

**At a meeting of the NORTH SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in COMMITTEE ROOM 2, CIVIC CENTRE, SUNDERLAND on WEDNESDAY, 25<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2019 at 5.30p.m.**

**Present:-**

Councillor D. Wilson in the Chair

Councillors Butler, Davison, Doyle, Foster, Francis, Howe, Jenkins, Leadbitter, D. MacKnight, McKeith and Stewart

**Also in Attendance:-**

Ms. Vivienne Metcalfe	-	Area Community Development Lead (North), Sunderland City Council
Ms. Allison Patterson	-	Area Co-ordinator (North), Sunderland City Council
Ms. Joanne Stewart	-	Principal Governance Services Officer, Sunderland City Council

**Chairman's Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting, inviting introductions from those in attendance and advising of the right to record proceedings.

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Chequer and Samuels, and from Richy Duggan and Ruth Oxley.

**Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest made.

**Minutes of the last meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> June and 14<sup>th</sup> August, 2019**

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last ordinary meeting of the Committee held on 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2019 and the extraordinary meeting of the Committee held on 14<sup>th</sup> August, 2019 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

## **Area Arrangements Update**

The Assistant Director of Community Resilience submitted a report (copy circulated) to present to Members an update on the outcomes of a recent workshop where the Portfolio Holder and Deputy Portfolio Holder for Communities and Culture, Area Committee Chairmen and People and Place Board Chairmen discussed opportunities to strengthen the Council's Area Arrangements.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Allison Patterson, North Sunderland Area Co-ordinator presented the report advising of the outcome of the discussions from the July, 2019 workshop which were agreed for action.

Ms. Metcalfe advised the Committee that the Facebook page for the area was receiving a good number of 'hits' and commented that she had found that the most popular posts were those promoting activities for young people, those advertising local job vacancies and videos of the local north area.

Members discussed meeting venues being in the local communities to encourage the public to attend and put forward suggestions for future meetings. The Committee were asked to provide details of any further venues in the North Sunderland area to the Principal Governance Services Officer who would make the necessary checks and confirm availability, etc. in due course.

Members had discussions around the use of volunteers and who would hold their information on file as they had previously been advised that as Councillors they could not, and Ms. Patterson advised that they were looking to develop a platform where local opportunities would be shared for members of the public to register their interest in activities and projects. A pilot would be undertaken which would be monitored before being rolled out across the city and further detail could be provided at that time.

Members having fully considered the report, it was:-

2. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

## **Neighbourhood Engagement and Investment**

The Assistant Director of Community Resilience submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided for Members an update on Neighbourhood Engagement and the various mechanisms to be adopted which ensure that residents continue to be at the heart of service delivery, enabling communities and neighbourhoods to become actively involved in the delivery of the City

Plan and developing Neighbourhood Investment Plans, to ensure long-term community resilience.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Allison Patterson presented the report advising that the report shared updates on the development to date relating to the following topics:-

- Resident engagement and involvement strategy;
- Neighbourhood Investment Plans; and
- Crowdfund Sunderland.

Ms. Patterson drew Members attention to the flow chart within the report which set out how it was proposed to deliver plans, achieve outcomes and track activity. The timeframe would see a draft strategy being developed early in 2020 with the launch of the Neighbourhood Investment Plans on March, 2020.

Members had discussions around the Crowdfund Sunderland platform; including more information about Spacehive and how it was envisioned that the scheme would work within local communities.

Councillor Francis commented that he was a great believer in crowd funding but asked for further information around Spacehive; and requested that the information be provided to him within the next two weeks.

Members having fully considered the report, it was:-

3. RESOLVED that:-

- i) the report be received and noted; and
- ii) refer the three topics as set out to the North Sunderland Area Committee People and Place Boards for further discussions on how Members would wish to support and monitor delivery.

### **Financial Statement and Proposals for Further Allocation of Resources**

The Assistant Director of Community Resilience submitted a report (copy circulated) which requested Members to give consideration to a financial statement as an update position in relation to the allocation of Strategic Initiatives Budget (to be now known as Neighbourhood Fund) and Community Chest and presented proposals for further funding requests.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

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

The Committee had conversations around the improvements that had been made at Southwick Green and ward Councillors asked that their thanks be conveyed to all staff involved in the project. Discussions followed in how to continue to make improvements in the area and it was decided that discussions around enforcements, signage, etc could be held at the next meeting of the North Sunderland Area Place Board.

Members discussed the funding which had been allocated to the CCTV project and enquired how it would be decided how the locations for camera positioning would be chosen? The Committee were informed that discussions would be held at the Place Board to agree where they were placed and when they were moved but the recommendation was that when first decided upon they should remain in one position for a period of three to four months.

Having fully discussed the applications and Members having had any questions answered, it was:-

4. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the financial statements as set out in paragraphs 2.1 and 3.1 of the report be received and noted;
- (ii) approval be given to the allocation of £13,348 Neighbourhood Funding from the 2019/20 budget towards the Southwick Illumination Project as set out in the report;
- (iii) approval be given to the allocation of £20,000 Neighbourhood Funding from the 2019/20 budget towards the Self-Supporting Community Associations as set out in the report;
- (iv) approval be given to the Youth Activities Project Brief and to the allocation of £20,000 Neighbourhood Funding to add to the previously aligned Public Health Funding as set out in the report;
- (v) approval be given to the alignment of £28,208 of Neighbourhood Funding from the 2019/20 budget to deliver the Southwick Green Regeneration Plan as detailed in the report;
- (vi) approval be given to the alignment of £40,000 of Neighbourhood Funding from the 2019/20 budget to deliver the Vehicle Activation Signage (VAS) project as detailed in the report; and
- (vii) the eleven approvals for Community Chest supported from the 2019/2020 budget as set out in Annex 2 to the report be noted.

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

(Signed) D. WILSON,  
Chairman.