

At a meeting of the EAST SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in RYHOPE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, BLACK ROAD, RYHOPE on MONDAY, 4th JULY, 2011 at 5.30p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Ball in the Chair

Councillors Emerson, Errington, Fairs, Forbes, E. Gibson, Kay, McClennan, T. Martin, Mordey, Scanlan and Wood

Also Present:-

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| Sgt. Craig Briggs | - Northumbria Police |
| Alan Caddick | - Head of Housing, Sunderland City Council |
| Insp. John Connolly | - Northumbria Police |
| Keith Douglas | - Secretary, Ryhope Cricket Club |
| Tim Ducker | - Cycle Network and Public Rights of Way Officer, Sunderland City Council |
| Anthony Gonzales | - Volunteer Co-ordinator, SNCBC/Job Linkage |
| Paula Hunt | - East Area Voluntary and Community Sector Representative |
| Janet Johnson | - Deputy Chief Executive and Area Lead Executive, Sunderland City Council |
| Peter Lawson | - Network Planning Manager, Nexus |
| Joe Lemon | - Ryhope Cricket Club |
| Trish Lynn | - Operations Manager, SNCBC |
| Kevin Marquis | - Director, Sustainable Enterprise Strategies |
| Vivienne Metcalfe | - Community Development Co-ordinator, Sunderland City Council |
| Sandra Mitchell | - Head of Performance Improvement and Policy, Sunderland City Council |
| Helen Peverley | - City Centre Area Response Manager, Sunderland City Council |
| Joan Reed | - Strategic Change Manager, Sunderland City Council |
| Ian Richardson | - Assistant Head of Street Scene, Sunderland City Council |
| Nicky Rowland | - East Area Response Manager, Sunderland City Council |
| Liz St. Louis | - Head of Customer Service and Development, Sunderland City Council |
| Sharon Semley | - A690 Youth Initiative |
| James Third | - Community Relations Officer, Nexus |
| Nicol Trueman | - Area Officer, Sunderland City Council |
| Ian Warne | - Station Manager, Sunderland East Fire Station |
| Sarah Woodhouse | - Policy Officer, Sunderland City Council |

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received on behalf of Councillor Maddison along with those for Ms. M. Boustead, Ms. N. Crawford, Mr. D. Curtis and Mr. I. Warne

Declarations of Interest

Item 02 (i) – Public Transport

Councillor Wood declared a personal interest in the item as a Member of the Tyne and Wear Integrated Transport Authority.

Item 02 iv – Community Chest, Strategic Initiative Budget and Strategic Investment Plan – Financial Statement and Proposals for further allocation of resources

Councillor McClennan declared a personal interest in the Community Chest application from the Young Mums Unit, Hendon Health Centre.

Councillor Gibson declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the Community Chest application from the Friends of Doxford Park and left the meeting during its consideration.

Councillors Forbes and Wood declared personal interests in the Community Chest applications from Soldiers, Sailors and Airmans Families Association.

Councillor Kay declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the SIB applications from St Marks Community Association and left the meeting during their consideration

Call for Projects: School Holiday Provisions and Junior Clubs applications

Councillors Martin declared a personal interest in the application from Hendon Young People's Project as a member of the Sans Street Youth and Community Centre Board.

Councillor McClennan declared personal interests in the applications from Future Goals and Sunderland Dance as a member of the Raich Carter Centre Board.

Councillor Errington declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the application from the Box Youth Centre as Chairman of the Group. Councillor Kay declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the application from the St

Marks Community Association as a member of the Management Committee. Councillor Ball declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the application from the Blue Watch Youth Centre.

As these applications were competitive bids Members were advised that they should not take part in consideration of any of the applications and therefore those Councillors with personal and prejudicial interests withdrew from the room for the duration of the consideration of applications regarding the school holiday provision and junior clubs.

Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 23rd May, 2011

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 23rd May, 2011 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Community Action : Reviewing Progress and Agreeing Next Steps

2011/12 Priorities and Workplan

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which identified the key priorities for the Area Committee to discuss, deliver actions and monitor throughout the year, with the overall outcome to improve the quality of life for residents within the East Sunderland Area.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Nicol Trueman, Area Officer, presented the Workplan advising that Lead Coordinators for each of the priorities had been invited to give an update to the Committee.

Cleaner and Greener Streets

Ms. Helen Peverley, City Centre Area Response Manager and Nicky Rowland, East Area Response Manager gave Members an update advising them of the latest figures in relation to action taken with regards to enforcement in the City Centre and East Areas over the last two months.

Councillor Kay commended the improved response times that he had witnessed with regards to the clearing of graffiti and managing overflowing/left out bins as well as the statistics with regards to bin being set on fire reducing. He commented that the new Officer roles that had been put in place were obviously making a difference and improvements were beginning to be noticed.

In response to a question from Councillor Forbes, she was advised that the new scheme of businesses buying bins with advertising panels for them to use in the City Centre, would include them covering the general cleaning and maintenance of them.

Councillor Forbes asked if there were still issues around absentee landlords, and if there was any progress in identifying them and Mr. Caddick advised that where they were aware of absentee landlords the service were working to open communications with them to get them to take responsibility but it could be more difficult if they weren't locally known. With regards to landlords of student accommodation, he went on to explain that they were working with landlords in the Roker area to try and get them to adhere to a set of standards for their properties.

Councillor Wood sought further information around the Streetscene apprenticeship roles that were to be advertised and was advised that initially potential candidates would sit and assessment through Riverside Training and then any candidates found to be suitable would be pointed in the direction of the Recruitment Team where they would begin the usual application process. The apprenticeship would run over two years with candidates working towards an NVQ in a subject where they considered the applicant to have shown strengths. Members were also advised that the service would also work closely with the Children's Services Directorate to identify any care leavers who may wish to take up the development opportunity too.

Councillor Gibson commented that the neighbourhoods were visually cleaner and it was good to have the co-operation of her local communities and residents on board, along with the appointment of the new Area team.

Coastal Path

Mr. Tim Ducker, Cycle Network and Public Rights of Way Officer, updated Members advising that they were currently working with Durham and Hartlepool Council on rolling out the new coastal access. Later in the month the full coastal access would be looked at, including issues as to where the pedestrian path would be located and identifying suitable areas for placing picnic sites, view points, etc. He advised that by the end of July, 2011 they would have mapped out the main route and produced a report for consideration.

Councillor Forbes asked what kind of publicity was planned and was advised that there were five main authorities involved, each of which were committed to undertaking a strong media push to ensure the public and communities were made aware of it. Mr. Ducker advised that this was the first of five stretches of the route and the authorities would work together to provide coordinated messages were being shared that were consistent and positive.

Councillor Martin welcomed the new route but raised issues over Hendon Beach and the lack of provision there as there were no lifesavers located there and he had concerns over water safety.

Ms. Trueman, Area Officer, asked Members to consider inviting N. Benson, Durham Heritage Partnership Coast and R. Wares, Ryhope Community Association Development Trust to become Members of the Coastal Path Task

and Finish Group and agree the Terms of Reference for the group as set out in the report.

Employment, Enterprise and Welfare Rights

Mr. Kevin Marquis, SES, Mr Anthony Gonzales and Ms. Trish Lynn of SNCBC gave Members an update on their involvement in the Employment, Enterprise and Welfare Rights priority. Ms. Liz St. Louis, Head of Customer Service and Development and Ms. Joan Reed, Strategic Change Manager, advised that this priority linked closely with the Information, Advice and Guidance Review that was being undertaken within the Council presently.

Members were advised that the Council were working on a new advice model where the intention was to significantly increase access to a wider range of advice and guidance, including promoting services available from independent sources, to residents and communities, with a key emphasis being on early intervention.

