

**At a meeting of the WASHINGTON AREA COMMITTEE held at the WASHINGTON LEISURE CENTRE on THURSDAY 20<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER, 2016 at 6.00 p.m.**

**Present:-**

Councillor Williams in the Chair

Councillors Farthing, Fletcher, Kelly, Lauchlan, Middleton, F. Miller, G. Miller, Scaplehorn, D. Snowdon, D.E. Snowdon, Taylor, D. Trueman, H. Trueman and P. Walker.

Karon Purvis	-	Chief Executives
Louise Butler	-	Chief Executives
Paul Wood	-	Corporate Services Directorate
David Hardy	-	Community Services
Ian Richardson	-	Community Services
Jacqui Reeves	-	VCS Representative
Jemma Amer	-	VCS Representative
Colin McCartney	-	Gentoo
Inspector Vicky Quinn	-	Northumbria Police

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Steve Graham, John Rostron and Ev Ripley-Day.

**Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**Minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2016 and the last meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2016**

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2016 and the last meeting of the Committee held on 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2016 (copies 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 presented the report and advised that the Network was continuing its work on the Community Plan and they had agreed priorities at the last meeting.

Ms Reeves also informed of a family fun day which all Members were invited to come along to if they so wished.

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

## **Northumbria Police**

Inspector Vicky Quinn provided the Committee with a verbal update on the crime figures for the months of June to September. Inspector Quinn advised that the figures had seen an increase but this was due to better ways of recording incidents and also that people were more confident in reporting historic crimes.

Councillor Kelly commented that house prices in the Washington North Ward were dropping due to Anti-Social Behaviour figures and the constant problems in Concord, all efforts had been made to tackle the issues in Concord and Councillor Kelly enquired how to deal with this.

Inspector Quinn advised that Operation Griffin was in the process of trying to tackle the issue, they were also working with Gentoo on the problem and they just needed to keep on top of the situation.

In response to Councillor Kelly's enquiry over the possible use of public space orders, Inspector Quinn advised that they could look at any option.

Councillor G. Miller commented on perceptions, with residents feeling that they were not seeing police officers on the ground and enquired if there had been a change in how the police were using their limited resources.

Inspector Quinn informed the Committee that their operational officers did not just cover the Washington area and that they were dealing with a greater number of 999 calls elsewhere, which was a positive reflection on Washington.

In response to Councillor Scaplehorn's enquiry over the staffing situation for the Washington West Ward, Inspector Quinn advised that all names and contact details

of officers were available on the internet, Karon Purvis, Area Officer advised that she would send the contact details to all Members.

Inspector Quinn advised Councillor D.E. Snowdon that there would be a full police presence on Bonfire night and they were just awaiting details of arrangements.

Councillor Taylor commented that there had been no representation from the Police at the Barmston PACT meeting. Inspector Quinn commented that she was incredibly disappointed to hear this and it was not acceptable as she had told Officers they must attend the PACT meetings so she would look into how this had occurred.

With regards to Community interaction, Councillor Farthing advised that she was intending to invite the beat officer to Rickleton Residents Association as she felt this would be a better forum than the PACT meetings.

The Chairman enquired as to what the future would hold for PACT meetings. Inspector Quinn advised that this was not within her remit and it was a force wide issue but that Members would be involved in any final decision.

Councillor Kelly suggested that the residents meetings would be the better suited forum for Police to attend as the PACT meetings attended by Councillors tended to take the public's focus away from the issues at hand.

3. RESOLVED that the verbal update from Northumbria Police be noted.

### **People Board Progress Report**

The Chair of the People Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update on the 2016/17 work plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

The Chairman of the People Board, Councillor Lauchlan, introduced the report and drew Members attention to the work plan for 2016/17 and gave a summary of the key areas of influence and achievements of the Board up to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016.

Councillor Farthing commented that she was pleased to see the update on the Time 2 Care project that they had initiated and wished to thank the Area Committee for their support.

