

At a meeting of the SOUTH SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE on MONDAY, 2ND MARCH, 2009 at 5.00 P.M.

Present:-

Councillor Tye in the Chair

Councillors Errington, M. Dixon, E. Gibson, P. Gibson, Oliver, P. Smith and A. Wright

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Vardy.

Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 5th January, 2009

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 5th January, 2009 (copy circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Declarations of Interest

Item 6 – Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB): Regeneration Issues

Councillor Errington declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the item as a member of the Box Youth Project.

Councillor E. Gibson declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the item as a member of Friends of Doxford Park.

Councillor P. Gibson declared personal and prejudicial interests in the item as Chairman of Governors at Farringdon Community Sports College and also as Chairman of Silksworth Community Centre.

Councillor Oliver declared a personal interest in the item as a Governor of Farringdon Community Sports College.

Councillor P. Smith declared personal and prejudicial interests in the item as Vice-Chairman of Silksworth Community Centre.

Councillor Tye declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the item as Chairman of the Youth Almighty Project.

Item 8 – Strategic Initiatives Budget 2008/2009 Ward Based Community Chest

Councillor E. Gibson declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the item as a Governor at Benedict Biscop Primary School.

Crime Rates relating to the South Sunderland Area – Presentation from Northumbria Police

Inspector Cheryl Warcup presented the report and updated the Committee on crime rates as follows:-

Criminal Damage	28.3% Reduction
Violence against a person	17.5% Reduction
Vehicle crime	14.8% Reduction
Burglary Dwelling	13.4% Reduction
Burglary other than dwelling	16.8% Increase

Councillor P. Gibson commented that in the past the Committee had received copies of crime figures broken down by each Ward, which were very helpful.

Inspector Warcup advised that she would look into the matter and provide Members with the information.

2. RESOLVED that the contents of the presentation be received and noted.

Minutes of the Meetings of the Local Multi-Agency Problem Solving Group

A copy of the minutes of the meetings of the Local Multi Agency Problem Solving Group held on 16th December, 2008 and 20th January, 2009 (copy circulated) were submitted.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Inspector Cheryl Warcup informed the Committee on the deployment of four new CCTV cameras to be managed by the Council, the locations of the cameras include Perth Road, Allendale Road, Newport and Blind Lane/Dunn Avenue.

Members agreed to the locations identified for deployment of the CCTV cameras.

Inspector Warcup advised that there had been a small amount of money left in the budget which had been agreed upon, in principle, to spend on mobile phones to link with the Council and also on other crime prevention, shed alarms for example.

In relation to the parking problems at Doxford Park, Inspector Warcup advised that police are monitoring the situation and if people caused an obstruction, they would be ticketed.

Inspector Warcup also advised that the persons responsible for the criminal damage at Doxford Park had yet to be identified.

Councillor Errington enquired if the issues concerning Brunswick Road could be elevated to LMAPS.

Inspector Warcup advised that the issue had been raised at LMAPS with a view to arranging a site visit.

Councillor Oliver enquired if anything could be done in regards to youths congregating outside the BP Spa Shop in Herrington, which has been granted a 24 hour licence to sell alcohol.

Inspector Warcup advised that she would speak to the Licensing Officers at Gillbridge to see if any complaints had been made.

The Chairman thanked Inspector Warcup for her attendance.

3. RESOLVED that:

- (i) the minutes of the Local Multi Agency Problem Solving Group held on 16th December, 2008 and 20th January, 2009 be received and noted;
- (ii) Members agree to the locations of the CCTV Cameras.

Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB): Regeneration Issues Report

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) outlining the current expenditure from the Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) and applications for funding from this budget in order to support new initiatives, which would benefit the area.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Mr. Richard Parry, Area Regeneration Officer, presented the report and requested the Committee agree to return £1,658 from the Events Budget to enable full consideration of project applications. This would leave the Events

Budget with a balance of £6,812, which at this stage of the financial year, was considered more than adequate.

