youth Activity budget would be £8,568.

Ms Hopper reminded Members of the deadline of 22<sup>nd</sup> March for any further Community Chest applications as the year end paperwork needed to be finalised.

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 10 projects detailed in section 2.2 and Annex 1, totalling £43,214, from the previously allocated Loneliness and Social Isolation budgets, as set out below, be approved:-

• Social Activity Navigator	B Active N B Fit	£5,000
• Flowers in Homes	MBC Wellbeing CIC	£4,796
• Day in the Dales	ELCAP	£5,000
• From Me to You	Sunderland Carers Centre	£2,772
• Espresso Yourself Club	St Aidan's Community Group	£2,536
• Shiney Marras	ShARP	£4,940

• Feathered Friends	Groundwork	£3,630
• Natural Connections	Durham Wildlife Trust	£4,990
• Down at the Pit	Springboard	£5,000
• Transforming Lives Today	Hetton New Dawn	£4,550

- c) the 10 projects detailed in section 2.3 and Annex 2 from the previously allocated Children and Young People budget, totalling £29,761, as set out below, be approved:-

• Shiney Row@Holiday Time	SNCBC	£3,708
• Houghton@Holiday Time	SNCBC	£3,412
• Copt Hill@Holiday Time	SNCBC	£3,708
• Hetton@Holiday Time	SNCBC	£3,996
• Summer Adventures for Families	Friends of HLCP	£2,505
• ABEL Club	ELCAP	£2,864
• Holiday Crafts	Houghton Library	£648
• Feeling Full, Ready for Action	Active Families	£3,552
• Beyond the Walls	GatewayNE	£4,000
• Class of 2019	Hetton Juniors FC	£1,368

- d) the 5 projects detailed in section 2.4 and Annex 3 from the previously allocated Environmental Improvement budget, totalling £12,735, as set out below, be approved:-

• Wildflower and Water Vole	Friends of HLCP	£2,520
• Food for All	Hetton New Dawn	£3,000
• Wildlife Garden	ELCAP	£2,215
• Community BioBlitz	Groundwork NE	£2,000
• Greener Coalfield	Durham Wildlife Trust	£3,000

- e) the Environmental Education projects detailed in sections 2.5, 2.6, 2.7 and Annex 4 from the previously allocated Environmental Improvement budget, totalling £27,265 be approved;
- f) the £12,265 remaining in the Environmental Improvement budget be utilised to implement projects and solutions under direction of the Place Board;
- g) the sum of £12,000 SIB for delivery of the Phoenix project detailed in Annex 5, be approved on condition that all 5 Area Committees approve the project;
- h) the sum of £30,000 to deliver the Caring for Carers project, detailed in Annex 6, from the previously allocated budget, be approved;
- i) the sum of £2,000 SIB to evaluate the Caring for Carers project, be approved;
- j) the RU Ready for UC project as detailed in Annex 7 from the previously allocated Digital Inclusion Project, totalling £30,000 be approved;

- k) the 23 Community Chest approvals supported from 2018/2019 Community Chest as set out in Annex 8, be noted; and
- l) the return of £17,453 SIB from project underspends be noted.

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

A schedule (copy circulated) of current planning applications lodged during the period 1<sup>st</sup> February and 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2019 was submitted for Members' information only.

(For copy schedule – see original minutes).

- 9. RESOLVED that the schedule be received and noted.

The Chairman thanked the Committee for the reports and contributions during the meeting and the Members of the Public for their attendance and closed the meeting.

(Signed) A. LAWSON,  
Chairman.