

**At a Meeting of the COALFIELD AREA COMMITTEE held at the HETTON CENTRE, WELFARE ROAD, HETTON LE HOLE, on WEDNESDAY, 14<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2017 at 6.00 p.m.**

**Present:-**

Councillor Lawson in the Chair

Councillors Allen, Heron, Johnston, Scullion, Speding, Turner, M. Turton, W. Turton and G. Walker.

**Also in Attendance:-**

Debbie Ainscow	VCS Representative, Carer Locality Lead	Sunderland Carers Centre
Steve Burdis	Station Manager	Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service
Wendy Cook	VCS Representative, Youth and Community Co-ordinator	Sunderland North Community Business Centre
Jack Cunningham	Member of the Public	
Kathy Dobson	Member of the Public	
Bob Heron	Member of the Public	
Pauline Hopper	Area Community Development Lead, Coalfield	Sunderland City Council
Sam Humble	Head of Operations	Gentoo
Amelia Laverick	Member of the Public	
Gillian Robinson	Area Co-Ordinator	Sunderland City Council
Christine Tilley	Community Governance Services Team Leader	Sunderland City Council
Vicky Quinn	Inspector	Northumbria Police

## **Chairman's Welcome and Introductions**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and in particular Mr Steve Burdis who would be continuing as the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service representative for the Coalfield Area and Members of the Public who were attending the meeting.

## **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Blackburn and Cummings together with Ms Debbie Hall, Area Response Manager for the Coalfield area.

## **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest made.

## **Minutes of the Last Meeting**

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last ordinary meeting of the Committee held on 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 and of the Extraordinary meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2017 (copies circulated), be confirmed and signed as correct records.

## **Place Board Progress Report**

The Chair of the Place Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an annual update of the 2016/17 Work Plan including SIB funded projects, seeking Area Committee approval for place priorities to be taken forward as part of the Work Plan for 2017/18 and providing an update on Place Board Governance Arrangements for 2017/18.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

In the absence of the Chair of the Place Board, the Chairman of the Area Committee, Councillor Lawson briefed the Committee on the report drawing attention to the 2016/17 Work Plan which provided an annual update on performance and the proposed work plan for 2017/18.

Councillor Lawson highlighted from the report that the Stephenson Project workshops were underway and participants would receive a copy of the publication of the Hetton Colliery Railway Booklet which had been funded from SIB. A planning application had been submitted in respect of the mural in Market street, Hetton and thought was being given to providing a gateway sign at Shiney Row.

Councillor Lawson invited Members to celebrate and support citywide events and initiatives in relation to the Tall Ships 2018 and the City of Culture bid.

In response to enquiries about the Stephenson Project workshops, Ms Pauline Hopper advised that she could provide details of available workshops to anyone interested in taking part.

Members of the Committee having considered the report; it was:-

2. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the Annual Performance Update with regard to the Coalfield Area Place Board's Work Plan for 2016/17 attached at Annex 1, be noted;
- (ii) the Coalfield Area Place Board Work Plan priorities for 2017/18 attached at Annex 2, be approved; and
- (iii) the Area Governance arrangements for 2017/18, outlined in Section 5 and Annex 3 of the report, be approved.

### **People Board Progress Report**

The Chair of the People Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an annual update of the 2016/17 Work Plan, including SIB funded projects, seeking Area Committee approval for priorities to be taken forward as part of the Work Plan for 2017/18 and providing an update on People Board Governance Arrangements for 2017/18.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Chair of the People Board, Councillor W. Turton briefed the Committee on the report drawing the Committee's attention to the 2016/17 Work Plan at Annex 1, which provided an annual update on performance and the proposed work plan for 2017/18 at Annex 2, together with the governance arrangements.

Full consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

3. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the Annual Performance Update with regard to the Coalfield Area People Board's Work Plan for 2016/17 attached at Annex 1 be noted;
- (iv) the Coalfield Area People Board Work Plan priorities for 2017/18 attached at Annex 2 be approved; and
- (v) the Area Governance arrangements for 2017/18, outlined in Section 5 and at Annex 3 of the report, be approved.

## **Partner Agency Reports – Coalfield Area Voluntary and Community Sector Network Progress Update**

Ms Wendy Cook, Ms Debbie Ainscow and Mr Paul Finch, Area Network Representatives submitted a report (copy circulated), providing an update with regard to the Coalfield Area Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Network.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms Wendy Cook, Area Network Representative briefed the Committee on the activities of the Network since the last report to the Area Committee in March which included an update on the Family, Adult and Community Learning service and information about opportunities to bid for grants to deliver training courses, together with a presentation on the SIB funded Youth Volunteering project for young people aged 11-19 and details of the Stephenson Project workshops.