The Committee was requested to approve funding to support proposals for the following projects from the 2008/09 budget:-

- (i) Doxford Park Rejuvenation Project;
- (ii) Fame at Farringdon Project;
- (iii) Redundant Bridge at Newport Project;
- (iv) Development of a Multi Games Area Project;
- (v) Herrington Hall Stones Project;
- (vi) Capital Build Project;
- (vii) A690 Christmas Lights Project;
- (viii) Kerb Works Project;
- (ix) South Youth Services Project;
- (x) Durham Miners Gala Project;
- (xi) Vehicle Activated Sign Project;
- (xii) Lighting at Silksworth Recreation Park Project;

The Committee was further requested to approve capital funding to support the following new projects from the Strategic Investment Plan (SIP):-

- (i) Doxford Park Rejuvenation Project;
- (ii) Redundant Bridge at Newport Project;
- (iii) Development of a Multi Games Area Project;
- (iv) Capital Build Project;
- (v) A690 Christmas Lights Project;
- (vi) Kerb Works Project;
- (vii) Vehicle Activated Sign Project;
- (viii) Lighting at Silksworth Recreation Park Project.

Mr. Parry advised that the applications for funding before the Committee were requesting £120,500 from the 2008/09 SIB budget and £200,000 from the SIP allocation. Should the Committee agree this request, the 2008/09 SIB budget and the SIP allocation would be fully committed and £20,000 from the 2009/10 SIB budget, subject to budget approval, would have been committed.

Mr. Parry provided Members with a summary of the applications and addressed comments and questions they had.

Consideration having been given to the items, it was:-

4. RESOLVED that:-

- a) approval be given to return £1,658 to the SIB budget from the Events budget to enable full consideration of project applications;
- b) approval be given to the allocation of Strategic Initiatives Budget funding of:-
 - (i) £5,000 from the 2008/09 budget as a contribution to 'Doxford Park Rejuvenation' Project, be approved;
 - (ii) £20,000 from the 2008/09 budget as a contribution to the 'Fame at Farringdon' Project, be approved;
 - (iii) £65,000 (as amended in circulated report) from the 2008/09 budget as a contribution to the 'Redundant Bridge at Newport' Project be approved;
 - (iv) £10,000 from the 2008/09 budget as a contribution to the 'Development of a Multi Games Area' Project, be approved;
 - (v) £10,000 from the 2008/09 budget as a contribution to the 'Herrington Hall Stones' Project, be approved;
 - (vi) £25,000 from the 2008/09 budget as a contribution to the 'Capital Build' Project, be approved;
 - (vii) £2,000 from the 2008/09 budget as a contribution to the 'A690 Christmas Lights' Project, be approved with a strong recommendation that it is supported by Citywide funding;
 - (viii) £500 from the 2008/09 budget as a contribution to the 'Kerb Works' Project, be approved;
 - (ix) £23,000 from the 2008/09 budget as a contribution to the 'South Youth Services Development' Project, be approved;
 - (x) £3,000 from the 2008/09 budget as a contribution to the 'Durham Miners' Gala' project, be approved;

- (xi) £1,500 from the 2008/09 budget as a contribution to the 'Vehicle Activated Sign' Project, be approved;
- (xii) £500 from the 2008/09 budget as a contribution to the 'Lighting at Silksworth Recreation Park' Project, be approved;
- c) approval be given to the allocation of capital funding from the Strategic Investment Plan Budget for:-
 - (i) £30,000 from the 2008/09 budget as a contribution to 'Doxford Park Rejuvenation' Project, be approved;
 - (ii) £45,000 from the 2008/09 budget as a contribution to 'Redundant Bridge at Newport' Project, be approved;
 - (iii) £45,000 from the 2008/09 budget as a contribution to Development of a Multi Games Area Project, be approved;
 - (iv) £56,400 from the 2008/09 budget as a contribution to 'Capital Build' Project, be approved;
 - (v) £3,000 from the 2008/09 budget as a contribution to 'A690 Christmas Lights' Project, be approved;
 - (vi) £6,500 from the 2008/09 budget as a contribution to 'Kerb Works' Project, be approved;
 - (vii) £3,000 from the 2008/09 budget as a contribution to 'Vehicle Activated Sign' Project, be approved;
 - (viii) £11,100 from the 2008/09 budget as a contribution to 'Lighting at Silksworth Park' Project, be approved.

Strategic Initiatives Budget Update

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide Members with an update on live projects for which the Area Committee has previously approved funding through its Strategic Initiatives Budget.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor P. Gibson suggested as there would no longer be any South Sunderland Area Committee meetings, that the remaining budget from the Area Committee Marketing Project be used for other projects, possibly the Board Inn Roundabout Project.

