

**At a meeting of the NORTH SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held remotely on THURSDAY, 10<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2020 at 5.30 p.m.**

**Present:-**

Councillor D. Wilson in the Chair

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

**Also in Attendance:-**

Mr. Colin McCartney	-	Gentoo Housing
Mr. Peter McIntyre	-	Executive Director of City Development, Sunderland City Council
Mr. Shaun Makin	-	Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service
Ms. Vivienne Metcalfe	-	Area Community Development Lead, Sunderland City Council
Ms. Allison Patterson	-	Area Co-ordinator, Sunderland City Council
Ms. Joanne Stewart	-	Principal Governance Services Officer, Sunderland City Council
Mr. Andy Wilson	-	Environmental Services Manager, 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 Mr. R. Duggan and Inspector S. Prested.

**Declarations of Interest**

Item 4 – North Area Budget Report – Hylton Castle Project

Councillor Wilson declared an interest in the above matter as a member on the board of trustees and withdrew from the meeting at the appropriate point on the agenda taking no part in any discussion or decision thereon.

## **Minutes of the Last Meeting**

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 17<sup>th</sup> September, be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

## **Community Wealth Building Champions**

The Executive Director of Neighbourhoods and Cabinet Member for Communities and Culture submitted a report (copy circulated) which advised the Committee of the next steps, following Cabinet approval in March 2020 of the Sunderland Community Wealth Building Strategy, taking into consideration the additional action to be taken to continue to grow community wealth across the City's communities.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Helen Peverley, Area Coordinator, presented the report and provided the Committee with a powerpoint presentation which detailed the Council's journey in growing the proposals around Community Wealth including the reasoning behind the nomination of the Chairman as the Community Wealth Building Champion for the North Sunderland Area.

Ms Peverley informed the Committee that the Council had been working with its key partners across the city to help ensure that the residents' 'pound' was kept within Sunderland. In the words of the Strategy, Community Wealth involved - "Developing assets, of all kinds (people and place), in such a way that the wealth stays local. Using local assets to make communities more vibrant. Aiming to help individuals, families and communities control their own economic destiny"

Ms Peverley highlighted the 7 Key Actions underpinning the Strategy with particular reference to 'Demonstrating our Commitment' and reiterated the work the Area Committee had already done and was continuing to do in this regard with examples including:-

- i) the Area Committee Call for Projects – eg supporting local organisations and supporting residents to gain employment, skills, training and grow resilience and continuing to build specific community wealth requirements into future proposals;
- ii) Supporting local traders – eg Christmas Hampers; Switch-on events seasonal activities;
- iii) Land and Asset Management – eg developing community assets as well as improving green spaces; and
- iv) Working with partners to ensure they consider 'community wealth'.

The Chairman thanked Ms Peverley for her presentation and invited questions and comments from the Committee.

In response to a question from Councillor Davison regarding allowing the Community to have an input into making the decision on where Section 106 monies is spent, Ms. Peverley advised that she had a meeting with Area Committee Chairmen and the Planning Department about the process. Following that, they would be able to share a similar presentation with the Neighbourhood and Community Boards so that they could better understand how they could feed into the process.

Councillor MacKnight referred to the procurement process, commenting that it could often be a lengthy and drawn out process which could leave Members frustrated and was informed by Ms Peverley that this issue had been raised a number of times by the Chairman and they were reviewing the process to ensure it was as streamlined as possible and that they would share the framework, once signed off, with the Committee.

Councillor Stewart commented on the proposal and how it fit in to the wider community wealth programme and felt it was important to remember that this went back to the decision to become a cooperative Council which was supported by all political parties at that time. For the programme to be a success, Councillor Stewart commented that communities in the North Sunderland area had to be support in a 'bottom up' approach and that it would prove to be an exciting few years for the area going forward as the programme developed further.

Members having no further comments or questions, it was:-

2. RESOLVED that:-
  - i) The contents of the report and the work undertaken to support the growth of the Community Wealth across Sunderland be received and noted and t be agreed to continue to support the delivery of the Sunderland Community Wealth Strategy; and
  - ii) It be agreed that the Area Committee Chairman deliver the Committee's Community Wealth Champion role on behalf of the residents of Sunderland, demonstrating the committee of the Committee to support growth.

