

At a meeting of the NORTH SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in COMMITTEE ROOM 2 of the CIVIC CENTRE, SUNDERLAND on MONDAY, 5th DECEMBER, 2016 at 5.30p.m.

Present:-

Councillor D. Wilson in the Chair

Councillors Beck, Bell, Chequer, Curran, Davison, Elliot, Foster, Francis, Howe, Jackson, MacKnight and N. Wright

Also in Attendance:-

Mr. Steve Graham	-	Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service
Mr. Paul Gowans	-	Wearmouth Learning Trust, VCS Network
Ms. Vivienne Metcalfe	-	Area Community Development Lead (North), Sunderland City Council
Ms. Allison Patterson	-	Area Coordinator, Sunderland City Council
Ms. Joanne Stewart	-	Principal Governance Services Officer, Sunderland City Council
Inspector Don Wade	-	Northumbria Police

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting, inviting introductions from those in attendance and advising of the process for recording meetings.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillor Leadbitter and on behalf of Ms. Wendy Cook.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

Minutes of the last meeting held on 3rd October, 2016

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 3rd October, 2016 be confirmed and signed as a correct record subject to the inclusion of Councillor Francis' apologies.

Place Board Progress Report

The Chairman of the North Sunderland Area Place Board submitted a report (copy circulated) in respect of the above matter.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Foster presented the report which provided a summary of the key areas of influence / achievements of the North Sunderland Place Board up to 25th November, 2016.

Councillor Wilson asked for an update on Thompson Park House and was advised by Ms. Metcalfe that they were currently sourcing external funding and that it was expected that the facilities would be open at the latest by Summer 2017, but they were hopeful it could be sooner and around April, 2017.

Councillor MacKnight referred to the Highway Maintenance Programme and the cleansing services and commented that they needed to be looked at as the current regimes were not addressing the issues. Ms. Metcalfe advised that Place Management Schedules and the Highway Maintenance Programme were to be considered at the January meeting of the North Sunderland Area Place Board where Members would have the opportunity to discuss any issues. Councillor Wilson advised the Committee that he would also be raising this issue at the meeting of the Chairman and Vice Chairmen of Area Committee and Cabinet Members meeting.

Members having considered the progress report, it was:-

2. RESOLVED that the progress and performance update with regards to the North Sunderland Area Place Board Work Plan for 2016/17 be received and noted.

People Board Progress Report

The Chairman of the North Sunderland Area People Board submitted a report (copy circulated) in respect of the above matter.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Davison presented the report which outlined a summary of the key areas of influence / achievements of the North Sunderland Area People Board up to 21st September, 2016.

Councillor Francis referred to the refurbishment of Fulwell Community Association and advised that it almost complete and that an excellent job had been carried out.

Members having no further comments or questions, it was:-

3. RESOLVED that the progress and performance update with regards to the North Sunderland Area People Board Work Plan for 2016/17 be received and noted.

Partner Agency Reports – North Sunderland Area Voluntary and Community Sector Network

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

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Mr. Paul Gowans, Area Network Representative, took the Committee through the report providing an update on the work being undertaken by the North Sunderland Area VCS Network, advising that the Network had met twice since the last Area Committee in June 2016 and that they had received presentations and information which included:-

- Details of Activities and Events in the North
- Details of NEPO Funding Opportunities
- Details of Grantfinder Funding Opportunities
- Consultation on Sunderland City Council Budget
- Presentation by Age UK on the Social Focus Project
- Presentation by Sunderland Live on Community Engagement and Support
- Presentation on CLLD and the opportunity to be involved

Councillor Jackson referred to the number of major events that took place in the North Sunderland area and commented that she did not think that Councillors were being given much information of the events or being invited to be involved through Sunderland Live. Mr. Gowans advised that communications had been discussed as part of the presentation from Sunderland Live and there had been some acceptance that there was a need to improve particularly through their website and the contacts in the areas available.

Members having fully considered the report, it was:-

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

Partner Agency Reports – Northumbria Police

Inspector Don Wade, Northumbria Police, gave an update to the Committee on the current position with regards to crime and anti-social behaviour data and of any on-going issues in the North Sunderland area.