Steve Hanratty, Performance and Development Manager, advised that the Area Committee Marketing Project publicised the work of the Area

Committees over a two year period and there should be a substantial amount of money to come back into the budget, which may be used for the Board Inn Project.

The Chairman felt that the press coverage had been poor and the Area Committee had not received value for money.

Mr. Hanratty suggested a report be produced detailing press releases that made it into the Sunderland Echo and so on.

The Chairman suggested that the outcomes of this particular meeting could be an ideal opportunity for press coverage.

5. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Strategic Initiatives Budget: 2008/09 Ward Based Community Chest

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) on ten projects recommended for support from the 2008/2009 Community Chest Scheme in respect of the Doxford, Silksworth and St. Chad's Wards.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

6. RESOLVED that approval be given to the ten projects recommended for support from the 2008/09 budget with a total of £4,142 as detailed in Annexes 1 and 1A to the report.

Fly Tipping and Cycle Path Interventions

The Director of Community and Cultural Services submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide Members with information relating to research undertaken across Sunderland and advise of the planned expenditure to address Fly Tipping and Improve Cycle Paths as part of the Council's Strategic Investment Plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Helen Peverley, Project and Service Development Manager, presented the report and advised Members that staff had been given mobile phones to report areas of fly tipping and that there would be targeted enforcement.

Members provided several examples of where they believed fly tipping to be of concern, which included Tunstall Hope Road, Hangmans Lane and Foxcover Lane.

Ms. Peverley agreed to add these suggestions to her list.

Councillor Oliver enquired which part of Stephenson Trail was proposed to receive cycleway improvements.

Ms. Peverley advised that she would send Councillor Oliver a detailed map of the proposal.

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

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

(Signed) P.M. TYE,
Chairman.

At an Extraordinary meeting of the SOUTH SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE on MONDAY, 6TH APRIL, 2009 at 5.00 P.M.

Present:-

Councillor Tye in the Chair

Councillors Errington, M. Dixon, E. Gibson, P. Gibson and P. Smith

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Oliver and A. Wright.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Community Leadership Programme: Review of Area Arrangements – Current Position and Next Steps

Phil Spooner, Community Leadership Programme Manager, delivered a presentation relating to the Community Leadership Programme: Review of Area Arrangements – Current Position and Next Steps.

Mr. Spooner advised that the information was being provided to all of the Area Committees and that it was intended to provide an outline on the development of the Community Leadership Programme.

The Area Committees would have an increasingly strong influence and the Members' knowledge of the local area would be used to give flexibility to the delivery of front line services and also improve the focus of the Committee and how it looks at issues.

As the Area committee is right in the centre of the community it would be the first port of call for front line Members to identify and resolve an issue, or escalate it, if need be, as it could be a Citywide issue.

The vision for the Area Committees is to lead communities, set priorities and follow them up, bringing partners together to work with the Committee.

The proposals also want to make sure the organisations have a tighter framework of accountability, as well as officers, so for example, the Police would provide a presentation on an issue identified by the Area Committee, rather than just give the information that they want to.

This would provide new tools at the Committee's disposal so that issues can go through the process quickly and effectively, and the Committee would have the ability to put focus on a particular issue.

Mr. Spooner advised the Committee on the next steps of the proposals, with a workshop to be held with identified partners to form a core membership of partners that would be non voting on the Committee.

Mr. Spooner asked for Members' feedback on the proposals.

Councillor P. Gibson commented that for a long time the Fire Authority have not been approached during consideration of partners, as they would provide important information to Members. Councillor Gibson enquired as to why they have never been made a partner.

Mr. Spooner advised that the Fire Authority would be a key partner to the Committee and it was just a matter of seeing when we could get them to attend, as they are generally stretched.

Councillor P. Gibson queried how long the meetings would last with partners there to give opinions and deliberation on an issue, SIB applications to consider also, the meetings could end up being very lengthy.

Mr. Spooner advised that after recent consultation, Members did not want to receive applications of unsolicited bids and Information items dominating meetings. There is the proposal of having two meetings of the Area Committee where the partners attend one, and the other would be for SIB application consideration.

Councillor M. Dixon welcomed the proposals for greater partner accountability and believed the Police needed a great deal of improvement on providing specific information, statistics and reports for example.

