

At a meeting of the WASHINGTON AREA COMMITTEE held in the THE CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER on THURSDAY, 16TH DECEMBER, 2021 at 6.00p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Lauchlan in the Chair

Councillors, Farthing, Laws, P. Walker, Warne and Williams

Also in Attendance:-

Mrs. Karon Purvis	-	Area Officer – Sunderland City Council
Mr. Jon Ritchie	-	Executive Director of Corporate Services, Sunderland City Council
Mr. Paul Wood	-	Principal Governance Services Officer, Sunderland City Council
Ms Julie McBurnie	-	Environmental Services Manager, Sunderland City Council
Mr. Alan Duffy		Gentoo
Mr Steven Bewick		TWFRA
Mr Paul Thompson	-	TWFRA
Inspector Gjorven	-	Northumbria Police
Suzanne Davies	-	Sunderland Culture/Arts Centre

Apologies for Absence

There were apologies for absence from Councillors Donaghy, Fletcher, F. Miller, G. Miller, D. E Snowdon, Taylor, D. Trueman, H. Trueman and M. Walker and from Denise Gilholme

Declarations of Interest

Washington Area Budget Report

Councillor Williams made an open declaration in the Consideration of Neighbourhood Funding to Sunderland Culture to deliver the Washington Creative You Project and also consideration of Neighbourhood Funding to NE Business & Innovation Centre to deliver the Washington Heritage & Culture Offer, as Director of Sunderland Culture, therefore left the room during the approval of those applications.

Minutes of the last meeting held on 28th September 2021

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 28th September, 2021 be confirmed and signed as a correct record

Washington Area Neighbourhood Investment Plan Delivery Plan 2020-2023

The Chair of Washington Neighbourhoods and Community Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which presented the Washington Neighbourhood Investment Delivery Plan 2020-2023 and also provided an update of progress against the Area Priorities associated with the Delivery Plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Laws presented the report, highlighting the key points of action with the relevant Task Groups and was on hand to answer any queries raised by Members.

Councillor Laws introduced Jon Ritchie, Executive Director of Corporate Services to provide an update on the Enforcement Safety Measures. Mr Ritchie advised that they had gone out to procurement and the expected implementation date was still Spring 2022.

Officers were still considering the factors of disabled access but this wasn't something that should delay the works. The Committee noted the update.

In relation to the VAS programme, Councillor Williams advised that she had been waiting for one particular rotation of the signs to appear and despite officers assurance that this would occur it had been missed again and suggested we may need to keep a close eye on movements/rotations of the signs so that some areas do not miss out. Mrs Purvis advised that Officers would be attending the February Board meeting so issues such as this could be raised then.

Councillor Farthing commented that she was pleased to hear officers would be attending Board as residents had raised queries over the signs showing a lower speed than their cars speedometer and would like clarity over this.

At this juncture, the Committee viewed a short video on the Delivery of the Washington Area Committee Delivery Plan

2. RESOLVED that the Committee

- i) Considered the progress and performance update with regards to the Washington Area Committee Delivery Plan 2020- 2023, and agreed the proposals for future delivery as contained within Annex 1 of the report
- ii) Supported the recommendation to extend the VAS Rotation Programme
- iii) Supported the recommendation for the Cook Well Live Well Project
- iv) Supported the recommendation to develop a Financial Resilience Programme for Washington's Young People
- v) Supported the recommendation invest in Washington's VCS and community assets
- vi) Noted the video highlighting the Committee's work in relation to Social Isolation and Social Inclusion

Washington Area Budget Report

The Assistant Director of Community Resilience submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided a financial statement as an update position on progress in relation to allocating Area Committee Funds, Neighbourhood Investment Capital Programme and Community Chest as well as presenting proposals for further funding requests.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Mrs Purvis presented the report and was on hand to answer any queries raised by Members.

With regards to the Financial Resilience and Engagement for Young People proposal, Councillor Farthing commented that having listened to the voice of the city's young people, time and time again they have asked for life skills so she was really pleased this project would offer that for them.

3. RESOLVED that the Committee:-

- i) Noted the financial information detailed within Tables One, Two and Three of the report;
- ii) Considered and Approved the NF Funding of £21,220 to extend the Vehicle Activated Signs Programme as set out in Section 2.3 and Item 3 Annex 1 of the report;
- iii) Considered and Approved the NF Funding of £50,000 for the Cook Well Live Well Project Brief and Call for Projects as set out in Section 2.3 and Item 3 Annex 1 of the report;
- iv) Considered and approved the NF Funding of £9,800 and the Project Brief and Call for Projects for Supporting Community Assets as set out in Section 2.3 and Item 3 Annex 1 of the report;

- v) Considered and approved the NF Funding of £100,000 to Sunderland Culture to deliver the Washington Creative You Project as set out in Section 2.3 and Item 3 Annex 1 of the report;
- vi) Considered and approved the NF Funding of £150,000 to NE Business & Innovation Centre to deliver the Washington Heritage & Culture Project set out in Section 2.3 and Item 3 Annex 1 of the report;
- vii) Considered and aligned NF funding of £35,000 to develop a Financial Resilience Project for Young People in Washington as set out in Section 2.4 and Item 3 Annex 2 of the report;
- viii) Considered and Approved NI Capital funding of £90,200 and the Project Brief and Call for Projects for the Supporting Community Assets as set out in Section 2.3 and Item 3 Annex 3 of the report;
- ix) Noted the approved Community Chest grants from April 2021 to December 2021 as detailed in Annex 4 of the report;

Partner Agency Reports

a) Washington Area Community Voluntary Sector Network

The Voluntary and Community Sector Network submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update with regard to the Washington Area Community and Voluntary Sector Network.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Mrs Purvis presented the report on behalf of the VCS Network and advised that a meeting had taken place on the 7th December with presentations on Crowdfunding and that it was business as usual with no issues to report from the Network.

