

At a meeting of the WASHINGTON AREA COMMITTEE held at THE MILLENNIUM CENTRE on THURSDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER, 2012 at 6.00 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Scaplehorn in the Chair

Councillors Fletcher, F. Miller, G. Miller, Padgett, D. Snowdon, D. E. Snowdon, Thompson, D. Trueman, H. Trueman and Williams.

Mike Poulter	-	City Services
Brian Hodgkinson	-	City Services
Julie Lynn	-	Chief Executives
Paul Wood	-	Commercial and Corporate Services
Lorraine Hughes	-	Children's Services/Sunderland PCT
Neil Revely	-	Health, Housing and Adult Services
Jacqui Reeves	-	Washington Mind
Colin McCartney	-	Gentoo

Members of the Washington Community.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Farthing, Kelly, Lauchlan and Walker. James Third, Inspector Paul Stewart, John Rostron and Andy Lillford.

Declarations of Interest

Item 04 – Financial Statement and Proposals for further allocation of Resources

Councillors Fletcher and D. Trueman declared personal and prejudicial interests in the SIB application as Members of the Beamish Joint Committee and left the room during consideration of the application.

Councillor David Snowdon declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the SIB application as Secretary of the Millennium Centre and left the room during consideration of the application.

Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 21st June, 2012

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 21st June, 2012 (copy circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Place Board – Progress Report

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to update the Committee on the progress of the Place Board in relation to the current years (2012/13) Work Plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor D. E. Snowdon presented the report and advised that Brian Hodgkinson, Area Response Manager had been tasked with providing the costings of a pilot scheme in relation to abandoned shopping trolleys in order to deal with the Supermarkets and a ten week rota of meetings had been arranged with the Galleries Shopping Centre in a positive move forward.

An Officer Working Group was in the process of being established to look at how Members could be better supported in their role to influence Responsive Local Services.

Mr Hodgkinson advised that the Love Where You Live campaign had gone very well.

In relation to the feasibility of additional CCTV, Councillor Dianne Snowdon advised that investigations had been carried out but it was found to be cost prohibitive, especially in the current economic climate and this action was recommended to be closed, with the LMAPS resources and cameras being better utilised.

The Chairman informed the Committee that information on the new Washington Leisure Centre would be included in the latest edition of Community News.

Councillor Dianne Snowdon wished to thank Mr Hodgkinson and his team on behalf of Members and the public for all their help during the recent flooding. The Chairman also requested Members appreciation be officially noted and Mr Hodgkinson's manager be informed of their efforts.

Councillor Dianne Snowdon referred to paragraph 5.1 of the report and advised that the Place Board may request Area Committee's consideration to provide funding for green space/cycleway initiatives which would help address obesity should TPCT funding be available.

In relation to the Green Space Audit, Mr Hodgkinson advised that he was working with Clive Greenwood, Senior Policy Officer for Economy and Place on identifying 'quick wins' such as Princess Anne Park for example.

Councillor G. Miller referred to the Workplan action to investigate options for improved broadband provision in Washington and advised that Tom Baker had now left the authority, therefore a new contact name would need to be supplied.

2. RESOLVED that the Committee
- (i) Noted the report, and the Place Board's timetable for activity for the year ahead as detailed in Annex 1 of the report; and
 - (ii) Agreed to accept further progress update reports based on the timetable outlined in Annex 1 of the report.

People Board – Progress Report

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide the Committee with an update on the progress of the Washington Area People Board in relation to the current year's (2012/13) Work Plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Williams presented the report and advised that the forthcoming meeting of the People Board on 15th October would be considering the needs assessment to set the structure of what Youth provision should be commissioned. Recommendations would be brought to the Area Committee for consideration/ approval at an extraordinary meeting arranged for the 22nd October.

In relation to paragraph 5.2 of the report Alaine Robson, SNCBC advised that The Youth Opportunities Project was going really well with 44 young people no longer NEET and they were also progressing with the apprenticeships.

Councillor Williams referred to paragraph 5.3 of the report and confirmed the school opportunities project was progressing well with the recruitment underway for a mentor.

Councillor Williams referred to paragraph 5.5 of the report and commented that there was a real need to look at how we work effectively with the Voluntary Community Sector in providing services.

Councillor Williams also advised that the Positive for Young People project had successfully progressed through the SIB expression of interest and had been invited to full application to be presented to January Committee.

The Chairman commented that the Voluntary Sector may have felt a little neglected of late and he wished to apologise for this, but as a great number of staff had left the authority, we were now starting to regroup and stressed that the situation would be addressed.

In relation to paragraph 6 of the report, Councillor Williams commented that she hoped Ward Councillors would take part in the Question-time type events which were proposed.

3. RESOLVED that the Committee
- (i) Noted the report and the People Board's timetable for activity for the year ahead as included in Annex 1
 - (ii) Agreed to accept progress update reports based on the timetable outlined in Annex 1.

Financial Statement and Proposals for further allocation of Resources

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to request the Committee's consideration of proposals for the allocation of the Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB), Healthy City Investment Fund (HCIF) and to note the Community Chest initiatives that would benefit the area.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

4. RESOLVED that the Committee:-
- i) Noted the financial statement set out in Section 2.1 of the report
 - ii) Approved £15,000 as a contribution from the 2012/13 SIB budget for the Heritage Miners Banners for Schools project;
 - iii) Approved £31,000 as a contribution from the Healthy City Investment Fund for the Washington MIND Well Men Partnership;
 - iv) Noted the allocation of budget for the Young People's Enterprise Project as detailed at 2.2.6 and Annex 2 of the report;
 - v) Noted the allocation of budget for the Schools Opportunities Project as detailed at 2.2.7 and Annex 3 of the report; and
 - vi) Noted the 3 approvals supported from 2012/2013 Community Chest as set out in Annex 4 of the report.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting

(Signed) B. SCAPLEHORN,
Chairman.