The Chairman commented that when the Police Officers change, so does the level of information that is supplied to the Committee.

Allison Patterson, Area Co-ordination and Special Programmes Manager, advised that under the Area Governance Review they are looking to improve on the standards of what information is supplied to the Committee from partners, and the Police have been identified with information being supplied to Members before the meeting, for example.

Councillor P. Gibson agreed that there was room for improvement from the Police reports, but also commented that he did not want to see the good news

reports, like the Housing Benefits updates or libraries progress reports, to fall of the agenda.

Mr. Spooner advised that under the new proposals, the good news stories would be in a more succinct form as in the past the items had crowded out the Area Committee's ability.

Councillor M. Dixon referred to the ward visits that were made with the previous Leader of the Council and enquired if they would continue.

Mr. Spooner advised that he was unaware of any discussions but would look into the matter.

1. RESOLVED that the presentation be received and noted.

Area Committee Governance and Business Processes

Allison Patterson, Area Co-ordinator and Special Programmes Manager, delivered a presentation relating to the New Area Governance proposals.

The review as intended to introduce robust governance arrangements and business procedures for the delivery of responsive local services.

There had been changes to the Area Committee boundaries and there would be five areas rather than the existing six.

A new fit for purpose agenda is proposed to meet the requirements of Members and local area plans providing a clear picture to help shape and guide where to allocate resources and identify areas requiring further review.

Ms. Patterson informed the Committee that identifying a work plan for the Area Committee would set out the structure for meetings planned and show what stage the Committee was at with the priorities identified.

In relation to the proposed agenda format, in the past Members were spending a vast amount of time on unsolicited bids and information items, it was proposed that the meeting be based on performance management, dealing with how services are being delivered and how issues are being solved, holding services to account.

There would be a section at the end of the meeting for the allocation of budgets and resources and how SIB and SIP be allocated.

It was also proposed that instead of receiving unsolicited bids, projects would be identified by the Committee who could then advertise a call for applications. These proposals included an additional panel meeting where the received forms could be discussed with the applicants, then the decision would be made at a closed session of the Area Committee.

Ms. Patterson advised that it had been raised that some Members did not like making the decisions in front of the public and wanted a closed session.

Ms. Patterson briefed the Committee on the SARA model and explained that it would task the correct officer to consider a problem or issue within the agreed context and take responsibility for a quick resolution to improve satisfaction/perception levels.

Councillor P. Gibson commented that the Ward priorities had been used and were useful in the past so welcomed their return. In relation to the decision making on the SIB applications, Councillor Gibson queried how they would work as some might want to have a private session, whereas others do not.

Councillor Gibson also commented that groups had approached him concerning funding, which he referred to Richard Parry to take a report to the Committee and enquired what the procedure would be under the new proposals.

Ms. Patterson advised that rather than receive unsolicited bids, the Committee could identify and focus on a particular priority, then advertise for applications from relevant groups thus focusing more on what the Committee wants to deliver in the Area Plan.

As Chairman of Governors for Farringdon Sports College, Councillor P. Gibson raised the example of tackling the problem of pupils smoking and what the procedure would be under the new proposals with partners.

Ms. Patterson advised that the issue identified could be discussed with the partner responsible from the health authority, at the Area Committee, who could then identify the best course of action.

Mr. Spooner advised that the proposals would provide the Committee with a way of holding partners accountable. Within Councillor Gibson's example, there would be an element of problem solving with the Health Authority being asked to provide regular updates on the progress they were making and the possibility of a service review.

Councillor Errington enquired as to what mechanisms would be in place to make sure the correct seniority of officer represented the partner at the meetings.

Ms. Patterson advised that a proposed list of partners specific to each area was being collated and that individuals would be identified through the LSP.

Mr. Spooner advised that the Area Committees would be able to feed back to organisations if a particular representative was not meeting certain criteria, as many organisations are set up differently. It is about making sure we get the correct officers and using their time to the best effect.

Councillor M. Dixon commented that the Doxford and St. Chad's wards were not under the same Area Committee anymore but in close proximity and a number of things in common. Is there any mechanism in place for when a Committee needs information in relation to the other areas.

Ms. Paterson advised of the need to make sure information was available to all Members if needed.

Councillor M. Dixon requested that some kind of mechanism be considered.

2. RESOLVED that the presentation be received and noted and the comments made be considered when developing the final recommendations.

