

At a meeting of the COALFIELD AREA COMMITTEE held in the Council Chamber at City Hall, Sunderland on WEDNESDAY 28th SEPTEMBER, 2022 at 6.00 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Blackburn in the Chair

Councillors Burrell, Dodds, Heron (Vice Chair), K. Johnston, Mason-Gage, Price, Scott, D. Snowdon and Thornton

Also Present:-

Chris Binding	Local Democracy Reporter	
Jill Colbert	Chief Executive	Together for Children
Wendy Cook	Area Network Representative	Sunderland North Community Business Centre
Bob Heron	Member of the Public	
Pauline Hopper	Area Community Development Lead, Coalfield	Sunderland City Council
Matthew Jackson	Principal Governance Services Officer	Sunderland City Council
Bill Little	Councillor	Hetton Town Council
Andrew Nelson	Station Manager	Tyne and Wear Fire Service
Steve Passey	Inspector	Northumbria Police
Sandra Stephenson	VCS Community Support Officer	
Amy Watson	Area Network Representative	
Beth Wilkie	Head of Neighbourhoods	Gentoo

Chairman's Welcome and Introductions

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Coalfield Area Committee meeting and in particular Councillor Dodds who was attending her first meeting after being re-elected in the Copt Hill Ward By-Election. He also congratulated Jill Colbert on her receipt of her OBE.

The Houghton Brass Band were in attendance and played a short set to the Committee; they had received a grant from the Committee which had allowed them to take part in a

competition; following playing the band leader thanked the Committee for the grant, without it they would not have been able to compete in the competition.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Rowntree and Speding.

Declarations of Interest

The following declarations were received:-

Item 4 – Area Budgets Report

Councillor D. Snowdon declared that he was an employee of SHARP and withdrew from the meeting during the consideration of the applications for SHARP.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 15th June, 2022 (copy circulated), be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Neighbourhood and Community Board Report

The Chair of the Coalfield Neighbourhood and Community Board submitted a report (copy circulated), which provided an update on the progress against the Area Priorities associated with the Delivery Plan, which would be the focus for the Coalfield Area Committee during 2022-23.

The report also provided an update on Neighbourhood and Community Board Governance Arrangements for 2022-2023.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Chair of the Coalfield Neighbourhood and Community Board, Councillor Heron presented the report and highlighted the projects contained within the delivery plan. The Chair thanked all the Officers supporting the Area Committee.

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

2. RESOLVED that the progress and performance update regarding the Coalfield Area Committee Delivery Plan 2020/23 be noted and the proposals for future delivery as contained within Annex 1, be approved;

Northumbria Police Update

Inspector Passey, Northumbria Police provided an update to the Committee (copy circulated), giving an overview of crime in the Coalfield area in relation to burglary, criminal damage, anti-social behaviour and motorcycle disorder.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Inspector Passey informed the Committee that ASB had increased 15% since the last Area Committee; an increase was expected during the summer months however this had been less than expected ASB was down 7% compared with last summer. ASB had formed part of the Summer Planning which had seen increased patrols. The hotspots were currently Easington Lane, Houghton and Shiney Row.

Motorcycle disorder had increased by 22% compared with the last reporting period. An increase was expected during the summer but was less than anticipated being down 14% compared with last summer. There had been bespoke operations which had resulted in the seizure of numerous motorcycles and the prosecution of several offenders.

Burglary rates had decreased by 20%; this was an 18% reduction in residential burglaries and 28% reduction in commercial burglaries.

The Halo Team was continuing to go from strength to strength and engagement with the project was better than ever. Safer Street funding in excess of £250,000 had been secured including £50,000 for a new CCTV network. The project had been nominated for a Pride in Policing Award for the problem solving work as part of Operation Tiama. Operation Ebony had been launched in Easington Lane which had taken inspiration from HALO; engagement with partners had been positive.

Councillor Scott welcomed the report; it was good to see the results of the HALO project and he understood that there had been successes around the theft of lead. Inspector Passey advised that he would get the figures relating to lead thefts. Operation Tiama had included lead thefts and the offenders were often the same as those who committed burglaries. There had been reductions seen in all types of thefts.

