

At a meeting of the EAST SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE, SUNDERLAND on MONDAY, 13th MARCH, 2017 at 5.30p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Ball in the Chair

Councillors M. Dixon, Emerson, English, E. Gibson, Hodson, Hunt, Kay, Marshall, McClennan, Mordey, Oliver, Scanlan and Wood

Also Present:-

Michelle Daurat	- Tall Ships Director, Sunderland City Council
Alan Duffy	- Head of Operations, Gentoo
Victoria French	- Head of Events, Sunderland City Council
Matthew Jackson	- Governance Services Officer, Sunderland City Council
Jen McKevitt	- VCS Representative
Sarah Reed	- Director of Strategy Partnerships and Transformation, Sunderland City Council
Gillian Robinson	- Area Co-ordinator, Sunderland City Council
Jamie Southwell	- Neighbourhood Inspector, Northumbria Police
Nicol Trueman	- Area Officer, Sunderland City Council
Lisa Wilson	- VCS Representative
Riddell	

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received on behalf of Councillor O'Neil together with Kevin Burns and Hazel Clark.

Declarations of Interest

Item 6 – Area Budgets Report

Fancy a Day Out Project

Councillor Mordey declared that he was a council appointed Member of Back on the Map

Councillor Ball declared that she was a council appointed Member of Blue Watch Youth Project

Councillor Marshall declared that she was a council appointed Member of the Box Youth Project.

Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 5th December, 2016

Councillor McClennan stated that she had not objected to the events held in Mowbray Park but had in fact objected to the Area Committee paying for the events. She asked that the minutes be amended to reflect this.

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 5th December 2016 be confirmed and signed as a correct record subject to the inclusion of the above amendment.

Tall Ships Races 2018

The Head of Events submitted a report (copy circulated) which presented the Committee with options for consideration in relation to community engagement as part of the tall ships races event in 2018.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Victoria French and Michelle Daurat introduced the report. They advised that it was intended that 100 young people from Sunderland would be provided with the opportunity to become sail trainees; the cost would be around £1,500 per person and this covered the cost to the ship of having the young person on the voyage and also covered the cost of the return journey from the destination port. There would also be an entertainment and cultural programme which would be held in conjunction with existing venues and organisations. There were plans for a 'Set the Sails' project which would involve four groups of young people from Hendon, Hetton, St Peters and Washington to work with local artists to learn artisan skills to make a small flotilla of working scale model ships. There would need to be additional funding provided to allow this project to take place.

Councillor McClennan commented that she recalled hearing that the sail trainees scheme was to be aimed at Looked After Children; she also queried how older people would be able to get involved. She was informed that it would not just be Looked After Children who were able to become involved and that the race was focussed on younger people; there would be an opportunity for all ages to be involved through the cultural programme.

Councillor Mordey queried how the young people would be selected. He was informed that the detail was not yet known but that there could be an approach to the youth groups or young people could apply stating why they wanted to get involved; the detail would be brought back to the area Board.

Councillor Kay queried whether it was known how far up the river the ships would be berthed. He was informed that it would not be known until after the dredging licence was granted in the autumn; it was anticipated that the ships would be berthed to the east of the Wearmouth Bridge. Work was also being done to identify where the events would be held and it was expected that information would be available by the end of the year.

2. RESOLVED that the proposals be referred to the board for further discussions on how and if Members wished to support sail trainees; community events; and the set the sail project.

VCS Area Network Progress Report

Jen McKevitt introduced the update from the VCS Network and advised that a number of presentations had been received by the network on FACL, the Lap Project, Durham Wildlife Trust, and the Cultural Spring. At the meetings there had been concerns raised about drug taking behind the Young Asian Voices building, dog fouling, and potholes in the back lanes of Otto Terrace and Ashbrooke Terrace. The terms of reference for the network were being looked at and the programme of meetings for the coming year was being planned.

