

**At a meeting of the WEST SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE, SUNDERLAND on WEDNESDAY, 14<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2012 at 5.30 p.m.**

**Present:-**

Councillor P. Gibson in the Chair

Councillors Allan, Essl, Gofton, Morrissey, Oliver, Porthouse, Smiles, P. Smith, Tye, Waller, P. Watson, S. Watson, Wilson and A. Wright.

**Also Present:-**

|                  |  |                                       |
|------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| Bill Blackett    | Area Response Manager                  | Sunderland City Council               |
| Graham Burt      | Community Development Manager          | Sunderland City Council               |
| Adam Clelland    | Network Management Manager             | Sunderland City Council               |
| Simone Common    | West Locality Ops Manager              | Sunderland City Council               |
| Angela Cousins   | Area Community Co-ordinator            | Sunderland City Council               |
| Kevin Douglas    | Media Officer                          | Sunderland City Council               |
| Bill Forster     | Station Manager                        | Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service |
| Michael Frost    | Highways Ops Engineer                  | Sunderland City Council               |
| Julie Gray       | Head of Community Services             | Sunderland City Council               |
| Kevin Johnson    | Principal Landscape Architect          | Sunderland City Council               |
| Kevin Jones      | Neighbourhood Sergeant                 | Northumbria Police                    |
| Helen Lancaster  | Scrutiny Officer                       | Sunderland City Council               |
| Bill Leach       |  | VCS Network                           |
| Chris Marshall   | Head of Operations                     | Gentoo                                |
| Keith Moore      | Area Lead Executive                    | Sunderland City Council               |
| David Noon       | Principal Governance Services Officer  | Sunderland City Council               |
| Julie Parker     |  | Sunderland TPCT                       |
| Richard Parry    | Area Officer                           | Sunderland City Council               |
| Alison Patterson | Scrutiny and Area Arrangements Manager | Sunderland City Council               |
| David Pickitt    | Inspector                              | Northumbria Police                    |
| James Third      | Community Relations Officer            | Nexus                                 |
| Berni Whittaker  | Enterprise Manager                     | Sunderland City Council               |

**Councillor John Gallagher**

The Chairman informed the meeting of the recent death of Councillor John Gallagher who represented the Sandhill Ward as a Member of the West Sunderland Area Committee. Members and Officers stood for two minutes silence in memory of Councillor Gallagher.

## **Chairman's Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and those present introduced themselves.

## **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillor T. Wright and on behalf of Edna Rochester.

## **Declarations of Interest**

Item 3 – Community Chest Application, Youth Almighty

Councillor Tye declared a personal and prejudicial interest as Chair of the Management Committee and left the meeting during consideration of the item.

## **Minutes of the Last Meeting**

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2012 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

## **Local Area Plans and Priorities for 2012**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided a proposed approach and timeline for the Area Committee's review of its Local Area Plan and Priorities for 2012.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Chairman having requested that young people, for example, from the Youth Parliament or schools in the West Area be invited to participate in the State of the Area Debate, it was:-

2. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) approval be given to the proposed approach and timeline for the Area Plan Review,
- (ii) young people from within the West Area be invited to participate in the State of the Area Debate, and
- (iii) actions against current work plans continue to be delivered until approval is granted to the 2012 priorities.

## **Community Action in Sunderland West – New Issues: Healthy City Investment Funding**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) on proposals to change the way in which the Healthy City Investment Fund was administered including delegation to the Area Committees to allocate funding.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

### **3. RESOLVED that:-**

- (i) the Area Committee take responsibility for the allocation and administration of the £31,079 Healthy City Investment Fund for 2012/13,
- (ii) the Area Officer develop and implement the approach for working with the Area VCS Network to develop initiatives in support of male cancer mortality, focusing on the two themes described in section 3 of the report, and
- (iii) it be noted that each Area Committee's Public Health representative will be available to advise on the potential impact of any proposed projects to be funded.

