

At a meeting of the EAST SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE, SUNDERLAND on MONDAY, 3rd OCTOBER, 2016 at 5.30p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Ball in the Chair

Councillors M. Dixon, English, E. Gibson, Hunt, Kay, Marshall, McClennan, Mordey, Oliver, O'Neil, Scanlan and Wood

Also Present:-

Jeff Boath	- Station Manager, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service
Hazel Clark	- VCS Representative
David Groark	- Place Manager, Sunderland City Council
Matthew Jackson	- Governance Services Officer, Sunderland City Council
Jen McKeivitt	- VCS Representative
Gillian Robinson	- Area Co-ordinator, Sunderland City Council
Nicol Trueman	- Area Officer, Sunderland City Council
Lisa Wilson	- VCS Representative
Riddell	

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received on behalf of Councillors Emerson and Hodson together with Andrew McGuinness, Sarah Reed, Nicky Rowland and Jamie Southwell

Declarations of Interest

Item 5 – Area Budgets Report

Councillor Ball declared that she was a member of the Blue Watch Youth Project and withdrew from the meeting during consideration of the application.

Councillor Marshall declared that she was a member of the Box Youth Project and withdrew from the meeting during consideration of the application.

Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 13th June, 2016 and of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 23rd May, 2016

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 13th June, 2016 and of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 23rd May, 2016 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

VCS Area Network Progress Report

Hazel Clark delivered a verbal update on the work of the VCS Network. There had been two meetings of the network and a number of presentations had been received including presentations on welfare rights and employability support and from Groundworks on disposal of waste Electronic equipment. Lisa Riddell Wilson had joined the VCS network.

Concerns were raised over the loss of youth services from March 2017 and the impact this would have on young people and on other service areas. The VCS network wanted to be involved in the shaping of future services. They asked that as much notice as possible be given to groups so that they could approach other organisations for funding to continue providing a service.

Councillor Kay commented that the youth projects did good work and he felt that there would be regrets once the consequences of closure became apparent; people did not realise how important the work of the youth projects was.

The Chairman thanked Ms Clark for her report and it was:-

2. RESOLVED that the VCS Network progress report be noted.

Northumbria Police Update

There was no update from Northumbria Police.

Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service Update

Jeff Boath presented the figures for the Quarter 2 period between July and September. He advised that there had not been any deaths due to fires during the period and there had been 5 injuries; 3 of these injuries had occurred during one incident.

There had been 4 deliberate primary/dwelling fires and 9 accidental dwelling fires. 4 of the accidental fires had been started in the kitchen.

There had been 62 deliberate secondary fires; 27 of these fires had been in Hendon and 13 had been in Millfield. It was a similar number to the same period last year. There had been 10 bin fires which was a reduction of 5.

False alarms were a serious issue, there had been 88 calls and some of these had resulted in up to three appliances attending.

The integrated risk management plan was ending this year and there was a need to see whether there would be further cuts in the new plan; the current plan had appliances being removed from Hebburn and West Denton and although these would not have an impact on day to day services in East Sunderland there could be an impact on major incidents.

The Chairman thanked Mr Boath for his report and it was:-

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

East Sunderland Area Place Board Progress Report

The Chair of the East Sunderland Area Place Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with an update on the work done against the priorities included in the Work Plan for 2016/17.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

The Chair of the Place Board, Councillor E. Gibson, introduced the report and advised Members of the key achievements of the board up to 30th September 2016.

Councillor Kay commented that on Saturday there had been a litter pick with residents in the area off Chester Road; this had been hugely successful with around 50 residents participating.

Councillor Mordey stated that there were still issues around fly tipping in Middle Hendon. Since the changes to RLS fly tipped waste was left for much longer before being cleaned up. Since June his ward surgeries had been very well attended by people who were complaining about litter and fly tipping. He stated that he had asked Councillor Scanlan to lead on a review of the environmental policy with the intention of giving more power to deal with offenders to enforcement officers. There was a need to deter people from fly tipping in the area; people would drive into the area to fly tip waste. He felt that SIB funds should be used to invest in infrastructure that could be used to tackle the issue in the long term. Councillor E. Gibson advised that Nicol Trueman was doing work around the potential for this use of SIB funds and information would be brought to a future meeting.

Councillor M. Dixon queried when the newly refurbished pavilion in Barley Mow Park would be opening; he was advised that Nicol Trueman would find out and report back.

4. RESOLVED that the East Sunderland Area Place Board Work Plan and the progress made against the priorities be noted.

East Sunderland Area People Board Progress Report

The Chair of the East Sunderland Area People Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with an update on the work done against the priorities in the work plan for 2016/17.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

The Chair of the People Board, Councillor Marshall, introduced the report and advised Members of the progress made against the priorities up to 30th September 2016.

Ms McKevitt and Ms Clark referred to the fact that the 15-24 year old age bracket had the highest number of people self-harming and advised that youth workers were involved in tackling issues such as young people self-harming.

Councillor Mordey referred to the meeting which had been held with the DWP to look at universal credit; he had been shocked and saddened to hear what impact it could have once the system was fully in place. He was especially concerned that people who had never had responsibility for their finances and who may have mental health issues or drug or alcohol addictions were to be given large sums of money and then be expected to pay their rent and all of their bills. He agreed that there was a need for the benefit system to be reformed but he felt that the most appropriate way would be to reduce the amount of housing benefit. He felt that there was a need for six monthly updates to be provided to the People Board. Ms Robinson advised that Joan Reed had been doing work on identifying where resources needed to be targeted and it was anticipated that there would be a report back to the Board in January.

Councillor Kay stated that he thought that the Community Connectors project was one of the best value for money projects ever as it was building such strong relationships with the VCS network. The litter pick which had taken place had been arranged as a result of the Community Connectors project.

5. RESOLVED that the East Sunderland Area People Board Work Plan and the progress made against the priorities be noted.

Area Budgets Report

The Head of Area Arrangements, Scrutiny and Members Support 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 Trueman introduced the report and advised Members that there was £279,033 of SIB funding available to spend and that there were three applications totalling £76,401 recommended for approval. The SIB financial statement was set out in section 2 of the report.

Councillor Mordey referred to the Stepping Up project and expressed concerns over the £1,200 cost for two mobile phones as he thought that this was a lot of money. Ms Trueman advised that the phones would be used by four people and it was expected that there would be a lot of data use on them; she agreed to research whether the cost was reasonable.

Ms Trueman also advised the Committee of the remaining budgets for Community Chest which were set out in the table in paragraph 3.1 of the report.

6. RESOLVED that:-

- a. The financial statements set out in sections 2 and 3 be noted.
- b. The three SIB applications set out in annex 1 be approved
- c. The approved Community Chest proposals set out in annex 2 be noted.

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

(Signed) E. BALL,
Chairman.