Councillor Burrell asked whether the increased cost of living was expected to lead to an increase in crime. Inspector Passey stated that there was an increase in acquisitive crime including burglaries however over the last two weeks there had been no recorded burglaries in the Hetton Ward.

The Committee having discussed the report, the Chairman thanked Inspector Passey for his attendance and it was:-

3. RESOLVED that the update be received and noted.

Tyne and Wear Fire Service Update

Station Manager Andrew Nelson, 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 April 2022 to 16th September 2022 compared with the same period the previous year.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Full consideration having been given to the report, the Chairman thanked Mr Nelson for his attendance and it was:-

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

Coalfield Voluntary and Community Sector Network Update

The Coalfield Voluntary and Community Sector Network submitted a report (copy circulated) to provide the Committee with an update on the work of the Sector to date.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Amy Watson, Area Network Representative presented the report and was on hand to answer Members queries.

Ms Watson advised that meetings had been held in June, July and September and the report detailed the presentations received at these meetings. An update was also provided on the progress made in moving the VCS Alliance to be independent of the Council as a Charity or Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

In response to Councillor Burrell, Ms Watson advised that the situation with foodbanks was being monitored and it would be an issue if people could not afford to donate to the foodbanks.

The Committee having discussed the report, the Chairman thanked Ms Watson for her attendance, it was:-

5. RESOLVED that the update be received and noted.

Gentoo Update

Gentoo submitted a report (copy circulated) providing an update on their work from March 2022 to June 2022.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Beth Wilkie, Head of Neighbourhoods, briefed the Committee on Neighbourhood Services and the proposed Investment Plan programme for Houghton and Hetton during 2022/23.

Councillor Heron commented that she had seen mention of developing community allotments; she advised that there were two in the Coalfield area in the Hetton and Houghton Wards.

Councillor Thornton asked whether information could be provided relating to when the Bread and Butter Thing would be available. Ms Wilkie agreed to provide this information.

Councillor Scott welcomed the work done on the Peabody report to ensure that such failings could not happen here. He also referred to the cost of living crisis and that there was a need to ensure that homes were up to standard; there were houses in the area which only had single glazed windows. Ms Wilkie advised that there was a programme of window replacements and that if there were specific residents who needed upgrades doing then Members could contact her with the details.

The Chair queried whether the Bread and Butter Thing was open only to gentoo residents or to all. Ms Wilkie advised that she would need to check but she believed that it was a referral system; Ms Hopper added that there had been a meeting with Gentoo on this and that the Council was looking to get involved, there was a need to expand the project.

The Committee having discussed the report and the Chairman having thanked Ms Wilkie for her attendance it was:-

6. RESOLVED that the above information 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 updated position on progress in relation to allocating Area Committee Neighbourhood Funding, Neighbourhood Investment Plan Capital Programme 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 Area Committee Neighbourhood Fund 2022/2023 as set out in paragraph 2.1, the Neighbourhood Investment Capital Programme 2020 – 2023 in paragraph 3.1 and the Community Chest approvals in paragraph 4.1.

Ms Hopper briefed the Committee on the applications for funding set out in paragraphs 2.3 and 2.4 explaining the budgetary implications set out in paragraph 2.5. She also referred Members to paragraph 3.4 detailing two applications for funding from the Neighbourhood Investment Capital Programme.

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

7. RESOLVED that:-

- (a) the financial statements set out in sections 2.1, 3.1 and 4.1, be noted;
- (b) the two Neighbourhood Fund application from the 2022/23 budget set out in Section 2.3 and at Annex 1, be approved;
- (c) Alignment of £200,000 Neighbourhood Fund (£50,000 per ward) to address the priority 'Support and Activities for Children and Young People' set out in Section 4 be approved;
- (d) the two Neighbourhood Investment Capital Programme applications set out in 3.4 and Annex 4, be approved; and

- (e) the Community Chest approvals supported from 2022/2023, as detailed in Annex 3, be noted.

Current Planning Applications (Coalfields Area)

A schedule (copy circulated) of current planning applications lodged during the period 1st August and 31st August, 2022 was submitted for Members' information only.

(For copy schedule – see original minutes).

8. RESOLVED that the schedule be received and noted.

Before closing the meeting, the Chairman thanked Members and Officers for their attendance and participation at the meeting.

(Signed) J. BLACKBURN,
Chairman.