Ms. St Louis advised that they were looking to develop a single point of access for all, giving a good high quality level of advice allowing those individuals who want to help themselves have that opportunity, whilst recognising and offering guidance to those who don't wish to 'self serve'. She advised that it would be a very coordinated approach as to how to provide a system that ensure people are signposted to the correct places for themselves and commented that they were keen to work with the Area Committee to develop that model.

Councillor McClennan raised a number of concerns over barriers that may exist through using purely internet based systems as there was an assumption that all residents could access, afford or even be IT literate enough to access such a system and there was no replacement for highly skilled Officers who could work through issues with individuals.

Ms. St. Louis agreed and commented that it was about supporting a wide range of advice giving and making it easier for those who could access systems to do so, they wanted to provide a facility for those that want to use a self service system whilst still providing a face to face mediation if needed.

In response to a query from Councillor McClennan around asking for members of the communities views, Ms. Reed advised that they had asked all customers for their experiences and if they would like to be able to access the same service in another way. She advised that this information could be shared with Members of the Committee.

Councillor Forbes commented that there was a danger of duplication, with so many agencies providing so much information and asked how did they intend to tackle this issue and if conversations been held with other partners and agencies. Ms. St Louis advised that this was work in progress, as they were currently being consulted with and part of that work was to identify the needs

of service users, partner organisations, local Councillors, etc, to gather a solid evidence base which would continue to be fed into.

Councillor Forbes referred to residents having different levels of literacy and asked if the service has any way of communicating this change to them, especially those who were reluctant to take help and Ms. Reed advised that this issue was included and if literacy issues were identified they would help in directing individuals on the correct path for help.

Public Transport

Mr. James Third and Mr. P. Lawson, Nexus gave Members an update with regard to the Public Transport priority and advised that an event was to be held the following day at 1:00pm at the Ryhope Community Association to discuss and highlight local issues in the area regarding public transport and in particular the number 32 and 48 buses.

Councillor Errington commented that communities and residents would like to be communicated with better when changes to bus routes were being proposed as some local areas such as the Tunstall Bank estate were now left with no direct access to public transport.

Councillor Gibson also commented that changes to routes normally meant that less areas would be visited by the buses and it was important that the providers realised that some residents rely on the public transport as their only means of transport.

Councillor McClennan welcomed the initiative to consult the public but commented that the abilities of the elderly needed to be considered when looking at transport that accesses areas of sheltered accommodation such as Toward Road and Mr. Third advised that he had taken feedback from Anchor Housing Trust within the last few weeks regarding this.

Youth and Teenagers

Ms. Trueman provided an update on this priority, advising that the report had been prepared and was currently being considered by the Directorate.

Tackling Crime

Ms. Trueman presented this update and commented that the Committee had previously agreed to align £74,599 from the SIB budget against this priority and advised that a breakdown of how this was to be spent was provided at page 28 of the agenda. It was suggested that, with agreement, £20,000 be awarded to each Neighbourhood Team to assist in delivering direct action against key crimes and that a further £12,720 (£6,220 in year 1 and £6,500 in year 2) be allocated to the 'Championing the East' project which was a community approach to tackling arson and other anti social behaviour.

Eden Vale and Thornhill

Ms. Trueman provided an update on this priority, advising that this was not a strategic priority but one of interest to the Area Committee and would feed into the work of the policy review being undertaken by the Community and Safer City Scrutiny Committee.

All updates having been received and considered, it was:-

1. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) N. Benson, Durham Heritage Partnership Coast and R.Wares, Ryhope Community Association Development Trust become Members of the Coastal Path Task and Finish Group;
- (ii) the Terms of Reference, as set out in the report, for the Coastal Path Task and Finish Group be agreed; and
- (iii) the projects, as set out in the appendix to the report, for the Tackling Crime priority be allocated funding totally £52,700 leaving a balance of £21,899 reserved against the priority.