Inspector Southwell advised that the police were aware of the issue around people taking drugs behind the Young Asian Voices building and work was being done to address this issue.

The Chairman thanked Ms McKevitt for her report and it was:-

3. RESOLVED that the VCS Network progress report be noted.

Northumbria Police Update

Jamie Southwell presented the update from Northumbria Police. There had been an operation in Millfield and the City Centre to tackle burglaries; the numbers were much lower as a result with only four offences taking place during the last month. There had been two offenders convicted of a burglary on High Street West and one of the offenders had been gaoled while the other was on a curfew. There had also been a burglar from Houghton who had been arrested for a burglary in Millfield; another prolific offender had been placed on a curfew. There had been no offences in the last two weeks.

There had been an issue around vehicle crime as there had been a pair of drug users who were committing smash and grab offences on parked cars in the city centre; both of these offenders had been dealt with and the levels of vehicle crime had reduced by 46 percent over the last 28 days.

The Coastwatch scheme for Hendon and Ryhope would be launched in April and work was being done alongside the Heritage Coast and the Coastal Ranger.

A couple of months ago there had been three sexual offences within five days; there had been three separate offenders involved and they had all been arrested.

There had been a far right demonstration; the demonstrators had met at the Blue House and there had not been any issues at the premises. There had been a lot of engagement work done with the BME groups and the far right organisations and there had been no issues at the demonstration. The BME groups had not attended to counter protest. The police had received messages of thanks from groups on both sides.

Councillor McClennan questioned whether there was a problem with the drugs formerly known as legal highs. Inspector Southwell advised that they had very rarely been an issue in Sunderland since the closure of the store which sold them and the subsequent banning of the substances and that the majority of issues came from abuse of alcohol and traditional illegal drugs.

Councillor Hunt referred to an incident in Ryhope which had seen a number of vehicles vandalised in one night; Inspector Southwell advised that this was still being dealt with; there had been more vehicles damaged elsewhere a couple of days later and an offender had been identified.

Councillor Hunt then referred to the issues at the old caretaker's house at the cricket club. Young people had been breaking into the property and causing antisocial behaviour and there had been a fire started at the property. Inspector Southwell agreed to look into the issue.

Councillor Oliver commented that within his Ward there had been issues with door to door salesmen. He had heard from a resident who had checked a caller's ID which had turned out to not be genuine. There were concerns that residents did not know who these people were and that some of them were aggressive towards residents. Inspector Southwell stated that he was only aware of one burglary related to cold callers where an offender had been operating regionally using a fake Northumbrian Water identity card; this offender had been arrested. There were schemes where ex-convicts went door to door selling cleaning products; he was not aware of any such schemes operating at the moment and was not aware of any crimes linked to them. He asked Members to contact him if they became aware of any door to door salesmen operating in the area.

Councillor Mordey stated that he had been speaking with residents and had been made aware of an incident of a drink being spiked in a licensed premises in the city centre. Inspector Southwell advised that he had been made aware of the incident and a lot of work was being done around this; there was close work being done with the street pastors and checks would be done at the premises. For a lot of reported spiking of drinks when a toxicology

report was carried out it was discovered that the complainant had actually consumed only alcohol.

The Chairman thanked Inspector Southwell for his report and it was:-

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

Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service Update

Kevin Burns was not in attendance but submitted a report showing the numbers of deliberate secondary fires in the area for the period 1st December to 28th February.

Councillor Mordey expressed concerns over the number of incidents and asked for more information on the definition of 'Loose Refuse (including in gardens)'. Due to the large number of incidents he suggested that it might be necessary to look at this as a priority for the coming year.

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

Gentoo Update

Alan Duffy presented the update from Gentoo. He advised that the most common form of contact from residents was when repairs needed to be carried out to properties. There was work being done to produce a new tenants handbook as the current handbook was around 10 years old. There would be further changes to the Local Housing Allowance; the changes to welfare had so far had a lesser impact than the anticipated worst case scenario. The stock condition survey was continuing.

