

**At a meeting of the EAST SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL on MONDAY, 27<sup>th</sup> JUNE, 2022 at 5.30p.m.**

**Present:-**

Councillor Herron in the Chair

Councillors Ali, Curtis, Bewick, Dixon, Fagan, Mordey, Morrissey, Potts, Reed, Scanlan, A. Wood and P. Wood

**Also Present:-**

Victoria Gamblin	-	Gentoo
Matthew Jackson	-	Principal Governance Services Officer, Sunderland City Council
Julie Maven	-	East Area VCS Network Representative
Nicol McConnell	-	Area Community Development Lead, Sunderland City Council
Andrew Nelson	-	Station Manager, TWFRS
Lisa Riddell	-	Community Support Worker, Sunderland City Council
Graham King	-	Director of Adult Services & Chief Operating Officer of SCAS, Sunderland City Council
Jamie Southwell	-	Neighbourhood Inspector, Northumbria Police
Pat Johnston	-	Go! Get Online Project
Cllr P. Walker	-	Observing

**Chairman's Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for Absence were received on behalf of Councillors PWL Gibson and Hodson together with Shaun Makin (TWFRS) and K. Ramanathan (Young Asian voices)

**Declarations of Interest**

Item 4 – Budget Report

Councillor Scanlan declared that she was a board Member of Chance and withdrew from the meeting during the consideration of the application for Chance.

### **Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2022**

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2022 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

### **VCS Area Network Progress Report**

Ms Maven presented the update from the VCS and advised that there had been 2 meetings since the last meeting of the Area Committee. The April meeting had taken place at Hope Church and there had been presentations received from the church; Oasis Housing and the George Hudson Charity. The June meeting had been held at Raich Carter Centre and presentations had been received from Back on the Map and on the Community Buildings Review. There had been discussions around the possibility of a shared resource centre. there had been a workshop and presentation around the UK shared funding and also a city wide event on the VCS Alliance which looked at how the VCS wanted the alliance to work in the future.

The Chair thanked the VCS organisations and their volunteers for all of their hard work.

2. RESOLVED that the update from the VCS Network be noted.

### **Go! Online Project Update**

Pat Johnston delivered the update presentation on the Go! Get Online Project and advised of the reasons that had been identified for why people did not use the internet and detailed the services provided by the project. There had been over 600 residents supported by the project and over 2000 attendances at drop-in sessions in the East Area.

Councillor A. Wood commented that the work done was good and that he hoped the scheme could be extended. He stated that there were groups in Millfield who had been providing support to young people who did not have access to a computer at home. He queried the 6.8percent digital confidence identified by the survey and asked whether the survey would be undertaken again in future to see whether this score had improved. Ms Johnston advised that the survey had been carried out through the Council's website and Ms McConnell agreed to find out whether the survey would be carried out again and if so, who would be surveyed.

Councillor Reed referred to the online booking system for the household waste reception centre and asked whether people had been coming to the

project to make these bookings. Ms Johnston advised that the project had continued during covid but staff had been working from home. There had been work done with older residents to help them do online shopping which had increased their trust in technology.

3. RESOLVED that the update from the Go! Get Online Project be noted.

### **Northumbria Police Update**

Neighbourhood Inspector Jamie Southwell provided the Committee with an update on the crime statistics for the East area and of the work done by Northumbria Police. In the A1 area which covered the City Centre, Millfield and Ashbrooke there had been a low number of residential burglaries with no obvious pattern. Burglaries other than dwellings had increased due to a hotspot of offences in the city centre; there had been targeted work done and 5 arrests had been made.

There were no hotspots of concern for vehicle crime and the figures were currently low.

Antisocial behaviour had reduced 38percent with adult antisocial behaviour in the city centre being the main issue; the main perpetrator had been identified and convicted of offences. An 8-week prison sentence had been received. Youth antisocial behaviour had reduced by 14percent. Backhouse Park was the main hotspot including fires being set in the park; work had been done in conjunction with the Council's antisocial behaviour team and TWFRS and incidents had reduced.