In response to Councillor Williams enquiry, Mrs Purvis informed that attendees varied between 12 to 20 and that the Network meetings usually had a good attendance.

Members having considered the report, it was: -

4. RESOLVED that the content of the report and the opportunities and issues raised by the Washington Area Voluntary and Community Sector Network be received and noted.

b) Northumbria Police

Northumbria Police submitted a report which provided data on crime and disorder in the Washington area comparing 'Year to date' figures with the preceding year.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Inspector Nick Gjorven presented the report and informed the Committee of significant changes experienced to his team which had made it difficult to achieve the things he had wanted to but they were in a better place now and he would ensure his new team introduced themselves to Members in the coming months.

Councillor P. Walker commented that he was pleased to see the proposal for a dedicated site for off road motor bikes at Follingsby as this had always been an issue so it was most welcome and requested any details that could be shared on this.

In response to Councillor Farthings query, Inspector Gjorven advised that they did have a good working relationship with Early Help officers, along with Gentoo, to tackle ASB and they were doing a piece of work with Early Help currently in the Coalfield area which they would hopefully be able to bring across to Washington also.

Councillor Williams raised the concern of youths causing issues in the area and commented that it was a very difficult situation where we needed to change their behaviours, so she looked forward to being able to have this discussion with the Police.

Councillor Williams informed the Committee that many residents had had stated that when they reported issues, nothing had been done, therefore they had stopped reporting instances. Councillor Williams also advised that having spoken with the youth worker within Oxclose, he had been very complimentary of the police officer working on this, but it would be nice to see some feedback.

Mrs Purvis advised that a team from Together for Children had attended the recent LMAP's meeting and they would be working to target those youths which had been causing the issues. Inspector Gjorven advised that it was about targeting the cause rather than the symptoms.

5. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted

c) TWFRS

The Tyne and Wear Fire Service submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided performance-monitoring details in relation to the Local Indicators for the Washington Area Committee from 1st April 2021 to 31st August 2021, compared with the same period in 2020

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Mr Steven Bewick, Station Manager presented the report and expanded on the figures provided.

Councillor Farthing commented that there had been an awful number of increased incidents and she was concerned over the schools breaking up and

the amount of debris from fallen trees that was on the ground which could be set alight.

The Chairman agreed that there was more debris than usual due to Storm Arwin.

Councillor Williams commented that there appeared to be an awful amount of bin fires occurring as well as some assaults and enquired if anything was being done to prevent this, such as working with the young people.

Mr Bewick advised that there was a lot of skips and waste around the Leisure Centre and Galleries which the Fire Service had contacted the galleries about to remove. Leaflet drops had been carried out around the surrounding areas and operational crews were engaging more in the area.

Mr Bewick advised that they were also reporting to the Council, instances where leaves had blown into the subways, which could be set alight.

The Chairman thanked Mr Bewick for his attendance.

6. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

d) Gentoo

Gentoo provided a verbal update to the Committee on current Gentoo developments, projects and priorities.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Mr Alan Duffy, Head of Operations, Gentoo wished to apologise that there had been no written report provided as Storm Arwin had occurred before the deadline for reports. Mr Duffy advised that the Storm had resulted in 9000 calls and extensive damage across the City. 2 tenants in Washington had to be rehomed, 1800 roof repairs were needed along with fence repairs also.

Mr Duffy informed that operatives had been working overtime on weekends to deal with this and they had now completed a full assessment of the damage so in terms of roofing issues, the other areas in Sunderland had seen the brunt of the damage.

In response to Councillor Williams query over how many people had been without Gas/Electricity or Water, and for how long, Mr Duffy advised that there had been one resident in Glebe who had suffered significant damage to her roof which had allowed water to damage electrics which they had managed to get in and fix. The two properties most affected had been due to structural damage.

Councillor Williams referred to the 18000 roof repairs needed and enquired how long this would take. Mr Duffy commented that it was hard to tell at the moment as they were still in planning stage whilst also needed to carry out the

day-to-day repairs that were required so they were prioritising the most dangerous cases at the moment.

The Chairman thanked Mr Duffy for his report and commented that he was sure everyone was grateful for Gentoo's efforts during this difficult period.

7. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted

Planning Applications – For Information Only

Current Planning Applications relating to the Washington Area for the period 1st October, 2021 to 30th November, 2021 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 advised that Ms Julie McBurnie, the new Environmental Services Manager was in attendance and introductions were made.

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

(Signed) L. Lauchlan,
Chairman.