

At a meeting of the NORTH SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held at COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL, SUNDERLAND on THURSDAY, 24th MARCH, 2021 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Foster in the Chair

Councillors Butler, Chequer, Doyle, Hartnack, S. Johnston, Leadbitter, McKeith, Samuels, A. Smith, Stewart and Usher

Also in Attendance:-

Ms. Catherine Auld	-	Assistant Director of Economic Regeneration, Sunderland City Council
Ms. Joanne Coulson	-	Community Support Worker, Sunderland City Council
Mr. Peter Curtis	-	Area Network Representative
Mr. Colin McCartney	-	Head of Operations, Gentoo Housing
Ms. Vivienne Metcalfe	-	Area Community Development Lead, Sunderland City Council
Insp. Stephen Prested	-	Northumbria Police
Ms. Joanne Stewart	-	Principal Governance Services Officer, Sunderland City Council

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors D. MacKnight, Howe and D. Wilson and also on behalf of Mr. Richy Duggan and Mr. Peter McIntyre.

Declarations of Interest

The following Members made declarations of interest in relation to the applications for funding as part of the Defibrillator Project at Item 3 of the agenda and took no part during consideration of those applications:-

Councillor Butler – Southwick Youth and Community Association and Thompson Park Community Association
Councillor Chequer – Southwick Youth and Community Association, Thompson Park Community Association and Grace House.
Councillor A. Smith – Southwick Youth and Community Association and Thompson Park Community Association
Councillor P. Stewart – Redhouse and District Community Association

Minutes of the Last Meeting

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 14th December, 2021 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

North Sunderland Area Neighbourhood Delivery Plan 2020 – 2023

The Chairman of the North Sunderland Area Committee Neighbourhood and Community Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which presented the North Sunderland Neighbourhood Delivery Plan 2020-2023 and provided an update of progress against the Area Priorities associated with the Delivery Plan.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Foster took Members through the report providing a summary of the key areas of action and/or progress of the Board, up to February, 2022, with greater detail set out in the annex to the report, which informed the Area Activity Tracker to allow residents to monitor Area Committee's progress throughout the year.

Member were shown a short video presentation which summarised the outcomes and achievements of the Committee, the Board and the relevant Task and finish Groups who had been working with hard with VCS groups and partners to deliver priorities based on resident consultation.

The information in the report and video having been fully considered, it was:-

2. RESOLVED that:-
 - The progress and performance update with regard to the North Sunderland Neighbourhood Delivery Plan for 2020/23 be received and noted and the proposals for future delivery as set out in annex 1 to the report be agreed;
 - The recommendations of the North Sunderland Area Neighbourhood and Community Board regarding the Highways Capital Maintenance programme for the area for 2022-2023 as set out in annex 2 of the report be agreed; and
 - The North Sunderland Area Committee video update be noted.

North Sunderland Area Committee 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 Neighbourhood Funds, Neighbourhood Investment Capital Programme 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.

The Chairman asked that the issue of funding for the provision of electric bikes for use by Northumbria Police be referred to a future meeting of the Neighbourhood and Community Board to allow a full discussion to be undertaken.

Members having had any questions answered, it was:-

3. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the issue of funding for electric bikes for Northumbria Police be forwarded to the Neighbourhood and Community Board for further discussion;
- (ii) the financial statements as set out in section 2.1 and 3.1 of the report be received and noted;
- (iii) approval be given to the allocation of £1,709.50 from the Neighbourhood Fund to the Southwick Youth and Community Association for the Defibrillator Project;
- (iv) approval be given to the allocation of £1,150 from the Neighbourhood Fund to Redhouse and District Community Association for the Defibrillator Project;
- (v) approval be given to the allocation of £885 from the Neighbourhood Fund to Thompson Park Community Association for the Defibrillator Project;
- (vi) approval be given to the allocation of £1,000 from the Neighbourhood Fund to Veterans in Crisis CIC for the Defibrillator Project;
- (vii) approval be given to the allocation of £1,170 from the Neighbourhood Fund to Castletown Community Association for the Defibrillator Project;
- (viii) approval be given to the allocation of £1,000 from the Neighbourhood Fund to Grace House for the Defibrillator Project;
- (ix) approval be given to the allocation of £1,759 from the Neighbourhood Fund to St. Bede's Community Project for the Defibrillator Project;
- (x) approval be given to the allocation of £1,170 from the Neighbourhood Fund to Hylton Castle Working Men's Club for the Defibrillator Project; and
- (xi) the seven approvals for Community Chest supported from 2021/2022 be noted.

