

**At a meeting of the EAST SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE on MONDAY, 13<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2010 at 5.30 p.m.**

**Present:-**

Councillor Mordey in the Chair

Councillors Emerson, Fairs, E. Gibson, Maddison, Vardy and Wood.

**Also Present:-**

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| John Alison       | - Group Manager, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service                     |
| Kath Butchert     | - Youth Development Group Manager, Sunderland City Council                 |
| Sgt Lee Butler    | - NPT East Policing Team, Northumbria Police                               |
| Chris Campbell    | - School Improvement Officer, Children's Services, Sunderland City Council |
| Hazel Clark       | - East Area Network Representative   |
| Nigel Cummings    | - Scrutiny Officer, Sunderland City Council                                |
| Clive Greenwood   | - Senior Planner, Sunderland City Council                                  |
| Sgt Mick Hall     | - City Central Neighbourhood Team, Northumbria Police                      |
| Neil Harrison     | - Watch Manager, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service                     |
| Paula Hunt        | - VCS Network Representative   |
| Janet Johnson     | - Deputy Chief Executive, Sunderland City Council                          |
| Carol Lewis       | - Play Pathfinder Manager, Sunderland City Council                         |
| Vivienne Metcalfe | - Area Community Co-ordinator, Sunderland City Council                     |
| Jon McKeivitt     | - Back on the Map, Director of Operations                                  |
| Trina Murphy      | - Business Development Manager, City Services, Sunderland City Council     |
| Jane O'Neill      | - Reporter, Sunderland Echo  |
| Allison Patterson | - Area Co-ordination Manager, Sunderland City Council                      |
| James Procops     | - Member of the Public   |
| Julie Raine       | - Director of Education, City of Sunderland College                        |
| Christine Tilley  | - Community Democratic Services Team Leader, Sunderland City Council       |
| Nicole Trueman    | - Area Officer, Sunderland City Council                                    |
| Jeremy Wicking    | - Media Officer, Sunderland City Council                                   |

## **Chairman's Welcome**

Councillor Mordey, Vice-Chairman of the Area Committee welcomed everyone to the meeting and informed them that he would be Chairing the meeting as Councillor Ball would not be attending that evening due to illness. She was however recovering well and should be back in the near future.

Councillor Mordey highlighted the need for everyone present to sign the attendance sheet in order for their presence to be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

## **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Ball, P. Dixon, Errington, M. Forbes, Kay, McClennan, T. Martin and O'Connor, together with Chris Alexander, Head of Culture and Tourism and Dave Curtis, Area Network representative.

## **Declarations of Interest**

Item 3 – Community Action: Reviewing Progress and Agreeing Next Steps – Annex 2b – Community Chest

Councillor Mordey declared a personal interest in the application from the Royal British Legion as a Member of the Club.

## **Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2010**

It was noted that apologies from Paula Hunt and Hazel Clark, VCS Network representatives had not been included in the minutes of the last meeting.

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2010 be confirmed and signed as a correct record subject to the inclusion of the apologies from Paula Hunt and Hazel Clark accordingly.

## **Community Action in Sunderland East: Identifying New Issues and Agreeing Actions (2010/11 Work Plan)**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided information on the progress made in relation to its Work Plan and the priorities identified by the Area Committee for 2010/11.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Nicole Trueman, Area Officer presented the report and advised that to ensure the Area Committee was kept up to date with current events and developments in its neighbourhoods, she would monitor the key decisions made by the Cabinet via the Forward Plan and would consider whether future decisions would affect the East Area Committee's work plan. When this was considered to be the case, information would be included in an issues log and reported to the Committee, together with proposed next steps for the Committee to consider. A similar arrangement would take place with regard to decisions made under Delegated Powers.

Ms. Trueman reported that a new issue had been identified in relation to planning for open space, sport and recreation in that Officers of the Council's Planning Policy Team would like the Committee to consider the opportunity for Councillors, Officers, Partners and Residents to work collectively to refresh the green space survey from 2002.

Mr. Clive Greenwood, Senior Planner, advised the Committee that the proposal to refresh the green space survey would involve hosting a workshop inviting representatives along to identify spaces in the East which match the planning policy guidelines for open spaces. After the workshop each recognised open space would then be assessed against the recommended criteria to assess the value of area/land to the community and an overall report presented to the Committee.

In response to an enquiry, Mr. Greenwood confirmed that maps would show where there were restrictions as to the usage of the land.

Ms. Vivienne Metcalfe, Area Community Co-ordinator advised the Committee that an issue had been raised at a recent Community Network meeting when the issues of green space had been discussed, concerning vacant land at Grangetown School. Access to the land in question was not available as the gates were kept locked and were only opened when the Parks Department needed to cut the grass. A request had been received to leave the gates open so that the space could be used by the community.

The Chairman advised that he would, together with the Ward Councillors, take the matter up with the Parks Department and let the Area Network know the outcome of the discussions in due course.

