

At a meeting of the WASHINGTON AREA COMMITTEE held at the MILLENNIUM CENTRE, CONCORD on THURSDAY, 2ND FEBRUARY, 2012 at 6.00 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Scaplehorn in the Chair

Councillors Kelly, Lauchlan, F. Miller, G. Miller, Padgett, Snowdon, D. Trueman, H. Trueman, Walker and Williams.

John Rostron	-	City Services
Brian Hodgkinson	-	City Services
Nicola Hawyes	-	City Services
Karon Purvis	-	Chief Executives
Karen Alexander	-	Chief Executives
Alan Scott	-	Children's Services
Lorraine Hughes	-	Children's Services/Sunderland PCT
Neil Revely	-	Health, Housing and Adult Services
Marion Marshall	-	Commercial and Corporate Services
Paul Wood	-	Commercial and Corporate Services
John Chapman	-	Gentoo
Inspector Alan Pitchford	-	Police
Alaine Robson	-	SNCBC

Members of the Washington Community.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Fletcher, Richardson, Thompson and Wake. Mike Poulter, Nikki Vokes, James Third, Jacqui Reeves and Sarann Valentine.

Declarations of Interest

Item 03a – 3.3 – Education and Heritage Project Update

Councillor G. Miller declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the item as Managing Director of TWEBLO.

Councillor F. Miller declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the item as her husband was the Managing Director of TWEBLO.

Item 03b – Financial Statements and Proposals

Councillor Kelly declared a personal and prejudicial interest in SIB Application No. 2 (Library Resource and Refurbishment) as Chair of Governors for Usworth Grange Primary School and left the room during consideration of the item.

Item 03b – Financial Statements and Proposals – Community Chest

Councillor Walker declared a personal interest in the Community Chest applications for Roseberry Court/Peacehaven Court Residents as an employee of Gentoo.

Councillor Walker declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the St. Bede's Primary School Community Chest application as a Governor for the School and left the room during consideration of the item.

The Chairman declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the Community Chest application from Springwell Village Primary School as a Governor of the school and left the room during consideration of this item.

Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 1st December, 2011

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 1st December, 2011 (copy circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Community Action in Washington: Identifying New Issues and Agreeing Actions (2011/12 Work Plan)

The Chairman advised that due to a number of outstanding issues it was proposed that the item relating to the process for the Review of Local Area Plans for 2012 be deferred and considered at the next Area Committee meeting.

2. RESOLVED that the item be deferred to the next meeting of the Committee.

Community Action in Washington: Progress Review – Progress Report on 2011/12 Work Plan

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide an update of progress against agreed actions in the current year's (2011/12) Work Plan (Annex 1).

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Karon Purvis, Area Officer presented the report and updated the Committee on the work of the Employment Task and Finish Group.

Youth Opportunities (NEET Support and Co-ordination)

Alaine Robson of SNCBC advised the Committee that there were currently 16 young people on the project, all based within the Washington locality, three of which were on Foundation Learning and a further three registered with the Washington Youth Opportunity Project. One participant had gained employment and another had secured an apprenticeship at the Millennium Centre.

Four apprenticeships had been allocated to the Street Scene Section, one person was interested in a career within the Navy and a group of young people were to attend the Steering Group to discuss the barriers they faced and what they would like to do.

Ms. Robson also advised that they would be meeting on a fortnightly basis with Riverside Training to look at key worker support and working with schools on a menu of support.

In response to Councillor Kelly's query, Ms. Robson advised that three youths had been referred as their training programme had come to an end and they had progressed onto this project.

Councillor Kelly commented he was concerned that people were being referred to this programme from other training providers, which was not what the project was for, it was for youths not in education or employment at all.

In relation to Councillor Kelly's request for an update on how the youths working in Street Scene were progressing and the issues they were having, the Chairman proposed that this be discussed at the next Task and Finish Group.

Activities for Young People Addressing Youth Anti-Social Behaviour

The Chairman introduced Alan Scott, Operations Manager of the Youth Development Group who advised that they were finding it a challenge to provide the number of sessions promised for 8-12 year olds. One project was up and running but they had asked for an extension to hit targets.

There was a revision from 60 sessions to 47 sessions for Quarter 4 but they could guarantee usage from the specific Wards and the participation figures for 13-19 year olds had well exceeded the figures planned.

Councillor Williams enquired if the issues in relation to the 8-12 year olds could not have been anticipated beforehand.

Mr. Scott advised that the problem was the time taken to set up the sessions and poor engagement which could not have been anticipated initially.

John Rostron, Area Community Manager advised that the heritage project was trying to engage in a different way, working with partners and a young person's heritage group. They had faced problems in trying to get the information out to all the schools and were working to make sure the Youth/Heritage Workers had a plan of action so young persons received a quality service and engaged in the right way to ensure the programme was delivered correctly from the beginning.

Councillor G. Miller referred to the two Wards which still had no provision and enquired as to what the issues were and the actions being taken.

Mr. Scott advised that they had been surprised by the lack of take up by the community groups in Washington Central and South Wards but there was now a dedicated officer to visit these groups and schools to encourage greater engagement and they were confident of increasing the take up.

Mr. Rostron advised that there was a capacity issue which we needed to address..

Operation Choice

Inspector Alan Pitchford updated the Committee on Operation Choice advising that the Youth Bus was now planned to visit seven primary schools and another ten schools had provided dates and this should be up and running very soon.

Attractive Neighbourhood

Brian Hodgkinson, Washington Area Response Manager advised that out of 325 issues raised, only 3 were outstanding with the main service requests including litter and graffiti.

We had been short-listed for Best City in the Northumbria in Bloom awards. Themes were being considered for the Olympics and there was also a 'More Trees, More Good' campaign being carried out by the Woodland Trust.

The Love Where You Live campaign was to commence the week beginning 12th March if Members had any suggestions on the Wards to be looked at.

In relation to the Olympic proposals, Councillor Kelly enquired if some of the Area Committee funding already allocated for this could be used to provide medals for example for school sports days.

Councillor F. Miller suggested a Community Games Event where the medals could be presented by the Leader/Mayor if available and she offered to help deliver, if advice was needed.

A member of a Residents' Association wished to highlight the issue of litter being left on the main roads of Washington due to wagons transporting to the Waste Transfer Stations.

The Chairman advised that he would make sure this issue was taken to the Environment Agency.

Councillor Kelly commented that he would take this forward if the relevant information was emailed to him.

Councillor G. Miller referred to the More Trees, More Good campaign and commented that Washington already had many trees and he expressed concern at the level of maintenance by the Woodland Trust of these existing trees which should be addressed before they planted more.

3. RESOLVED that Members:-
- (i) noted the report, progress updates and actions as identified in the report and in the Work Plan attached as Annex 1;
 - (ii) agreed further updates from Youth Opportunities; and
 - (iii) agreed for a detailed progress report for the Washington Managed Work Space project to be presented to a future Area Committee meeting.

Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) and Community Chest – 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) and Community Chest to support 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) agreed the recommendations set out in Annex 1 with reference to the SIB applications;
 - (iii) approved £2,250 as a contribution from the 2011/12 SIB budget for the Concord Bus Station enhancement project;
 - (iv) approved £10,999 as a contribution from the 2011/12 SIB budget for the Library Resource and Refurbishment project at Usworth Grange Primary School;
 - (v) approved the 12 proposals for support from 2011/12 Community Chest as detailed in Annex 2; and
 - (vi) noted the Community Chest reclaimed amounts as detailed in Annex 3.

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

(Signed) B. SCAPLEHORN,
Chairman.