Partner Agency Reports - Report of the North 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 North Sunderland Area Voluntary and Community Sector network.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Mr. Curtis, Area Network Representative took Members through the report advising that the network had their first face to face meeting in March, 2022 and shared the agenda items that had been covered.

Members of the Committee were advised that a Sunderland VCS Alliance had been formed to support a strong, vibrant and accessible VCS and that the first workshop had went really well.

Mr. Curtis advised that the cost of living crisis was going to place a great strain on resident of the city and the VCS network and informed Members that vulnerable residents in the community were still raising concerns about leaving their homes and lacking confidence in reintegrating back in to normal day to day society.

Members praised the work of the VCS Network throughout the pandemic and appreciated all that had been carried out in supporting some of the most vulnerable in the community.

The report having been considered, it was:-

4. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Northumbria Police Update

Inspector Prested of 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 were provided with a verbal summary of crime figures within the area and were advised of successful and forthcoming operations in relation to the North Sunderland area of the city.

As part of his presentation Inspector Prested had advised that, following discussions they had secured the community engagement bus to be present at Hylton Castle on Saturdays which they hoped would work as a deterrent for youth disorder and anti social behaviour in the area whilst also being available to offer advice and guidance to young people.

With regards to comments from Councillor Hartnack around negative comments from residents regarding the 101 telephone system, Inspector Prested advised that he understood the frustrations as it could take some time to get an answer but asked Members to continue signposting residents to use the service; explaining that new staff were being trained to be able to take more calls; although it could take up to thirty minutes on the phone to fully record a crime. Councillor Stewart advised that the issue had recently been raised with the Police and Crime Commissioner who had made a commitment to provide additional resources from the forthcoming budget.

In relation to criminal damage and incidents of graffiti in the North Sunderland area, Inspector Prested advised that it had not been abusive or racist and had been cleaned away after being informed quite quickly of it. He explained this could be quite expensive as some had to be removed manually. Investigations and more research

was ongoing and they had a number of leads to follow up with the hope of a successful outcome.

In response to a further query from Councillor Hartnack, Inspector Prested advised that they did bid for resources for the North Sunderland area but that they were deployed following an assessment linked to whether there was 'threat, harm and risk'. Should Offices have a particular concern for a patrol presence in an area they would submit a bid to be reviewed and if it was deemed appropriate the relevant resources would be deployed.

Members having thanked the Officer for the update and had their queries answered, it was:-

5. RESOLVED that the update from the Northumbria Police be received and noted.

Partner Agency Reports – Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Services

Ms. Metcalfe advised that in the absence of a presenting officer, should Members have any questions, they could be emailed to herself and she would ensure that a response was provided.

Councillor Doyle raised his frustrations that there was no representative in attendance again and asked if they could be contacted to understand why they were unable to attend. Ms. Metcalfe commented she would contact Mr. Makin who had attended previously and provide feedback to the Committee.

Members thanked the Officer for the update, and it was:-

6. RESOLVED that any questions be forwarded to the Area Community Development Lead to gather a response.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and thanked those Members who would not be standing at the forthcoming elections for their input and involvement over the years; wishing them well in their retirement; and closed the meeting.

(Signed) S. FOSTER,
Chairman.