## **Community Action: Reviewing Progress and Agreeing Next Steps – Youth and Play Provision**

Simone Common presented a report of the Executive Director of Children's Services which briefed the Committee on:-

- out of school activity provision for 8 to 12 year olds,
- holiday activity provision for all ages,
- an 'in principle' request for the Area Committee to allocate £75,000 SIB funding over a two year period 2012/2013 – 2013/2014 to provide holiday activity over this period.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Leader of the Council having asked that the Committee receive a break down of the activities to be provided and their costings, together with an outline of the percentage spend on the management of the Service, it was:-

### **4. RESOLVED that:-**

- (i) approval be given in principle to the future submission of a £75,000 SIB application for the provision of holiday activity for 2012/13 – 2013/14, and

- (ii) the progress on the delivery of out of school provision for 8 – 12 year olds be noted and that a further report be submitted following evaluation after six months.

### **Community Action: Reviewing Progress and Agreeing Next Steps: Lakeside Towers Residents Parking Proposals**

The Executive Director of City Services submitted a report (copy circulated) on proposed options to provide additional parking at Lakeside Towers via the use of SIB resources together with match funding from Gentoo.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Gofton it became clear that a difference of opinion existed between Officers of the Council and Gentoo regarding whether or not the land would become adopted highway and therefore where the responsibility would lie for its maintenance and upkeep. Councillor Allan expressed concern that the application was being made to the Area Committee when it was clearly not at a stage where it was ready for the Committee's consideration. In addition Councillor P. Watson expressed incredulity that the proposal was being made in the first place given the precedent it would set and the generation of levels of expectation across the City which the Council would find impossible to meet. Councillor Porthouse and Councillor A. Wright having spoken in favour of the proposal, it was moved by Councillor Allan that the report be withdrawn given the difference of opinion between Officers of the Council and Gentoo.

Upon being put to the vote with 8 Members voting in favour of the motion and 4 Members voting against, it was:-

5. RESOLVED that the report in respect of the Lakeside Towers Residents Parking Proposals be withdrawn.

### **Community Action: Reviewing Progress and Agreeing Next Steps: Job Prospects**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) on proposals to provide a West Apprenticeship Road Show event together with the development of an 'Enterprising Coaching' project using SIB funding to draw down unspent European Regional Development Fund match funding.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Bernie Whitaker, Enterprise Manager presented the report and with regard to the 'Enterprising Coaching' project addressed questions and comments from Members regarding:-

- the approach taken by other Area Committees,
- the percentage success rate of business start ups and the average age of the entrepreneurs,

- the personal barriers preventing entrepreneurship and how they could be overcome through coaching,
- mechanisms to ensure business set ups were targeted for the West Sunderland Area.

Consideration having been given to the matter it was:-

6. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the report be received and noted,
- (ii) approval be given to the granting of £2,000 funding to enable the holding of an Apprenticeship Road Show prior to the April meeting of the Committee, and
- (iii) approval be given to the allocation of £50,000 SIB funding in respect of the West Area Enterprising Coaching project.

### **Report of the West Voluntary and Community Sector**

Bill Leach one of the 3 West VCS Network representatives on the Area Committee presented a comprehensive report (copy circulated) which updated Members on the support provided to the Committee by the Network together with its contribution to the delivery of the Local Area Plan Priorities.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Mr. Leach briefed Members on:-

- the establishment and organisation of the Network,
- how the Network had contributed to each of the Local Area Plan Priorities,
- the VCS contribution to Community Development in the Area,
- local events planned for the Diamond Jubilee and Sunderland in 2012.

Members having welcomed Mr. Leach's report commented that it showed the value of the VCS to the Committee and expressed a desire to build upon that success.

7. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

### **Community Action: Reviewing Progress and Agreeing Next Steps – Eden Vale and Thornhill Mineral Line**

The Chief Executive and Executive Director of City Services submitted a joint report (copy circulated) which presented revised proposals to allocate resources to reduce the height of the mineral line as part of a series of measures to alleviate anti social behaviour in Eden Vale following previous discussions at the last Area Committee.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Essl introduced the item and welcomed Richard Parry who provided the Committee with a brief video presentation showing the location of the mineral line and Bill Blackett who briefed the Committee on the proposed options. Community Sergeant Kevin Jones of Northumbria Police having advised of the anti social behaviour statistics for the area and the likely benefits of the proposals for residents, the Chairman moved that the option detailed in paragraph 5.5 (Excavate and lower the level of the path) at a cost of £21,790 be approved subject to the work being awarded via a compulsory competitive tendering process. Accordingly it was:-

8. RESOLVED that approval be given to the granting of £21,790 SIB funding in respect of the option to excavate and lower the level of the path as detailed in paragraph 5.5 of the report subject to the contract to carry out the work being awarded via a compulsory competitive tendering process.