4. RESOLVED that:-

- a. Members considered the Washington Area People Boards Work Plan for 2016/17 and the update detailed in Paragraph 3.2 and attached as Item 3 Annex 1 to the report
- b. The Committee agree the People Boards recommendation to support Place Board proposals to utilise Go Washington and Health and Green Spaces funding as part of the 'Washington Clean and Green' proposals as detailed in Item 5 of the report

- c. Agreed the new areas of work as detailed in paragraph 4.1 to be included in the People Board Work Plan 2016/17

## **Place Board Progress Report**

The Chair of the Place Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update on the 2016/17 Work Plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

The Chair of the Place Board, Councillor F. Miller, introduced the report and gave a summary of the key areas of influence and achievements of the Board up to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016.

In relation to the neighbourhood improvement project, Councillor Scaplehorn raised concerns that money that had been allocated for schemes within his ward had now been withdrawn and enquired if the Community Chest fund could be used to meet the shortfall. Mrs Purvis advised that this should be possible.

With regard to Heritage and Culture, Jemma Amer, gave an update on the Washington Carnival advising that they had received excellent feedback from the general public with families stopping for the whole day and it was generally a success.

Councillor Kelly commented that the only issue had been with parking for the event which had caused problems for the residents in the area.

Ms Amer advised that upon review, if they were tasked with providing next year's event, they would have Marshalls on site, would utilise Washington School Car Park and also have a minibus.

Councillor Farthing commented that it had been a fabulous, well attended event enjoyed by many and enquired if any liaison had been made with Bryan Beverley, who coordinated with the volunteer groups as their presence could've been much bigger.

Ms Amer advised that she would take this on board for next time, however they did have a great take up of stalls and they would've needed another marquee if there had been any bigger presence.

The Chairman thanked Ms Amer on behalf of the Committee as the event had been enjoyed by many with the feedback very good.

Councillor Scaplehorn agreed that it had been a fabulous day.

Mrs Purvis informed the Committee that a full evaluation would be reported to the Washington Place Board.

5. RESOLVED that Members:-

- a. Considered the Performance update with regard to the Washington Area Place Board's Work Plan for 2016/17 attached as Item 4 Annex 1 of the report
- b. Noted the updates as presented in paragraph 3.2 of the report.

**Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) Community Chest – Financial Statement and Proposals for Further Allocation of Resources**

The Head of Area Arrangements, Scrutiny and Member Support Service submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Members with the financial statements as an update on the progress in allocating SIB and Community Chest and which presented proposals for further funding requests.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

In relation to the Washington Clean and Green programme, Councillor Kelly proposed, seconded by Councillor G. Miller that the Support for Friends Groups (Item 5, Annex 2c) budget be increased to £25,000. Members agreed to the increase of the budget from £10,000 to £25,000.

With regards to the Washington Clean and Green Programme, Education and Awareness (Item 5, Annex 2d) Councillor Dianne Snowdon proposed that the budget be increased to £10,000. Members of the Committee agreed to increase the budget from £5,000 to £10,000.

6. RESOLVED that:-

- a. The financial statement be noted
- b. Considered and approved £15,000 contribution from the 2016/17 SIB budget for the Skills and Enterprise project as detailed in Annex 1 of the report
- c. Considered and approved the Project Brief and approved £120,000 (amended) from the 2016/17 SIB budget to the Washington Clean and Green Project, which consisted of £85,000 as detailed in Annex 2a, £25,000 (amended) from Annex 2c and £10,000 (amended) from Annex 2d of the report.
- d. Considered and approved £2000 SIB funding (previously aligned at June Area Committee) to be utilised as part of the GO Washington Small Grants Scheme as detailed in paragraph 4.2 of the report
- e. Considered and approved the Project Brief and approved £28,563 SIB contribution (previously aligned) to Healthy Communities Healthy Spaces Project as detailed in Annex 2b of the report
- f. Considered and approved the return of £25,000 SIB, previously aligned to the Volunteers Equipment Bank as detailed in paragraph 4.3 of the report.

- g. Noted the award of £30,000 to the Washington Trust for the Washington Heritage and Culture Project
- h. Considered and approved the Project Brief and approved £60,000 from the 2016/17 SIB budget for the Washington Events Programme 2017/18 as detailed in Annex 3 of the report
- i. Noted the 16 Community Chest approvals as detailed in Annex 4 of the report.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting

(Signed) L. WILLIAMS,  
Chairman.