

**At a meeting of the WASHINGTON AREA COMMITTEE held at the WASHINGTON MILLENNIUM CENTRE on THURSDAY 16<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2017 at 6.00 p.m.**

**Present:-**

Councillor Williams in the Chair

Councillors Fletcher, Farthing, Kelly, Lauchlan, Middleton, F. Miller, Scaplehorn, D. Snowdon, D.E. Snowdon, Taylor, D. Trueman, H. Trueman and P. Walker.

|                 |   |                                |
|-----------------|---|--------------------------------|
| Louise Butler   | - | Chief Executives               |
| Andrew Old      | - | Place Services                 |
| Paul Wood       | - | Corporate Services Directorate |
| Colin McCartney | - | Gentoo                         |
| Craig Martin    | - | Foundation of Light            |
| Jacqui Reeves   | - | VCS Representative             |

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor G. Miller and Acting Inspector Marshall.

**Declarations of Interest**

People Board Progress Report

Councillors David Snowdon and Diane Snowdon made open declarations in relation to the Healthy Lifestyles update as they were trustees on the Millennium Centre Board.

Councillor David Snowdon made an open declaration in relation to the Adult Social Care and Inclusion (Washington Individual Support Project) as he was an employee of SHARP who was delivering the project but he had no involvement in the project.

Financial Statements and Proposals for further allocation of Resources

Councillor David Snowdon made an open declaration with regards to the Time to Care Project as he delivered a course for and was also a volunteer for Washington Mind.

## **Minutes of the last meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> June, 2017 and the extraordinary meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> August, 2017**

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 15<sup>th</sup> June, 2017 and the extraordinary meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> August, 2017(copies circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

### **Partner Agency Reports**

#### **(a) Washington Area Community Voluntary Sector**

The Washington Area Community Voluntary Sector Network submitted a report (copy circulated) to inform the Committee of activity, progress, issues and concerns of the sector.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Jacqui Reeves, VCS Representative presented the report and advised that they continued to meet as a Network but there had been no meeting in November as they had held the CLLD Workshop instead which had raised a great deal of interest in partnership working.

In response to Councillor Kelly's enquiry if the workshop had been complicated and if they were confident the support mechanisms were in place, Ms Reeves advised that she felt the Workshop had been most beneficial what with the setting up of the website and the on-going support therefore it was really positive.

2. RESOLVED that Members noted the contents of the report and considered the opportunities and issues raised by the Washington ACVSN.

#### **(b) TWFRS**

Mark Witherspoon, TWFRS was unable to attend the meeting therefore he had submitted a report to the Committee to update Members in his absence.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

The Chairman commented that it was interesting to see the results from Bonfire Night.

Colin McCartney, Gentoo advised that they had experienced more issues this year than previously.

Andrew Old, Area Response Manager commented that it had been the worst year for attacks upon the Fire Brigade across the City.

Councillor Scaplehorn suggested that this could be related to the lack of Community Police on the streets.

The Chairman commented that the Fire Authority may need to visit more of our schools to raise awareness.

3. RESOLVED that the comments be noted

**(c) Police Report**

The Chairman advised that due to the unavailability of Acting Inspector Marshall, a written report had been provided (copies circulated) rather than the verbal report which had been expected.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Fletcher referred to the report and the mention of busy areas within Washington, the report did not state which areas and it would have been beneficial for an officer to be in attendance to clarify such details.

Councillor H. Trueman commented that at a recent Police and Crime Commissioners meeting it had been stated that crime had risen by over 25% but some of this was due to the way in which crime was now reported and the perceptions of what crime was. Councillor Trueman commented that it was believed there had been a 4% actual rise in crime and this was violent crime.

Councillor H. Trueman also suggested that it would be beneficial for an Officer from the Police to be in attendance to provide a breakdown of the figures.

Councillor D. E Snowdon commented that it may be worth organising a meeting with the Acting Inspector for Members to put their concerns across.

Councillor Farthing referred to the figures relating to Domestic Abuse and commented that this was an issue that needed to be given consideration.

Councillor Scaplehorn referred to the issues over reporting, and advised that this may be down to the fact the 101 number had not been working.

