

At a meeting of the EAST SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE, SUNDERLAND on MONDAY, 7TH APRIL, 2008 at 5.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Wares in the Chair

Councillor P. Dixon, M. Forbes, Paul Maddison, Peter Maddison, O'Connor and Wood.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Bainbridge and M. Smith.

Minutes of the last meeting held on 4th February, 2008

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 4th February, 2008 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Declarations of Interest

Item 13 - Strategic Initiatives Budget – Regeneration Issues Report

Councillor P. Dixon declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the report as a Governor of Diamond Hall Primary School and left the meeting during consideration of the matter.

Councillor Wood declared a personal and prejudicial interest as a Member of the Management Committee of FUSHIA and left the meeting during consideration of the item.

Item 14 - Strategic Initiatives Budget – 2008/2009 Ward Based Community Chest

Councillor Wood declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the report as a Member of the Management Committee of FUSHIA and a Governor of St. Aidan's School and left the meeting during consideration of the items.

Presentation from Northumbria Police on Crime Rates Relating to the East Sunderland Area

Inspector Steve Tallentine and Sergeant Keith Goldsmith briefed Members on the annual performance figures for 2007.

With regard to the area including the Millfield and St. Michael's Wards, Members were informed that all crime had decreased by 13.8%. This equated to 891 fewer crimes. Detection rates had increased to 46.2%.

Criminal damage had reduced by 8.7% (100 fewer crimes), violent crime by 17.7% (250 fewer crimes), vehicle crime by 19.8% (157 fewer crimes), burglary from dwellings by 33.7% (99 fewer crimes) and burglary from other than dwellings by 9.6% (23 fewer crimes).

The overall reductions for the area were reflected within the Wards with the exception of vehicle crime which showed a slight increase in Millfield.

With regard to the area including Hendon and Ryhope, there was a reduction in all crime of 34%. This equated to 403 fewer crimes. The detection rate was running at 17.9%. At ward level, all crime had reduced by 24% and 23% in Hendon and Ryhope respectively.

Criminal damage had decreased overall by 15%, and by 15.1% in Hendon and 38.9% in Ryhope.

Violent crime had reduced by 39% overall and by 11.5% in Hendon and 2.6% in Ryhope.

Vehicle crime had reduced by 34.8% overall and by 34.35% in Hendon and 31.82% in Ryhope.

Burglary from dwellings had decreased by 45.1% overall and by 44.41% in Hendon and 51.51% in Ryhope. Burglary from other than dwellings had reduced overall by 17.8% and by 20% in Hendon and 42.55% in Ryhope.

The only slight exception to the downward trend concerned robbery which had increased by 15.4% overall. This however equated to only 3 more crimes. In both Hendon and Ryhope robbery had decreased by 12.12% and 85.71% respectively.

With regard to anti-social behaviour there were two cases pending regarding Off Licences selling alcohol to minors. There were also 2 cases in respect of adults buying alcohol for children.

Incidents of racist crime had reduced by 33% overall.

Councillor Wood expressed his concern regarding speeding cars on Leechmere Road and in particular the stretch at the top of Strawberry Bank and in the vicinity of the Hollymere public house. This was in contrast to behaviour on Springwell Road where the 30 mph speed limit was generally respected. Inspector Tallentine advised that he would feed Councillor Wood's concerns to the relevant person.

In response to enquiries raised by Members, Nicol Trueman, Area Regeneration Officer advised that the figures contained in the Local Area Plan (item 10) were provided by the Sunderland Partnership and were not as up to date as those presented to the meeting by Inspector Tallentine and Sergeant Goldsmith.

2. RESOLVED that the presentation on crime statistics relating to the East Sunderland Area be received and noted.

Minutes of the Local Multi-Agency Problem Solving Groups (LMAPs)

The Local Multi-Agency Problem Solving Group submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with minutes of their meeting held on Tuesday, 12th February, 2008 for Hendon, Ryhope and Grangetown Wards and Thursday, 14th February, 2008 for St. Michael's and Millfield Wards.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

3. RESOLVED that the minutes be received and noted.

Housing and Council Tax Benefit Progress Report

The City Treasurer submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Members with details of the performance of the Benefits Section in the processing of new claims in accordance with the Best Value Performance Indicator (BVPI78a) for the period 1st April, 2007 to 31st January, 2008.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Steve Atkinson, Benefits Manager presented the report advising that publicity to encourage the take up of benefit was circulated with Council Tax bills and advertisements had been placed on the side of local buses. In addition an event had been held in the Bridges Shopping Centre. In conclusion, Mr. Atkinson briefed Members on the introduction of Local Housing Allowance (LHA).

Councillor O'Connor stated that he had noticed the event in the Bridges and had received compliments from constituents on the help and advice provided by the Benefits Staff at the event.

4. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Sunderland's 15 Year Commissioning Framework for Adult Social Care – Presentation by the Director of Health, Housing and Adult Services

Neil Revely, Director of Health, Housing and Adult Services provided the Committee with a comprehensive presentation on Sunderland's draft 15 year Commissioning Framework for Adult Social Care, highlighting the case for change, the challenges to be faced and mechanisms for its delivery.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Mr. Revely advised the Committee that the strategy set out a comprehensive vision and approach to deliver services to meet the projected changing needs of Sunderland's population over the next 15 years.

Users of Social Care had advised that they wanted personalised services that met their individual needs, supported a healthier independent life, had a greater focus on prevention and better support for those with high level needs.

Mr. Revely advised that the framework was being shared with a range of stakeholders including Area Committees as part of the consultation process.

The vision for the framework was outlined as follows:-

- Universal services will be developed to meet needs of individuals and communities;
- Every citizen will have access to good quality accommodation of their choice;
- Information and services will be provided locally by well-trained staff;
- Individuals will have control over decisions which affect them; and
- Investment and productivity will meet the demands and deliver better outcomes.

The framework would have five key aims:-

- to empower people to identify, choose and control the support or care they need to live as they want;
- for every person to have the support to live independently in their own home and community;
- to work with partners to improve access to services and opportunities for all sections of the community, in order that people lead fulfilling lives;
- to enable people to access a range of early and preventative interventions that prevent or delay decreasing independence; and

- to deliver outcome-based commissioning that provides people with the services they value most, alongside ensuring that they are cost effective.

Turning the 15 year vision into reality would be achieved through the development of a series of 3 year delivery plans, setting out projects that will meet the aims and linking the framework to the Local Area Agreement planning cycle.

Mr. Revely stated that the final draft Framework would be submitted to Cabinet for approval later that month.

Councillor M. Forbes stated that the plans sounded as if they would be labour intensive and asked whether there was a workforce available to deliver them. In addition she referred to the anticipated increase in dementia sufferers and asked if this would prove difficult for the Council to address.

Mr. Revely replied that Sunderland had an ageing population with fewer people in the workforce. There was a need to ensure there were enough people to provide personal intervention. The telecare service was a good example. It enabled the service to intervene only where necessary. It would also free up resources to ensure that befriending services from the voluntary sector were available. The 15 year framework was ambitious but its division into 3 year delivery plans would allow it to be taken forward, monitored, tested and adjusted where necessary. Work was ongoing with TPCT to ensure the Council took a stronger commissioning role with regard to mental health services.

Councillor Wood stated that the Council had a long history of providing good dependable services. He asked how far Mr. Revely would go with regard to commissioning and what would Council services look like in 15 years time.

Mr. Revely replied that the Government wanted to provide people with an individual budget as a direct payment to allow individuals to take control of their own lives. Joint specialist services would continue to be run publicly by the TPCT and the Council. The extent of commissioning would depend on how far the Government pursued the provision of direct payments. There was currently no provision in the legislation which allowed the Health Service to make direct payments.

Councillor Wood asked that if he was currently in receipt of a home care/home support service from the Council, would there be any compulsion under the new framework to switch to a private provider. Mr. Revely confirmed that there would not.

In response to a request from the Chairman, Mr. Revely confirmed that he would circulate a copy of the slides of his presentation together with a copy of the draft 15 year Framework to all Members of the Committee.

5. RESOLVED that the report and presentation be received and noted.

Northern Children's Book Festival

The Director of Community and Cultural Services submitted a report (copy circulated) which informed Members of the Northern Children's Book Festival which was held from 5th to 17th November, 2007.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

6. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Attainment Outcomes for School Children Living in Sunderland East in 2007

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with a summary of National Curriculum assessments for primary and secondary school children living in Sunderland East.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Judith Hay, Head of Positive Contribution and Economic Well-Being presented the report and advised that as this was not her specialist area, if there were any points of detail in Members questions that she was unable to address she would ensure that Members received a written reply.

Accordingly it was:-

7. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the report be received and noted; and
- (ii) written answers be circulated to all Members of the Committee in respect of the following questions:-
 - do the figures include children in private education?
 - is Sunderland doing well in achieving the national average?
 - is the East Sunderland area above or below the national average.
 - had any reasons been identified for the decrease in 5 or more A to Cs and 5 or more A to Cs including English and Maths and what was being done to address the matter.

Development of Local Area Plans

The Director of Development and Regeneration submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Members with the East Area Profile as a precursor to identifying priorities that would form the Local Area Plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Nicol Trueman, Area Regeneration Officer, presented the report advising that the Area Plan had previously been brought to the Committee in September 2007 for review and comment. It was felt that it was important to bring the document back to the Committee to show where revisions had been made based on its comments and feedback.

The Plan had been realigned to reflect the five key themes in the Sunderland Strategy and would be subject to further change based on the availability of updated information.

In conclusion Ms. Trueman advised that to ensure Members were kept up to date with developments, it was proposed that the Local Area Plan became a regular item on the Committee's agenda.

Councillor M. Forbes noted that according to the Plan, the East Area was below the Sunderland average in respect of owner occupation and Gentoo tenancies she asked did this mean that the East Area was above the Sunderland average for residents in the private rented sector?