The Chairman thanked the VCS network for the contribution it was making to the determination and achievement of the Area Committee priorities and in particular with regards to employability.

Full consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

### **4. RESOLVED that:-**

- (i) the contents of the report be received and noted; and
- (ii) the Area Committee continue to support the Sector when developing and implementing actions against local priorities.

## **Partner Agency Reports – Northumbria Police**

Inspector Vicky Quinn, Northumbria Police submitted a report (copy circulated), providing data in respect of Crime and Disorder for Houghton covering the period 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017 to 5<sup>th</sup> June 2017 together with data for the same period the previous year for comparison purposes.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Inspector Quinn briefed the Committee on the report advising of the appointment of Sergeant Simon Marshall and the work he was undertaking to tackle antisocial behaviour. She advised that there had been a number of convictions in respect of motorcycle/quad bike incidents and could provide further detail on request.

Inspector Quinn also highlighted that the incidences of burglary from dwellings where it was thought burglars were looking for car keys had increased compared with the same period last year, together with the number of rapes (not stranger incidents).

In response to Councillor Heron, Inspector Quinn advised that the Police were aware that thieves were stealing parts of cars for resale and that the culprits were being targeted.

In response to Members' comments, Inspector Quinn advised that Officers were working with the community to reduce incidences of antisocial behaviour and continuing to undertake home visits to speak to the parents of those committing the offences in the hope of changing behaviours and therefore reducing the need to take people to court. There had however been a mixed reaction to this from the families concerned. Inspector Quinn added that there needed to be a realistic chance of securing a conviction before the CPS would proceed with talking people to court.

Councillors Lawson and Speding expressed concern that Councillors were no longer being kept informed of crimes in their local community and high profile crime in particular, whereas this used to be covered off by the Neighbourhood Impact Assessment.

Inspector Quinn advised that generally these types of crime were committed on criminals. Arrests had been made that day and it was anticipated that those concerned would be going to prison for those crimes. The Neighbourhood Impact Assessment was no longer happening as the Police did not receive feedback on it but it could be reintroduced. Often incidences were dealt with by the CID. Inspector Quinn invited Members to contact her for further information on crime issues and concerns they may have going forward and she would provide any information she could.

Full consideration having been given to the report, it was:-

5. RESOLVED that the update be received and noted.

### **Partner Agency Reports – Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service**

Station Manager Steve Burdis, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service submitted a report (copy circulated) providing Performance Monitoring details in relation to the Local Indicators for the Coalfield Area Committee area from 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2017 to 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2017 compared with the same period in 2016.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Station Manager Steve Burdis, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service briefed the Committee on the report highlighting that there had been no deaths recorded during the period of the report. However there had been an increase in the number of deliberate primary fires excluding road vehicles, in the number of deliberate primary road vehicle fires and an increase in the incidences of items deliberately set on fire in the Coalfield wards from 51 to 95 compared to the same period the previous year. He advised that the main area of concern in relation to the latter was Hetton Lyons Country Park.

Station Manager Burdis briefed the Committee on the instances of physical violence on 4 firefighters detailed in the report. He also reported on the work being undertaken to ensure proper procedures were in place and checks carried out to tower blocks in Sunderland following the Grenfell Tower fire in London, advising people to contact the fire service for advice and information if they had any concerns about buildings in the area.

Full consideration having being given to the report, it was:-

6. RESOLVED that the contents of the report be received and noted.

### **Partner Agency Reports – Gentoo Update**

Ms Sam Humble, Head of Operations, Gentoo provided an update for the Coalfield Area from April to the end of May 2017.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms Humble briefed the Committee on the report highlighting the referrals to the Money Matters Team who help customers manage their money and the amount of unclaimed benefits identified and debt consolidated, as well as the reduction in and around the Easington Lane Area in terms of youth disorder reports.

Ms Humble also reported an increase in the incidences of flytipping and the measures being taken to reduce this including talking to tenants with regards to their tenancy agreements.

Ms Humble advised of the work being undertaken to check the high rise blocks in the city following the Grenfell Tower fire, commenting that whilst there weren't any in the Coalfield area, staff working in the Houghton area would be helping with the operation.