Members sought updates on ongoing investigations and operations in and around the North Sunderland Area and Inspector Wade provided updates, in relation to drug dealing issues where further preventative works were being undertaken with schools; people trafficking which was an ongoing challenge, he advised that a six weekly meeting was in place with partners to continue to assess the issue; and anti-social behaviour in the Witherwack area which was an ongoing piece of work, he informed Members that there had been some progress made in agreements being signed up to by families and some having been referred to the Strengthening Families for support.

Councillors Curran and Jackson offered their thanks to the service for the work that had been carried out in and around Roker Avenue in relation to houses of multiple occupancy, the landlords of those properties and the physical state that the buildings were in.

Members having no further questions, it was:-

5. RESOLVED that the update from the Northumbria Police be deferred.

Partner Agency Reports – Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Services

Mr. Steven Graham, Station Manager, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Services provided a verbal update to the Committee, on performance in relation to the local indicators for the North Sunderland Area Committee area.

Members were advised of the current figures in relation to the North Sunderland Area, for the period 1st September, to 30th November, 2016, in relation to the same number of incidents for the same period the year previously. The Committee were advised that the service had found that they have nowhere near as busy as they had been in previous years at this time which could see increases in incidents due to Halloween and Bonfire Night both being within the time period.

Councillor Curran referred to properties in the Roker Avenue area and asked if properties did not conform to fire safety regulations what would happen and Mr. Graham advised that if a property did not pass the fire safety standards they could insist by law that they be improved upon but it all depended upon the standard of the individual property. He did advise that the service could provide smoke alarms in the short term but if there were more serious concerns then they had to ask the landlords to ensure the properties met fire safety regulations.

Councillor Davison referred to Gentoo properties where the wheely bins were stored at the front of the property and therefore easy to steal and potentially set alight and Mr. Graham advised that it had been brought up at a recent meeting with Gentoo but unfortunately, at some properties it was difficult to accommodate the wheely bins anywhere else. Inspector Wade commented that the theft of wheely bins had been known to skew the crime reporting figures, as they had to be reported to receive a new bin from the Council, and asked if there was a possibility to look in the future of a way to mark up wheely bins with the address of the property so they were easily identifiable.

Councillor Foster referred to a large bonfire that had been built and set alight at the site of the old Hylton Castle library and advised that residents were looking to raise a petition to stop this in future and asked if it was something the service could look to help prevent reoccurring. Inspector Wade intervened and suggested that if it was one particular site that Councillors had concerns around he could discuss this with ward Councillors outside of the meeting to look for a solution.

The Chairman having thanked Mr. Graham for his report, it was:-

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

Financial Statement and Proposals for Further Allocation of Resources

The Head of Member Support and Community Partnerships submitted a report (copy circulated) which requested Members to give consideration to a financial statement as an up to date position in relation to the allocation of Strategic Initiatives Budget and Community Chest and presented proposals for further funding requests.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Metcalfe, Area Community Development Lead, presented the report drawing attention to the recommendations detailed within the report.

Councillor Wright commented that in relation to the allocating of Community Chest and SIB funds Councillors needed to be mindful in these times of austerity of the allocations they were agreeing to and not to be frivolous. The Chairman suggested that it may be beneficial for Members to consider the criteria around allocating funds in relation to Community Chest and asked that these be shared at the next meetings of the North Sunderland People and Place Boards for further consideration.

Councillor Foster requested progress on the Fulwell Mill and was advised by Ms. Metcalfe that it was a staged approach and that she would ask for an update to be provided to set out the exact stage that the project was at and timescales for future developments.

Having fully discussed the application and those in attendance having answered Members questions; it was:-

7. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the financial statements set out in sections 2.1 and 3.1 of the report be noted; and
- (ii) the 8 Community Chest approvals supported from 2016/2017 Community Chest budget as set out in Annex 1 of the report be noted.

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

(Signed) D. WILSON,
Chairman.