Ms. Trueman advised that she would take advice on the matter and provide the Committee with a written answer.

8. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

Winter Festival 2007

The Director of Community and Cultural Services submitted a report (copy circulated) which informed Members of the success of the Winter Festival held throughout the City from 29th November, 2007 to 6th January, 2008.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Paul Young, Centre Operations Manager presented the report on behalf of an absent colleague. He advised that it was not his area of expertise but he would ensure Members received a written response to questions he could not answer.

Councillor O'Connor asked whether the ice rink outside the old Fire Station had proved successful. Mr. Young replied that anecdotal evidence suggested that it had attracted a younger user group than at Mowbray Park. He would check with colleagues and report back.

Councillor Wood stated that the term 'Winter Festival' should be replaced with 'Christmas Festival'. He advised that Members of the Environmental and Planning Review Committee had undertaken a walking tour of the City Centre and the consensus among Members was that Market Square would provide the best location for the ice rink.

Councillor M. Forbes having asked whether Mowbray Park would no longer be considered as a venue for the rink, it was:-

9. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the report be received and noted;
- (ii) Members receive written answers to the questions raised.

Regeneration Issues Report Feedback on Projects Funded Through Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB)

The Director of Development and Regeneration submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided the Committee with information on the following project which it had previously funded through its SIB allocation:-

- 'Substance Misuse Support Worker' – Blue Watch Centre

Nicol Trueman, Area Regeneration Officer, introduced Anna Horn in respect of the project who proceeded to provide Members with a commentary on her feedback report and answered questions thereon.

The Chairman having thanked Ms. Horn for her presentation, it was:-

10. RESOLVED that the feedback report be received and noted.

Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) : Regeneration Issues Report

The Director of Development and Regeneration submitted a report (copy circulated) on the proposed allocations of Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) funding to support the following initiatives of benefit to the area:-

- (i) £15,320 as a contribution towards the delivery of a Carers Support Group in Grangetown;
- (ii) £9,000 as a contribution towards the development of Meadow Park Football Club;
- (iii) £4,000 as a contribution to support Diamond Hall Primary School's Gap Funding Project for Parent/Community Worker; and
- (iv) £7,500 as a contribution to the East Sunderland Area Events Budget.

In addition the Committee was requested to formally endorse the approval of projects previously considered, subject to budget approval for the 2008/09 budget as detailed in Annex 1 to the report and to extend the European Package Development Phase 2 project until December 2008 as detailed in Annex 3.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Nicol Trueman, Area Regeneration Officer, presented the report and advised that should the Committee endorse the previously considered projects together with the four requests before tonight's Committee it would leave a balance of £147,618 in the 2008/09 budget.

Ms. Trueman provided Members with a summary of the applications and introduced Karyn Jackson in respect of the Carers Support Group, Colin Wilson and Owen Haley from Sunderland Ryhope AFC and Kim Bennett from Diamond Hall Junior School who were present to address any comments and questions from Members.

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

11. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) approval be given to the allocation of Strategic Initiatives Budget Funding of:-
 - £15,320 as a contribution to FUSHIA's Carers Support Group Project;
 - £9,000 as a contribution to Sunderland Ryhope AFC's development of Meadow Park Football Club Project;
 - £4,000 as a contribution to Diamond Hall Junior School's Parent/Community Worker Project;
 - £7,500 as a contribution to the East Sunderland Area Events Budget.
- (ii) approval be given to the extension of the European Package Development Phase 2 project until 31st December, 2008; and
- (iii) approval be given to the formal endorsement of projects previously considered subject to budget approval from the 2008/09 budget as detailed in Annex 1.

Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) 2008/09 Ward-Based Community Chest

The Director of Development and Regeneration submitted a report (copy circulated) on 18 projects recommended for support from the 2008/09 Community Chest Scheme in respect of the Hendon, Millfield, Ryhope and St. Michael's Wards.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

12. RESOLVED that approval be given to the 18 projects recommended for support from the 2008/09 Community Chest Budget with a total value of £10,749 as detailed in Annex 1 of the report.

Community Chest – Return of Funding for Unclaimed Approvals from Previous Years Community Chest

The Director of Development and Regeneration submitted a report (copy circulated) which sought agreement to the return of unclaimed Community Chest approvals from 2005/2006 and the carry forward of unallocated Community Chest budget from 2007/2008 into 2008/2009.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

13. RESOLVED that approval be given to the return of unclaimed Community Chest approvals from 2005/2006 and the carry forward of unallocated Community Chest budget from 2007/2008 into 2008/2009 as detailed below:-

Ward	Unclaimed 2005/2006	Uncommitted 2007/2008	Total
Hendon	1,500	0	1,500
Millfield	473	0	473
Ryhope	1,325	4,070	5,395
St. Michael's	-	4,342	4,342
Totals	3,298	8,412	11,710

(Signed) D.R. WARES,
Chairman.