Councillor Taylor suggested that the Police and Councillor meetings be reinstated. Louise Butler, Area Co-ordinator advised that she would look into arranging this.

Councillor Kelly commented that he was happy for the Committee to receive reports alternatively from the Fire and Police Authorities but they needed to be quality, detailed reports when they were submitted.

Councillor Scaplehorn raised concerns over the lack of a response received lately from the Police with regards to traffic issues raised by residents. Ms Butler advised that she would liaise with Police for clarification.

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

### **People Board Progress Report**

The Chair of the People Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update on the 2017/18 work plan, including SIB funded projects.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Lauchlan introduced the report and drew Members attention to the work plan for 2017/18 and gave a summary of the key areas of influence and achievements of the Board up to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017.

With regards to the Time to Care Project, Ms Butler advised that Public Health had agreed to match funding with Washington Mind and a working group would be set up to consider independent evaluation.

5. RESOLVED that Members:-

- (i) Considered the progress and performance update with regard to the Washington Area People Board's Work Plan for 2017/18 as detailed in Item 3 Annex 1 of the report;
- (ii) Considered and agreed the People Board Recommendations.

### **Place Board Progress Report**

The Chair of the Place Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update on the 2017/18 work plan, including SIB funded projects.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor F. Miller introduced the report and drew Members attention to the work plan for 2017/18 and gave a summary of the key areas of influence and achievements of the Board up to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017.

Members having considered the report, it was:-

6. RESOLVED that Members:-

- a. Considered the progress and performance update with regard to the Washington Area Place Board's Work Plan for 2017/18 as detailed in Item 4 Annex 1 of the report

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

The Head of Area Arrangements, Scrutiny and Member Support Service submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Members with the financial statements as an update on the progress in allocating SIB and Community Chest and which presented proposals for further funding requests.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

In relation to paragraph 3.2 of the report and the Time to Care Project, Councillor Kelly requested that further updates be reported on how the project was working.

With regards to paragraph 3.3 and the Volunteer and Community Support Project, Councillor Farthing commented that she was disappointed over the lack of continuity and that there needed to be a contingency plan until a more permanent solution was in place so Members could be assured on how volunteers were to be supported going forward.

Ms Butler advised that she had agreed to work together with the Trust to provide interim support. Ms Butler and Mr Rostron would meet regularly and Ms Butler would be the main point of contact and attend meetings together with the Community Development Lead.

The Committee agreed with the officer recommendation to reject the proposal.

In relation to paragraph 4.1 and the Events Programme for 2018, Ms Butler advised that a budget of £68,000 had been recommended with a working group to be established to look at funding levels for the future.

Ms Butler circulated a supplementary document to the Committee which detailed changes to the Heritage Action Plan Project Application as included in the original papers (Item 5 Annex 3) (see original minutes for copy).

Councillor Kelly requested that balances of the Walk and Talks projects be included in future financial updates and Place Boards for consideration.

Members having fully considered the report, it was:-

### **7. RESOLVED that the Committee:-**

- a. Noted the financial statement set out in the report;
- b. Considered and approved the officer recommendation to reject the application for the Volunteer and Community Support Project and allow People Board to revisit and consider the project brief.
- c. Considered and approved the return of £25,000 SIB 2017/18 previously aligned to the Health and Heritage Project;
- d. Considered and approved £13,183 SIB 2017/18 Budget to Washington MIND to extend the Time to Care Project;

- e. Considered and approved £68,000 SIB 2017/18 Budget and the Project Brief for the Washington Events 2018 Programme as detailed in Annex 2 of the report;
- f. Considered and approved £5,500 SIB 2017/18 Budget to the Washington Trust for the Washington Heritage Action Plan as detailed in Annex 3 of the report;
- g. Considered and approved £10,000 SIB 2017/18 Budget to deliver the VCS Tall Ships Events and Activities Programme Small Grants Scheme and as detailed in Annex 4 of the report;
- h. Noted the Community Chest balances as detailed in Annex 5 of the report

### **Planning Applications – For Information Only**

Current Planning Applications relating to the Washington Area for the period 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2017 to 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2017 were submitted for Members information only (copy circulated).

(For copy report – see original minutes)

- 8. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting

(Signed) L. WILLIAMS,  
Chairman.