Local Area Plans – Analysis of Priorities

Richard Parry, Area Regeneration Officer, presented the Local Area Plan – Analysis of Priorities for both the East and West Area Committees and advised that they were categorised into Direct or Indirect priorities. Direct priorities were issues identified where immediate action could be taken using SIB or SIP funding. Indirect priorities were ongoing issues which were currently being delivered or investigated in other programmes which the Committee may wish to have an impact on.

It was planned that Members would meet with partners in order to decide which priorities would be focused on.

The Chairman enquired on the current situation with the West Area Committee.

Mr. Parry advised that the West Area Committee had been presented with the priorities and were happy with the progress made.

Ms. Patterson advised that the West Area Committee had agreed on the model proposed and looked at the priorities without ranking them, this would be picked up on and finalised at the workshop in May.

Councillor P. Gibson enquired on what happened if the Silksworth and St. Chad's Wards had different priorities to the West Area Committee.

Ms. Patterson advised the Committee that all Members were involved in the Area Planning events and that the priorities were formulated from them, so all issues raised from those workshops were included.

The Chairman enquired as to how the two different Committees were to agree on the priorities.

Ms. Patterson advised that neither East or West Area Committees had changed the priorities and that the finalisation of them would happen at the May workshops.

Keith Beardmore, City Treasurer, advised that no priorities had been removed and that the key priorities from the year could be looked at further, at the May workshop.

3. RESOLVED that the presentation and report be received and noted and the comments made be considered when developing the final recommendations.

The Chairman thanked Members and Officers for their attendance and closed the meeting.

(Signed) P.M. TYE,
Chairman.

At an Extraordinary meeting of the SOUTH SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE on FRIDAY, 17TH APRIL, 2009 at 4.00 P.M.

Present:-

Councillor Tye in the Chair

Councillors M. Dixon, E. Gibson, P. Gibson, Oliver and A. Wright.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Errington, P. Smith and Vardy.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB): Regeneration Issues Report

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) outlining the current expenditure from the Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) and applications for funding from this budget in order to support new initiatives, which would benefit the area.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Mr. Richard Parry, Area Regeneration Officer, presented the report and advised that following the last Committee meeting on 2nd March, 2009, the 2008/09 budget was fully committed and £20,000 from the 2009/10 budget, subject to approval.

Since that time £5,063 had been returned to budget.

The Chairman requested the Committee approve £5,063 from the 2008/09 SIB budget as a contribution to the Committee's Events budget and asked for Members' suggestions for possible projects to support.

Councillor P. Gibson commented that he fully supported the funding of Plains Farm and Humbledon Community Initiative and the Chelmsford Street

Residents' Association Gating Order Projects as proposed in Annex 2 of the report.

Councillor P. Gibson commented in relation to the Plains Farm Project, that if they did not receive funding now, they would have to close and suggested the South Area Committee fund the Project.

Councillor P. Gibson also advised the Committee that a young man in Silksworth required funding of £100 for a bowling ball to participate in the 2012 Para Olympics.

Councillor A. Wright commented that the nesting site for Swans at Silksworth Lake, proposed in Annex 2, was a worthy scheme to support and also informed the Committee that there were a lack of dog waste bins around the lake, which are very expensive including the service charge, and suggested some kind of support be considered.

The Chairman advised that the Silksworth Lake Project would go to the next meeting of the West Area Committee for consideration.

Mr. Parry advised that funding for the dog waste bins at Silksworth Lake could not be agreed upon until the directorate responsible for the service charge were spoken to.

Councillor P. Gibson commented that there were already dog waste bins there, but the area needed more. As the current bins were serviced, could the new ones not be included also.

Councillor Oliver suggested that the Project be approved subject to the approval of the directorate.

Mr. Parry advised that no projects could be given approval by the Committee as no applications had been received as of yet, with all suggestions from Members being to guide the Chair and Vice-Chair subject to the receipt of suitably completed SIB applications.

1. RESOLVED that:
 - i) the Committee approve £5,063 from the 2008/09 SIB budget as a contribution to the Committee's Events budget; and
 - ii) the Committee agree a number of projects as priorities for consideration from its Events budget subject to the receipt of suitably completed SIB applications that satisfy normal SIB criteria.

(Signed) P.M. TYE,
Chairman.