In the A2 area which covered Hendon, Grangetown and Ryhope there had been a low number of burglaries however there had been three offences within the long streets area of Hendon. Burglaries other than dwellings had also been low. There had been 14 incidents of vehicle crime over the last 12 weeks with 4 offences taking place in Ryhope. Middle Hendon had been the hotspot area for antisocial behaviour however the overall number had still been low. Work was being done to plan for tackling the anticipated increase in youth antisocial behaviour during the school holidays.

Operation Flintstone had continued. This had been tackling antisocial behaviour in the city centre; there had also been Operation Iris targeting youth antisocial behaviour and a long term approach to youth antisocial behaviour was being developed; this was intended to divert young people away from antisocial behaviour.

There had been a number of warrants executed in respect of supply of illegal drugs.

Councillor Bewick referred to the issue of motorcycle disorder and asked whether any bikes had been seized. Inspector Southwell advised that rather than engaging in pursuits retrospective action was taken to identify riders

including use of cameras and drones. He did not have up to date information on the number of seizures but would get this information and report back.

Councillor Potts queried whether there had been a noticeable increase in shoplifting; she was aware of a resident who worked in a shop who had said that it was now a daily occurrence. Inspector Southwell advised that he was not aware of any issue; there was the shopwatch scheme and all shops were welcome to attend. He asked for details of the shop in question so that he could ensure that someone could attend to give advice on crime prevention.

Councillor P. Wood queried the youth antisocial behaviour on the Metro. Inspector Southwell advised that work was done with Nexus and British Transport Police. The sea front was a priority area; there had been large numbers congregating in the area.

Councillor Ali queried whether the reduction in crime had been due to arrests of offenders or other reasons. Inspector Southwell advised that there were multiple factors which included some offenders being given custodial sentences. Displacement of offenders could have both positive and negative impacts. There had been good successes including an injunction being issued against a main perpetrator of anti social behaviour.

Councillor Ali then referred to the issue of off road motorbikes; it was his understanding that Durham Constabulary had an off road bike team and that they were permitted to chase offenders who were using motorbikes. He queried whether Northumbria would be able to chase bikes if they worked with Durham. Inspector Southwell advised that he could not comment on this as it would be a decision for the Chief Constable. Councillor Ali then stated that Sunday was the main day for issues and that it was the same offenders in the same locations.

Councillor Mordey referred to the antisocial behaviour issues in Hendon. At the PACT meetings there had been concerns raised by residents over a gang of youths who were causing issues in the area including kicking balls at windows and verbally abusing residents. There had also been issues around vandalism in Mowbray Park. He felt that there was a need for better information sharing with the PACT meetings. Inspector Southwell advised that he was aware of the antisocial behaviour issue and work was being done to encourage the youths to access youth groups and other provision. information sharing was difficult as there was a need to ensure that there was not any identifying information given. There was a lot of work going on which was not advertised including around drug offences

Councillor Reed expressed concerns over refugees coming to the city suffering from antisocial behaviour. Inspector Southwell advised that there was a community engagement team who did daily checks of the incident logs to identify where there had been racial discrimination to ensure that any issues were dealt with as a priority.

Councillor Dixon referred to the concerns that had previously been raised regarding LMAPS. He was looking forward to hearing the results of the investigation into the concerns. He also referred to the PACT Meetings and stated that the St Michael's PACT Meeting was joined with the residents meeting which was working well. Inspector Southwell advised that outright numbers attending was less important than having healthy discussion with those who did attend; he wanted attendees to engage and to ask meaningful questions. There was a lot of positive interaction with residents on a day to day basis.

Councillor A Wood referred to the ongoing concerns around parking at the garage on Durham Road at Burn Park; Inspector Southwell advised that the Police were unable to do anything about parking and road layouts as this was a Council matter however it was a long term priority and the Police were working with the Council.

4. RESOLVED that the update from Northumbria Police be noted.

### **Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service Update**

Station Manager Andrew Nelson was in attendance at the meeting to provide an update to the Committee. there had been 177 deliberate fires compared with 97 in the same period last year. 17 of these had been primary fires which was an increase compared with the 13 in the same period last year.

The primary fires could be broken down as follows:-

Van fires – 2

Car fires – 6

Building fires – 6 (3 Dwellings, up 100percent; and 3 non-residential, up 50percent)

The ward breakdown for deliberate fires was:-

Hendon – 88 – up from 29 last year

Millfield – 45 – up from 43 last year

Doxford – 16 – up from 4 last year

St Michael's – 20 – up from 12 last year

Ryhope – 8 – down from 9 last year.

