

At a meeting of the COALFIELD AREA COMMITTEE held remotely on TUESDAY 29th SEPTEMBER, 2020 at 6.00 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Blackburn in the Chair

Councillors Heron, Johnston, Lawson. N. MacKnight, Speding, Thornton, Turner and G. Walker

Also Present:-

Wendy Cook	Area Network Representative	Sunderland North Community Business Centre
Pauline Hopper	Area Community Development Lead, Coalfield	Sunderland City Council
Kay Rowham	Councillor	Hetton Town Council
Christine Tilley	Community Governance Services Team Leader	Sunderland City Council

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting introducing himself, the Vice Chairman and Officers supporting the meeting.

The Chairman outlined how the meeting would be held remotely and streamed for the public to view.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Rowntree, Jill Colbert, Chief Executive of Together for Children and Director of Children's Services, Sunderland City Council and Allison Patterson, Area Co-ordinator, Sunderland City Council.

Declarations of Interest

Item 4 – Area Budgets Report

Councillor Turner made an open declaration as a Member of New Dawn and the 3 Together Bid Local. She left the meeting prior to any discussion on the project involving the organisations and took no part in any decision on funding.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 15th July, 2020 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Coalfield Area Committee Delivery Plan 2020-2023

Councillor Heron, Chair of Coalfield Area Neighbourhood and Community Board, presented the report (copy circulated) which:-

- i) presented the Coalfield Area Committee Delivery Plan 2020-2023, and;
- ii) provided an update of progress against the Area Priorities associated with the Delivery Plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Heron highlighted the Coalfield Area Priorities for 2020-2023 set out in Annex 1 of the report and that there were 17 projects which she felt would be fantastic for the local areas.

Ms Pauline Hopper, Area Community Development Lead, Coalfield commented that the projects were at early stages and that the Board was continuing to meet to develop some of the detail of the projects.

Councillor Heron highlighted that locations had been determined for the Vehicle Activated Sign programme.

Councillor Heron thanked Members for their contributions so far in developing the projects.

Councillor MacKnight paid tribute to all of the work put in to fleshing out the priorities, particularly by Ms Hopper, as well as all the other Officers and Members and commended the programme that was being taken forward.

Councillor Lawson echoed Councillor Heron and Councillor MacKnight's comments about some of the exciting projects that would be happening in the Coalfield over the next year or two.

Councillor Lawson enquired about the project to develop a commemorative mining statue on the Houghton Colliery site, acknowledging that it was very early days for the project, as it was for all of the projects, however she was aware that the ward councillors had already met with an artist or sculptor and enquired what discussions had taken place around the type of artwork that was being discussed.

Ms Hopper advised that the project was being led by the Council's Development Director of Land and Investment, as part of the Retail Development, who had put out a brief to artists and that meetings had been held with two of the artists. The description from Members and Officers had not been prescriptive and just gave a feel of what Houghton was like, what the community was like and what they were trying to achieve.

Both Artists would be submitting ideas which would be looked at by colleagues in Land and Investment. The Board did not know how they would look until those ideas came forward. Consultation would be undertaken and people would have an opportunity to input both in terms of the Committee and residents. It was anticipated that it would be 18 months down the line before any decisions on the artwork would be taken. Ms Hopper reported that as she was the link to the community she would be working with Land and Investment Colleagues on proposals for the Committee to consider.

Councillor Lawson agreed that it was important to trust the artists and referred to some of the work the Area Committee had previously done. Councillor Lawson commented that she felt that they needed to be bold and brave about the artwork for the site, that there was sufficient pit wheels around the Coalfield Area and that they should look for some artwork which was a little bit different from what they already had.

Councillor Speding commented that it was important that the artwork for the site was authentic and remarkable for that particular area that he was sure that the artists involved would come up with something in this regard and that he fully supported this.

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

2. RESOLVED that the progress and performance update with regard to the Coalfield Area Committee Delivery Plan 2020/23 be received and noted and that the proposals for future delivery as contained within Annex 1, be agreed.

At this juncture the Chairman advised that he would only be taking questions in relation to the Coalfield Voluntary and Community Sector Network Update. If Members had questions or wanted any further information on any of the other partner reports they needed to contact Ms Hopper who would forward the question to the relevant partner representative for a response.