In response to the Chairman, Ms Humble confirmed that there might be some scope to do some environmental work alongside Big Local in the Park Estate, Shiney Row area and she would have a look and report back to discuss what could be done.

The Chairman commented that it would be useful for Members to have a briefing on the new Housing Allocations system in order to be able to advise residents in their communities.

Ms Humble stated that she would be happy to give a presentation to Councillors on the above.

Full consideration having being given to the report, it was:-

7. RESOLVED that the contents of the report be received and noted and arrangements be made for a presentation on the new Housing Allocations system to be provided on a date to be determined.

## Area Budgets Report

The Head of Scrutiny and Area Arrangements submitted a report (copy circulated) providing a financial statement as an update position on progress in relation to allocating Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) and Community Chest funding and presenting proposals for further funding requests.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms Pauline Hopper, Area Community Development Lead, Coalfield presented the report drawing the Committee's attention to the financial position as set out in paragraph 2.1 which showed an SIB total balance of £266,595 for 2017/2018, which was made up of the balance remaining from 2016/17 of £25,081 and a budget of £241,514 for 2017/2018.

Ms Hopper referred to paragraph 2.3 requesting the Area Committee to formally accept the Coalfield allocation of £20,000 to enable the Area Committee to fund the local Voluntary and Community Sector Area Network to deliver youth activity projects within the area, the applications for ward based holiday activity projects detailed in paragraph 2.4, the funding requested for projects to support the Tall Ships Races in paragraph 2.5 and the funding requested for a 'Coalfield Digital Inclusion' programme and Social Activity programme as detailed at paragraphs 2.6 and 2.7 respectively.

Ms Hopper highlighted that should all proposals for additional SIB funding detailed above and totalling £154,000 be approved, the remaining balance of SIB would be £112,595.

Ms Hopper referred Members to the approvals for Community Chest funding supported in March 2016 and between April and May 2017, detailed at paragraph 3 and at Annexes 2 and 3 of the report.

The Chairman commented that a lot of work was being carried out in the Place and People Board meetings and invited Members to attend particularly as there was one less full Area Committee meeting in the diary.

Councillor Speding invited Members to spend the SIB and Community Chest Budgets and Ms Wendy Cook, Area Network Representative advised that she would inform Members of the VCS of the budgets available at their next meeting and take along application forms which was welcomed by the Chairman.

Consideration having been given to the report it was:-

8. RESOLVED that:-

- a) the financial statements set out in sections 2.1 and 3.1 of the report be noted;
- b) £20,000 of funding from Sunderland City Council to support delivery of youth activity projects within the Coalfield area be accepted;

c) The four projects below (and detailed at Annex 1) from the £10,000 previously approved SIB budget for Holiday Activities, be approved:-

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|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Copt Hill Ward Summer and October programme<br/>£2,500</li> <li>• Hetton Ward Summer and October programme<br/>£2,500</li> <li>• Houghton Ward Summer and October programme<br/>£2,500</li> <li>• Shiney Row Ward Summer and October programme<br/>£2,500</li> </ul> | <p>SNCBC</p> <p>SNCBC</p> <p>SNCBC</p> <p>SNCBC</p> |
| d) the allocation of £12,000 SIB to fund 8 Sail Trainee Places as part of the Tall Ships Races 2018, be approved;   |   |
| e) the allocation of £12,000 SIB to develop local community projects as part of the Tall Ships Races 2018, be approved;   |   |
| f) the allocation of £100,000 SIB to develop a 'Coalfield Digital Inclusion' programme via the People Board, be approved;   |   |
| g) the allocation of £30,000 SIB to further develop the 'Social Activity' programme via the People Board, be approved;  |   |
| h) the 17 Community Chest approvals supported from 2016/2017 Community Chest as set out in Annex 2, be approved; and  |   |
| i) the 4 Community Chest approvals supported from 2017/2018 Community Chest as set out in Annex 3, be approved.   |   |

### Current Planning Applications (Coalfields Area)

A schedule (copy circulated) of current planning applications lodged during the period 1<sup>st</sup> April and 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2017 was submitted for Members' information only.

(For copy schedule – see original minutes).

Members of the Committee agreed that it would be useful to include the Coalfield Ward in which the application was located on future reports and asked Ms Gillian Robinson, Area Co-Ordinator to ensure this was picked up going forward.

9. RESOLVED that the schedule be received and noted.

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

(Signed) A. LAWSON,

Chairman.