There had been 160 deliberate secondary fires compared with 84 last year. Work was done with the Police and Partners to ensure that all deliberate fires were monitored and investigated. There was proactive work done in identifying fly tipping and waste build up to ensure removal to reduce the risk of fires.

There had been 255 safe and well checks undertaken in the area which included the installation of smoke alarms. The visits to schools were also restarting.

Councillor Reed commented that at the last meeting there had been a document shared which showed the locations of incidents; this had the potential to be useful for Members and he asked whether it was possible for Members to have access to the system. Mr Nelson agreed to find out if this was possible, the Area Community Development Leads did have access to the system.

Councillor Reed then stated that there was a need to ensure that people reported incidents and he asked whether the increase was due to an actual increase in incidents or an increase in reporting. Mr Nelson advised that it was a bit of both. The weather did have an impact on fires such as increased grass fires in warm weather.

Councillor Fagan asked what type of incidents were most common in Doxford. Mr Nelson advised that there was no real pattern; as there were a lot of open spaces in the ward there had been a number of grass fires.

Councillor Mordey queried the significant increase in Hendon and asked what types of fires they were and the reasons for the increase. Mr Nelson agreed to find out and report back.

Councillor Ali referred to fires which had occurred on land behind Asda. Mr Nelson stated that the system had shown a pattern of grass fires. Ms McConnell added that it was private land and the issue had been raised previously. The land owners had been written to and instructed to clear the land which had been done; it may be that this needed to happen again.

Councillor Dixon referred to the visits to schools and asked what feedback there had been and also whether it could be extended to other schools. Mr Nelson advised that there were visits to schools planned. There were generational differences in how people reacted to uniforms. When there had been budget cuts around 10 years ago there had been less education work undertaken and this had then coincided with there being an increase in attacks on crews. There had been visits to schools in Washington and Coalfield Areas and there had been a positive response to these.

5. RESOLVED that the update from Tyne and Wear fire and Rescue Service be noted.

## **Gentoo Update**

Vicky Gamblin was in attendance to present an update from Gentoo. Detail of the performance against the targets was provided; all of the targets had been met other than the relet times which had been impacted by Covid-19. Detail of the renewals and investment programme was also provided.

Councillor Reed commented on the Warm Homes Grant and asked whether Gentoo received funding through this to insulate homes. Ms Gamblin agreed to find out.

Councillor Fagan referred to the fences that still needed to be fixed following the storm damage; this was leading to neighbour disputes. Ms Gamblin advised that there were not enough fencing teams within Gentoo to tackle the entire backlog so external contractors were being used; she asked that Members contact her directly if there were any exceptional circumstances to be considered.

Councillor Mordey commented that there had been a positive walkabout with Gentoo in Hendon and he asked whether there could be meetings arranged with the Hendon Councillors to discuss the renewals programme for the East End. Ms Gamblin agreed to do this.

Councillor Curtis asked whether there was a breakdown of the arrears. Was this impacted by people waiting for benefits payments. Ms Gamblin advised that there was a neighbourhood level breakdown and there were around 370-400 properties per area. There were a lot of tenants who were in receipt of universal credit and the old style benefits had impacted on levels of arrears.

6. RESOLVED that the update from Gentoo be noted.

### **Nexus Update**

No representative from Nexus was in attendance.

Members expressed concerns that Nexus had again not attended the Area Committee and the Chair agreed to speak with the other Area Committee Chairs and with Nexus.

### **East Sunderland Area Neighbourhood Delivery Plan 2020 - 2023**

The Chair of the East Sunderland Area Neighbourhood and Community Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update on the East Area Committee Delivery Plan for 2020/2023.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor M. Dixon introduced the report and advised of the work that had been undertaken against the delivery plan since the last meeting of the Area Committee which was set out in the report. He also suggested that the Neighbourhood and Community Boards should now be held face to face again and asked for Members views on this. The terms of reference and governance arrangements for the Committee and the Board were also set out in the report.