Coalfield Voluntary and Community Sector Network Update

Ms Wendy Cook, Coalfield Area Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Representative submitted a report (copy circulated), providing an update with regard to the activity of the sector during the last three months.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms Cook highlighted the range of services delivered by Easington Lane Community Access Point (ELCAP), SHaRP, Hetton New Dawn, Loaves and Fishes and SNCBC detailed in the report at paragraph 3.1.

Ms Cook referred the Committee to the news that St Aidan's Community Group had not been able to continue as a direct result of the pandemic, however she added that it would have been a lot worse in that more community groups might not have survived without the financial support provided by the Coalfield Area Committee and the City Council and she thanked the Committee for this.

Ms Cook advised that the VCS Network would be recommencing by video platforms in October.

Ms Cook announced to the Committee that ELCAP had won a highly commended Community Group Award through the VCAS Open Arms Awards and Shaun Newton from ELCAP had also been awarded an Open Arms Award being recognised as an individual whose work had consistently enhanced the lives people in the community. Ms Cook congratulated ELCAP on its achievements.

The Chairman read out an email from Councillor Rowntree, the Local Authority representative on the Board of ELCAP who had not been able to attend the meeting that evening, congratulating ELCAP and Shaun Newton on achieving the Open Arms Awards and for the work they had undertaken to support the community during the pandemic.

The Chairman having thanked Ms Cook for her report, it was:-

3. RESOLVED that:-

- i) the contents of the report be received and noted;
- ii) the Committee continue to support the Sector when developing and implementing actions against local priorities and;
- iii) the Committee use information gathered from Network meetings to inform current and future priorities and the Area Committee Plan.

Northumbria Police Update

Inspector Nick Gjorven, Northumbria Police submitted a report (copy circulated) providing data in respect of crime and disorder in the Coalfields comparing the period 1st April to 7th September 2020 to figures with the preceding year for the same period.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

4. RESOLVED that the content of the report be received and noted.

Tyne and Wear Fire Service Update

Station Manager Kevin Burns, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service (TWFRS) submitted a report (copy circulated), providing Performance Monitoring details in relation to the Local Indicators for the Coalfield Area Committee area from 1st June, 2020 to 31st August, 2020, compared with the same period in 2019.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

5. RESOLVED that the content of the report be received and noted.

Gentoo Update

Mr Michael Donachie, Head of Operations, Gentoo provided an update from Gentoo for the Coalfields Area Committee from March to September 2020 to enable Members to be up to date on current Gentoo developments, projects and priorities.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

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

Coalfield Area Budget Report

The Assistant Director of Community Resilience, Neighbourhoods submitted a report (copy circulated), providing a financial statement as an update position on progress in relation to allocating Neighbourhood Fund and Community Chest and presenting proposals for further funding requests.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms Pauline Hopper, Coalfield Area Community Development Lead, presented the report drawing the Committee's attention to the current financial position of the Neighbourhood Capital Investment Programme as set out in paragraph 2.3, advising that there were no requests for funding under that item as some of the priorities, as highlighted earlier in the meeting, were at early stages and applications would be forthcoming at future meetings.

Ms Hopper highlighted the funding which the Committee had approved to date detailed at paragraph 3.

Ms Hopper referred the Committee to paragraph 3.5 which provided details of two projects advising that the funding for them had been approved at the Committee's June meeting and that the funding was coming out of the budget from the previous financial year. The Committee was now being asked to approve the detail of the RU Ready for UC and the Digital Inclusion in the Coalfield Projects, the details of which were set out in Annex 2.

Ms Hopper advised that since the report had been written that there were different restrictions in place to reduce the spread of the Coronavirus and that this meant that

there might be changes in how the projects would be delivered, reduced face to face contact for example. She stated however, they would work with the Projects to make the necessary adaptations in order to comply with the local restrictions and meet the needs of the community.

Ms Hopper referred Members to paragraph 4 of the report detailing the Community Chest budget, approvals and balance remaining for 2020/2021.

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

7. RESOLVED that:-

- a) the financial statements set out in table one, two and three, be noted;
- b) approval be given to an allocation of £5,000 from the Neighbourhood Fund to ELCAP for the Lifeline Project as set in paragraph 3.4 of the report and Annex 1;
- c) approval be given to the 2 projects detailed in paragraph 3.5 and in Annex 2 from the previously agreed Digital Inclusion Budget; and
- d) the approved Community Chest grants between July 2020 and September 2020, as set out in Annex 3, be noted.

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

(Signed) J. BLACKBURN,
Chairman.