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

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which allowed Members to consider the allocation of SIB and Community Chest funding to support initiatives which would deliver activities against the priorities for 2011/12.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Nicol Trueman, Area Officer presented the report, taking Members through each application and answering questions from Members upon them.

Councillor Emerson thanked Ms. Trueman and the Task and Finish Group for the work they had undertaken to provide the Committee with the breakdown of applications submitted with regard to the school holiday provision and junior clubs as he was sure this must have been a difficult task, and it was:-

2. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the financial statement as set out in annex 1 and 3 of the report be noted;
- (ii) approval be given to the 17 proposals for funding from the Community Chest totalling £4,990 from the 2011/2012 budget as set out in annex 2 of the report;

- (iii) approval be given to the allocation of SIB funding from the 2011/2012 budget as a contribution towards the Community Learning Centre of £12,000;
- (iv) approval be given to the allocation of SIB funding from the 2011/2012 budget as a contribution towards the Houghton Feast of £3,000;
- (v) the application for SIB funding from the 2011/12 budget as a contribution towards the Pre Teen Club at St Marks Community Association of £23,450 be rejected;
- (vi) the application for SIB funding from the 2011/2012 budget as a contribution towards the Get Active, Get Motive, project be rejected; and
- (vii) the allocation of SIB funding from the 2011/12 budget as a contribution towards the Call for Projects : School Holiday Provision and Junior Clubs be agreed for the reasons as set out in the report, and subject to any conditions:-
 - Box Youth Centre – Positive Activities Programme: Doxford, £13,000 be approved;
 - E-clusive: Hendon Young Peoples Project - Hendon and St Michael’s Wards, £28,000 be approved;
 - St Mark’s Activity Zone – St Mark’s Community Association, £13,500 be approved;
 - Blue Watch Youth Centre – Positive Activities, £13,000 be approved;
 - North East Sport – Future Goals, £7,500 be approved;
 - Positive Activities in Millfield – Lambton Street Youth Centre, £14,828 be rejected;
 - Groundworks North East – Eco Rangers, £11,880 be rejected; and
 - Create the Groove – Sunderland Dance, £17,208 be rejected.

Influencing Practice, Policy and Strategy

Empty Property Action Plan 2011-2012

The Executive Director of Health, Housing and Adult Services submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with information on actions and plans developed strategically to address housing issues in the area.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Mr. Alan Caddick, Head of Housing, presented the report advising that empty properties would continue to remain a priority across the city and informed Members that he was arranging to meet with them to talk through the issues relevant to each Ward through a number of bespoke meetings.

Councillor McClennan referred to the report and sought further information on the following issues:-

- paragraph 2.2 of the report, early intervention and concerns over the 23 properties vacant for over five years in Hendon, is there a reason as to why properties in the ward have been empty for so long?
- paragraph 3.2 of the report, the involvement of registered providers and this has progressed to date and what it will mean for the city;
- paragraph 3.3 of the report, what will the New Home Bonus bring to the city;
- paragraph 3.4 of the report, the Empty Dwelling Management Orders, how many have the Council used or plan to use? Mr. Caddick advised that the answer was none but would include further detail in the report back;
- propose that the action plane be reviewed after six months and not annually as suggested;
- could more detail be provided on the 27 properties awaiting demolition in Salem Street 2011/13;
- hitting a balance between trying to hit targets and tackling real issues and concerns over 'quick wins' that do not alleviate problems.

Councillor Forbes asked if Members could be provided with a map identifying the areas within wards where empty properties were located.

Mr. Caddick agreed to address the issues that had been raised at the meeting and asked if there were any further comments or queries that they be sent directly to himself, and it was:-

3. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the content of the report and draft action plan be received and noted;
- (ii) the feedback on the locality aims and actions in Sunderland East Action Plan (draft) be received and noted;
- (iii) the feedback from Members regarding empty properties be received and noted; and
- (iv) it be proposed that the action plan be reviewed after six months.

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

(Signed) E. BALL,
Chairman.