Councillor Fagan commented that there was not any feedback from the LMAPS for Doxford Ward and the ward Councillors would go to the police directly rather than going through the LMAPS.

Councillor Reed referred to the Connor Brown Trust in relation to priority 7. The original plan had been to cover the city centre and St Michael's Ward. Members had put in funding for the work; the trust would be carrying out the work. There was now a go fund me project in place with the aspiration to expand the scheme to cover the entire city. The project was close to being underway and he would report back with further updates.

Discussions then took place around the Highways priority. Councillor Bewick stated that consultation had taken place around Black Road and only one objection to the proposals had been received. A funding application had been made for the proposals for Hollycarrside Road. Councillor Dixon stated that humps had been installed along Tunstall Vale.

Councillor Mordey queried who should be contacted regarding locations for the Vehicle Activated Signs. Councillor Dixon advised that Alexander Crowther or Joanne Gibson could be contacted. Ms McConnell added that the East Area was the first to have funded the signs and since then a number of other areas had also followed. Colleagues in Highways had asked about the possibility of further funding bids; there was the opportunity to discuss this at a future meeting of the board.

Ms McConnell advised that there had been 24 returns from 60 groups approached regarding the review of community buildings priority.

The jubilee celebrations had seen a number of events take place including an excellent event on the Town Moor organised by Chance and events held by the Bangladeshi Centre and the Community Allotment.

Councillor Mordey asked that there be discussions at a future board meeting regarding the funding of accessible play equipment. He had also been approached by a local history group who wanted to add to the Victoria Hall disaster memorial a list of the names of the children. Councillor Dixon stated that he was actively involved in the anniversary event for the disaster and agreed that this should be considered by the board.

**7. RESOLVED that:-**

- a. Consideration be given to the progress and performance updates with regard to the East Sunderland Area Neighbourhood and Community Board Delivery Plan 2020-23 and the proposals outlined for future delivery in Annex 1 be agreed
- b. The Area Committee Governance Arrangements for 2022-23 outlined in Section 3 and Annex 2 be noted.
- c. The year in numbers outlined in section 4 and annex 3 be noted.
- d. The Communications plan outlined in section 4 and annex 4 be noted.



## **East Area Budget Report**

The Assistant Director of Community Resilience submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided financial statements in respect of the Area Committee's delegated budgets and presented proposals for funding requests.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Ms McConnell presented the report and drew Members attention to the financial statements set out in the report and the applications for funding totalling £26,980 from the Neighbourhood Fund as set out in Annex 1. There was also an application recommended for deferral set out in annex 2. There was an application for £40,000 of NICP funding set out in annex 3. There had been community chest grants approved from the 2021/22 budget and these were set out in annex 4 and approvals from the 2022/23 budget set out in annex 5.

Changes were being made to the Community Chest application process with an online form being made available rather than the previous paper form. Assistance could be given to applicants if they could not complete the online form.

Following discussion of the applications discussions took place around the process for applications being brought to Members and Ms McConnell advised that any change would involve process changes which would affect all areas. The timescales would also be affected. There had previously been concerns that the decision making process had been officer led and the current process had been implemented to address this. She would discuss the matter with the other Area Community Development Leads.

### **8. RESOLVED that:-**

- a. The financial statements set out in tables 1, 2 and 3 be noted
- b. Approval be given to request for funding from the Neighbourhood Fund, as set out in section 2.3 and annex 1, of:-
  - i. £26,980 to deliver the Fancy a Day Out programme
  - ii. The applications totalling £39,800; as detailed in section 2.7 and annex 2; be deferred for further information and clarification to be sought and submitted by 27<sup>th</sup> June 2022.
- c. Approval be given to £40,000 of NICP funding to build an outdoor Community Garden Room at the Box Youth and Community Project as detailed in section 3.5 and annex 3
- d. The approved Community Chest grants from the 2021/22 budget, as set out in Annex 4 and the approved grants from the 2022/23 budget as set out in Annex 5 be noted.

## **Planning Applications – For Information Only**

Current Planning Applications relating to the East Sunderland Area for the period 1<sup>st</sup> May to 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2022 were submitted for Members information only (copy circulated).

(For copy report – see original minutes)

9. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

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

(Signed) M. HERRON,  
Chairman.