Over the coming months there would be changes to how properties would be allocated including the removal of excellent tenant status and the removal of choice based lettings with a move towards basing the offer of properties on need. There would also be affordability checks carried out on new tenants.

The Chairman thanked Mr Duffy for his report and it was:-

6. RESOLVED that the update from Gentoo be noted.

East Sunderland Area Place Board Progress Report

The Chair of the East Sunderland Area Place Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with an update on the work done against the priorities included in the Work Plan for 2016/17.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

The Chair of the Place Board, Councillor E. Gibson, introduced the report and advised Members of the key achievements of the board up to 28th February 2017.

Councillor Oliver queried how effective the vehicle activated signs were and asked for figures to be provided on the effects of the signs. The Chairman commented that she thought that they would work as they encourage drivers to think about their speed and while she had no evidence that they slowed down drivers she had anecdotal evidence that drivers did slow down when they saw the signs.

7. RESOLVED that:-

- a. The East Sunderland Area Place Board Work Plan and the progress made against the priorities be noted.
- b. The Board's recommendation to approve £102,716 of SIB to support projects delivered against the work plan, covering feasibility studies to support decisions around asset transfers; celebrating historical buildings and places; installing brown tourist signs; purchasing V.A.S. and environmental camera kits be noted.
- c. The Board's recommendation to approve the recommended list of roads in be included in the 2017/18 Highway Maintenance Programme be noted.

East Sunderland Area People Board Progress Report

The Chair of the East Sunderland Area People Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with an update on the work done against the priorities in the work plan for 2016/17.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

The Chair of the People Board, Councillor Marshall, introduced the report and advised Members of the progress made against the priorities up to 28th February, 2017.

8. RESOLVED that:-

- a. The People Board's recommendation to approve £23,525 of SIB to support projects delivered against the Work Plan, coving the Fancy a Day Out scheme and a hosted study be noted.

- b. The East Sunderland Area People Board Work Plan and the progress made against the priorities be noted.

Area Budgets Report

The Head of Member Support and Community Partnerships submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Members with an update on the financial statements for Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) and Community Chest.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Ms Trueman introduced the report and advised that there were applications for SIB funding from the 2015/16 budget totalling £6,250 which would leave £73,083 remaining in this budget to be carried forward to 2017/18; this money was aligned to the improving health and wellbeing and supporting community asset transfers priorities. The applications were set out at annex 1 to the report.

There were applications for funding from the 2016/17 budget totalling £119,991 and a request to align funds of £74,693 from the 2016/17 budget; if all of these were approved there would be a nil balance remaining to be allocated from the 2016/17 budget. The applications were set out at annex 2 of the report and the aligned funds would be aligned to supporting the delivery of targeted activities for young people; the project proposals would be developed by the board with applications for funding being brought back to future meetings.

Councillor Kay queried how the funds aligned to supporting the delivery of targeted activities for young people would be spent. Ms Trueman advised that the People Board would develop the criteria for how the funds would be spent and that any VCS groups operating in the area would be able to apply.

9. RESOLVED that:-

- a. The financial statements set out in sections 2 and 3 of the report be noted.
- b. £74,693 of SIB from the 2016/17 budget be aligned to supporting the delivery of targeted activities for young people.
- c. Approval be given to the grant of £6,250 of SIB from the 2015/16 budget, as set out in annex 1.
- d. Approval be given to the grant of £119,991 of SIB from the 2016/17 budget, as set out in annex 2.
- e. The 11 approved Community Chest proposals, set out in annex 3, be noted.

Planning Applications – For Information Only

Current Planning Applications relating to the East Sunderland Area for the period 1st January to 6th February 2017 were submitted for Members information only (copy circulated).

(For copy report – see original minutes)

10. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

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

(Signed) E. BALL,
Chairman.