### **North Sunderland Area Committee Delivery Plan 2020-2023**

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

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Foster took Members through the report and there being no questions or comments, it was:-

3. RESOLVED that the progress and performance update with regard to the North Sunderland Area Committee Delivery Plan 2020-2023 be received and 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.

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 £14,970 from the Neighbourhood Fund towards the Community Hub Redhill Project by Community Opportunities / SNCBC;
- (iii) approval be given to the reallocation of the previously awarded funding for the delivery of a Beach Camp in Summer 2020 holidays to the sum of £10,000 be used to deliver Christmas and February Half Term Activities as part of the Neighbourhood Funded School Holiday Project;
- (iv) approval be given to the alignment of £5,030 from the Neighbourhood Fund towards the Downhill Hub Project;
- (v) approval be given to the alignment of £200,000 from the Neighbourhood Investment Capital Fund towards the Regeneration of Thompson Park;
- (vi) approval be given to the alignment of £80,000 from the Neighbourhood Investment Capital Fund to support the development of the former Downhill School into a Community Hub;
- (vii) approval be given to the alignment of £100,000 from the Neighbourhood Investment Capital Fund towards the development of a project which provides additional CCTV/masts/airtime in the North Sunderland area; and
- (viii) approval be given to the alignment of £100,000 from the Neighbourhood Investment Capital Fund towards the development of a project which provides access to event space at Hylton Castle;
- (ix) the five approvals for Community Chest supported from the 2020/21 budget totalling £6,859.50 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 network.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Metcalfe advised that in the absence of a presenting officer, the report of the North Sunderland Area Voluntary and Community Sector Network was submitted for information only. Should Members have any questions, Ms. Metcalfe advised that they could be emailed to herself and she would ensure that a response was provided.

Members commended the outstanding work of the voluntary and community sector during the pandemic, working on the frontline supporting some of the most vulnerable residents in the community and asked that their thanks be extended to all of the organisations and groups, and it was:-

5. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

### **Northumbria Police Update**

Ms. Metcalfe advised that in the absence of a presenting officer, Northumbria Police had provided Members of the Committee with a written report, sharing crime figures for the North Sunderland area. Should Members have any questions, Ms. Metcalfe advised that they could be emailed to herself and she would ensure that a response was provided.

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

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

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

Station Manager, Shaun Makin of TWFRS gave a verbal update to the Committee on the current position with regards to fire related incidents and of any on-going issues in the North Sunderland area.

Councillor Samuels thanked the service for their work and was pleased to hear that this bonfire night had been better than previous years. She commented that the service were a key partner in the SARA project and referred to the significant amount of work that had been undertaken to address the problems which the area had experienced on previous bonfire years. Mr. Makin praised the work of the SARA project in the Southwick area and commented that he would like to see it as a model of good practice that could look to be rolled out in other areas of the city as he felt it had been so successful.

Councillor Wilson requested that the Committee receive a presentation on the SARA project and the work that they had undertaken in the area and Ms. Metcalfe advised she could arrange this for a future meeting of the Neighbourhood and Community Board.

Councillor Davison commented that the problems had spread out further round the North Sunderland area and asked where had been the worst area on bonfire night. Mr. Makin advised that using data from the previous three years Southwick had been the worst hit area on a bonfire night and that was why that area had been focussed upon, although he knew that there were a lot of areas that had issues. He was looking to

identify further information on which areas were affected the worst and he would provide that information to the Chairman.

Members thanked Mr. Makin for his verbal update, and it was:-

7. RESOLVED that the update from the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Services be received and noted.

### **Partner Agency Reports – Unauthorised Encampments Update Report**

The Area Committee received a report which provided an update on unauthorised encampment policy and site activity in 2020 and the associated financial and service impact.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Metcalfe advised that the report was submitted for information only and that should Members have any questions after the meeting they could be emailed to herself and she would ensure that a response was provided.

8. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

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

(Signed)      D. WILSON,  
Chairman.