### **Work Plan – Fire and Crime Statistics**

Richard Parry, Area Officer welcomed and introduced, David Pickitt, Neighbourhood Inspector, Northumbria Police and Bill Forster, Station Manager, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service, who briefed the Committee on their respective statistics.

Mr. Forster referred to the statistics previously considered at the Committee's last meeting and advised that they would be updated in the coming days. He would be happy to provide the information in future reports, in any way the Committee required. Mr. Forster then went on to inform Members of the proactive work being carried out with regard to Fire Safety checks, the work of the Service's Education Department, Telecare and the development of a Fire Champions Programme.

Inspector Pickitt then proceeded to brief Members on the crime statistics in the following categories for the period 29<sup>th</sup> March 2010 to 13<sup>th</sup> March 2011 compared with 28<sup>th</sup> March 2011 to 11<sup>th</sup> March 2012.

|                              | <b>Previous</b> | <b>Current</b> | <b>Difference</b> |
|------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Criminal Damage              | 879             | 828            | 51                |
| Violent Crime                | 593             | 534            | 59                |
| All Vehicle Crime            | 376             | 307            | 69                |
| Theft from Motor Vehicle     | 235             | 207            | 28                |
| Taking Without Consent       | 105             | 77             | 28                |
| Vehicle Interference         | 36              | 23             | 13                |
| Burglary Dwelling            | 132             | 131            | 1                 |
| Burglary other than Dwelling | 146             | 152            | 6                 |
| Other Theft and Handling     | 609             | 671            | 62                |

|                   | <b>Previous</b> | <b>Current</b> | <b>Difference</b> |
|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Drugs             | 157             | 180            | 23                |
| Other Crime       | 69              | 58             | 11                |
| Fraud and Forgery | 80              | 72             | 8                 |
| Incidents         | 19845           | 19255          | 590               |
| ASB Youth         | 1961            | 1251           | 710               |
| ASB Non Youth     | 2852            | 2522           | 330               |

Mr. Forster and Inspector Pickitt having addressed comments and questions from Members, it was:-

9. RESOLVED that the crime and fire statistics be received and noted.

### **Community Chest, Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) and Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) – Financial Statement and Proposals for Further Allocation of Resources**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) in respect of the above matter.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Richard Parry, Area Officer, presented the item highlighting the financial statement for 2011/2012 together with details of 12 proposals for support from the Community Chest budget.

Councillor Essl referred to the healthy state of the SIP budget and stated he had heard that Area Committees would no longer be able to carry forward any balance into the following year. He therefore moved that the £21,790 granted earlier in the meeting to fund environmental improvements at the Eden Vale and Thornhill mineral line should be funded from the Committee's SIP budget rather than the SIB allocation. Various Members expressed surprise that there would be no carry over and asked that the position was clarified outside of the meeting. Nevertheless Members agreed it was appropriate that Eden Vale and Thornhill environmental improvements were funded from the SIP allocation.

Councillor Essl then referred to the Community Chest allocation and advised of the following late applications received following the publication of the agenda.

- (i) Richard Avenue Primary School Junior Youth Club - £1,000 for the purchase of equipment.
- (ii) Eden Vale Residents Association, Barnes Park Event, 12<sup>th</sup> April 2012 - £1,000 for the purchase of hanging baskets and materials.

Members agreed that the applications should be considered at this meeting.  
Accordingly it was:-

10. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the two applications for £1,000 Community Chest funding received from Richard Avenue Primary School and Eden Vale Residents Association be approved,
- (ii) approval be given to the remaining 12 Community Chest applications as detailed in Annex 5 of the report,
- (iii) the Committee's decision taken earlier in the meeting to allocate £21,790 SIB funding in respect of the Eden Vale and Thornhill Mineral Line Environmental Improvements be rescinded, and
- (iv) approval be given to the allocation of £21,790 SIP funding in respect of the Eden Vale and Thornhill Mineral Line Environmental Improvements, subject to the contract to carry out the work being awarded following a compulsory competitive tendering process.

The Chairman then closed the meeting having thanked everyone for their attendance and contribution to the meeting.

(Signed) P. GIBSON,  
Chairman.