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

2. RESOLVED that approval be given to:-
  - (i) the recommended next steps to refer the key decisions referenced in Annex 1 to the report that are being considered by Cabinet during September 2010 and in October 2010 to the Employment and Enterprise Task and Finish Group for consideration; and
  - (ii) implement a two stage approach to refresh the Green Space Topic paper, which forms part of the Local Development Framework as follows:-

- Stage One; host a workshop with key stakeholders to identify new open spaces not shown on the survey/large detailed maps, as laid out in the planning and policy guidance; Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation 2002, see Section Three, across the East Sunderland Area during October 2010.
- Stage Two; complete a participatory appraisal for each open space to assess the open space against the recommended criteria to measure the value of area/land to the community by December 2010.

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

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which:-

- (i) provided an update on outstanding issues previously identified through the 2009/10 Work Plan with regards to progress or completion; and
- (ii) sought approval to recommendations in relation to the allocation of Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB), Strategic Investment Plan funding (SIP) and Community Chest funding.

(For copy reports – see original minutes).

Ms. Nicole Trueman, Area Officer introduced the report and invited Mr. John Alison and Mr. Neil Harrison from the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service to present an evaluation report on Operation Charlie.

The Officers advised that an Arson Task and Finish Group had been established and Operation Charlie had been undertaken in the Millfield area of East Sunderland in consultation with the Police over the months of December and January and was still going. Research was available to show that Sunderland had a disproportionately high number of secondary fires, 41% of which took place in the East Sunderland area and predominantly in the Hendon and Millfield Wards. The Officers answered questions raised by Members in relation to Operation Charlie.

Ms. Trueman highlighted the proposal to submit an application for funding for £50,000 from the SIB budget for an Arson Worker for the East Area with the aim of reducing arson attacks, for example secondary fires to wheelie bins, a recommendation which had resulted from the Task and Finish work undertaken.

Ms. Trueman referred the Committee to paragraph 3.3 of the report concerning the work undertaken in relation to the Committee's priority to increase employment and enterprise opportunities. She highlighted to the Committee that a Task and Finish Group had been established and nominations as detailed in the report had been received with the first meeting of the Group having taken place on 5<sup>th</sup> August, 2010. Ms. Trueman advised that an Action List had been agreed and proposals would come forward to the next meeting of the Committee on 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2010 for consideration.

Ms. Trueman briefed the Committee on the work undertaken in relation to the Committee's priority to reduce anti-social behaviour. She advised that East Area elected Members and Officers of Northumbria Police had discussed five outlined funding proposals aimed at making a significant impact to reduce anti-social behaviour and increase confidence and trust levels in East Sunderland at a meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> August, 2010. Full details of the five funding proposals in relation to (i) the Bridges Shopping Centre; (ii) Mowbray Park/Sunniside Gardens; (iii) taxi marshalling; (iv) Ryhope, Grangetown and Hendon areas, and (v) Doxford area were included in the report at paragraph 3.4.

Ms. Kath Butchert, Youth Development Group Manager proceeded to brief the Committee on the progress made in relation to the Youth Work Strategy and highlighted the proposal to establish a Task and Finish Group to compile relevant information relating to contracted and non-contracted youth provision within East Sunderland for youths over 11 years old as detailed in Annex 1b to the report.

Members of the Committee considered the report and Councillors Emerson, Fairs, E. Gibson and Mordey together with Mr. Ritchy Duggan were nominated to serve on the Task and Finish Group. Ms. Trueman agreed to email all members of the Area Committee in order to afford the opportunity to serve on the Task and Finish Group to those Members who were not able to be present that evening and it was noted that Councillors Emerson and E. Gibson would stand down from the Task and Finish Group if there were any Councillors who wished to join the Group as they were already Members of the Employment and Enterprise Task and Finish Group.

Councillor Wood commented in relation to paragraph 3.2 of the report that he and Councillor Maddison had met with a youth worker from Blue Watch and a lack of venues for youth work in the St. Michael's Ward had been raised. Councillor Wood referred to the bullet point detailed under section 4.1 relating to encouraging cross area working, for example, youth providers in the West area working with providers in the East Area, where relevant and commented that this would help with regards to the lack of venues for youth work in certain Wards. Councillor Wood stated that he had been impressed with the mobile buses and welcomed this additional youth provision.

Ms. Carol Lewis, Play Pathfinder Manager, was invited to brief Members on the Play and Urban Games Strategy Review and in so doing referred the Committee to the report detailed at Annex 1c to the report. Ms. Lewis then referred the Committee to Appendix 2 of the report which provided details of the proposed new play area priorities for 2010-2012.

Members questioned Ms. Lewis on the investment available, the projected funding gap, what play facilities were proposed in the play areas and in relation to the preferred location for play development in the Hall Farm/Burdon Lane area.

Ms. Lewis advised that more detailed discussion and consultation would be carried out in relation to the proposals for the play areas identified as priority development opportunities, including consulting the Ward Members on the preferred location for play development in the Hall Farm/Burdon Lane area and as to what facilities to provide in the play areas.

Ms. Trueman highlighted the Financial Statement detailing all Community Chest, SIP and SIB approvals up to September 2010, as set out at Annex 2a to the report to the Committee.

Ms. Trueman referred Members to Annex 2b which provided details of 28 projects proposed for support from the 2010/11 Community Chest.

Ms. Trueman referred Members to Annex 2c detailing one application for SIP funding of £40,000 towards the restoration of a listed ship with the national historic ships register called M.V. Willadora. The second application the Committee was asked to consider was in respect of SIB funding of £35,250 to purchase five Vehicle Activated Signs to warn drivers of the existing speed limit if approaching speeds were high.

Members expressed their support for the two applications.

Consideration was given to the 28 proposals for support from the 2010/2011 Community Chest.

Councillor Vardy voiced his concerns in respect of the applications received in respect of Sunderland Schools Football Association and Church View Alternative Holistic Therapies. Councillor E. Gibson voiced her support for the two applications.

In view of the difference of opinion between the two Ward Members present for Doxford Ward the Chairman proposed that a decision on the applications be deferred pending a meeting between himself, the Ward Councillors and the Deputy Chief Executive.

Members of the Committee supported this course of action.

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

3. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the evaluation of the delivery of Operation Charlie be noted and that approval be given for an application for SIB funding for £50,000 for an Arson Worker in the East Area to be submitted to a future meeting of the Area Committee for consideration;
- (ii) the membership of the Employment and Enterprise Task and Finish Group as outlined in paragraph 3.3 of the report be endorsed and the update given be noted;

- (iii) approval be given to a collective amount of £57,823 from the SIB 2010/11 budget (subject to a full detailed application and appraisal) to deliver enhanced policing services across the East Area, including; The Bridges Shopping Centre and surrounding area during the Christmas period, enhanced patrols in Mowbray Park and Sunnyside Gardens, a Taxi Marshalling Scheme on a Monday night, extra patrols in Ryhope and Grangetown areas, and a targeted approach in dealing with identified areas of anti-social behaviour in the Doxford area between September 2010 and March 2011, all of which will deliver actions against the Area Committee's key priority to reduce anti-social behaviour and increase confidence and trust levels in the community;
- (iv) the progress report on the Youth Work Strategy be noted and that approval be given to establish a Task and Finish Group with the aim to compile relevant information relating to contracted and non-contracted youth provision within East Sunderland for youth over 11 years old. Councillors Emerson, Fairs, E. Gibson and Mordey to be appointed to serve on the Task and Finish Group together with Ritchy Duggan of the East Area VCS Network; the membership of the Task and Finish Group to be ratified at the next meeting of the Area Committee;
- (v) the Play and Urban Games Strategy Review be noted and a further report be submitted to the Committee on the play areas identified as priority development opportunities addressing the questions raised by Members and the recommended actions detailed in Appendix 2 to the report;
- (vi) the Financial Statement as set out in Annex 2a to the report be noted;
- (vii) approval be given to the allocation of SIP funding of £40,000 from the 2010/2011 budget as a contribution towards the M.V. Willadora Renovation Project, Sunderland Maritime Heritage subject to match funding being secured, or a guarantee that the project can be delivered on a smaller scale;
- (viii) approval be given to the allocation of SIB funding of £35,250 from the 2010/2011 budget for the purchase of 5 Vehicle Activated Signs; and
- (ix) approval be given to 26 proposals for support from the 2010/2011 Community Chest as detailed in Annex 2b to the report and to delegate authority to the Deputy Chief Executive in consultation with the Ward Members for Doxford Ward and the Vice-Chairman of the Area Committee to determine whether to approve 2 applications for support under Doxford Ward from Sunderland Schools Football Association and Church View Alternative Holistic Therapies pending further information and consideration in respect of the applications.

## **Influencing Practice, Policy and Strategy**

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) requesting Members to consider the draft Sunderland Partnership Volunteering Strategy and Action Plan, which was subject to consultation at that time and seeking their participation in the consultation process to ensure the Strategy would effectively address the volunteering needs of the East Area.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Vivienne Metcalfe, Area Community Co-ordinator referred the Committee to the extract from the draft document included as Annex 1 to the report and invited Members to engage in the consultation. She advised that the full document could be accessed at [www.sunderlandcompact.org.uk](http://www.sunderlandcompact.org.uk) with a deadline for views to be submitted by 17<sup>th</sup> September, 2010.

Councillor E. Gibson commented that the dozens of volunteers in the City should all be applauded for the vitally important contribution they made.

The Chairman endorsed the comments made by Councillor E. Gibson as Chairman of the Area Network meeting thanking the volunteers for all the work they were doing.

4. RESOLVED that the consultation process on the draft Sunderland Partnership Volunteering Strategy and Action Plan be noted.

The Committee noted that the next meeting of the Area Committee was to be held on Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2010 at 5.30 p.m. in Committee Room number 2 at the Civic Centre, Sunderland.

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

(Signed) M. MORDEY,  
Chairman.