

At a meeting of the WASHINGTON AREA COMMITTEE held at the WASHINGTON MILLENNIUM CENTRE on THURSDAY 16th MARCH, 2017 at 6.00 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Williams in the Chair

Councillors Fletcher, Kelly, Scaplehorn, D. Snowdon, D.E. Snowdon, Taylor, D. Trueman, H. Trueman and P. Walker.

Louise Butler	-	Chief Executives
Karon Purvis	-	Chief Executives
Michelle Daurat	-	Community Services
Paul Wood	-	Corporate Services Directorate
Colin McCartney	-	Gentoo
S. Armstrong	-	Groundwork North East
Ev Ripley-Day	-	Foundation of Light
John Rostron	-	VCS Representative
Bryan Beverley	-	VCS Representative

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Farthing, Lauchlan, Middleton, G. Miller and Ms Jacqui Reeves and Victoria French.

Declarations of Interest

Item 6 – Financial Statement and Proposals for further allocation of Resources

Councillors Fletcher, David Snowdon and P. Walker made open declarations on the application for SIB for the Washington Healthy Lifestyles Project as trustees of the Washington Millennium Centre and left the meeting during consideration of the application.

Minutes of the last meeting held on 15th December, 2016

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 15th December, 2016 (copy circulated) be confirmed and signed as a correct record subject to the amendment in the attendance on Page 1 to Mr Bryan Beverley.

The Tall Ship Races 2018

The Head of Events submitted a report (copy circulated) to present to Elected Members the options to consider in relation to community engagement as part of the Tall Ships Races event in 2018. The report provided information on how residents in the Washington Area could participate in, contribute to and benefit from the event.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Michelle Daurat, Tall Ships Project Director presented the report and advised of the opportunity that the Area Committee may wish to take up in sponsoring the young people of Washington (15 – 25 year olds) on the Sail Trainee Programme and also advised on the entertainment/cultural programme in the months leading up to and throughout the event.

In response to Councillor H. Truemans' query, Ms Daurat advised that they were working with Sunderland BID and there were currently six work streams on-going, Sunderland BID representatives were involved with two of those.

Councillor Kelly commented that there would be opportunities to promote the Tall Ships during this year's Washington Carnival and that he would be supportive of sponsoring young people on the programme and would speak to his ward colleagues on the matter.

In response to Councillor D. Snowdon's enquiry, Ms Daurat advised that there could be endless opportunities citywide and whilst a commitment had been made to provide for 100 of our young people, there could be many more than that if the possibility arose. Ms Daurat also advised that they were looking to go out to tender for an evaluation to be taken in relation to the economic impact/benefits and the legacy that the Tall Ships will have provided.

Councillor P. Walker enquired as to who would sit on the panel that decided which youngsters would be sponsored and the criteria that would be used. Ms Daurat advised that consideration was still to be given on this.

2. RESOLVED that the Area Committee refer the item to both People and Place Boards for further discussions on how and if Members wish to support:

- Sail Trainees
- Community Events
- Set the Sails project

Partner Agency Reports

(a) Report of the Washington Area Community Voluntary Sector Network

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)

Bryan Beverley, VCS Representative presented the report and commented that the relationship between the VCS and the Council/Area Committee was a positive one but there was a slight undercurrent of not feeling valued. Mr Beverley advised that the VCS acknowledged the position the Local Authority was in in terms of budget constraints and if the VCS had to reconfigure itself then that would take time and the reality would be that there were gaps that could not be filled.

Mr Beverley also advised that they had introduced sub groups to reflect the area committee priorities and had begun collaborative working/bidding with other VCSO's for external funding.

Councillor Kelly commented that he felt the goalposts kept moving in relation to Council funding and as Chair of the Washington Trust he stated that the changing of reporting mechanisms and such like could not continue as the VCS did not have the background team of staff to deal with the level of administration expected.

Councillor H. Trueman agreed that the Council needed to do more in working together with the VCS and to sing the praises of those volunteers as they were vital to the Local Authority.

The Chairman commented that perceptions were starting to change slightly and the work of the volunteers was becoming more valued but we certainly needed to get the message out as to how appreciated their service was.

Councillor Scaplehorn advised that having worked with the VCS for the past 30 years he felt that we could not survive without them and would like those present to know that they were very much appreciated but agreed that the service they provide should be recognised much more than they currently were.

Councillor Kelly commented that due to redundancies within certain parts of the sector, those that were left must not be burdened with bureaucracy.

John Rostron, VCS Representative commented that as the VCS and Area Committee moved forward, the Council had to understand that the sector did not have the resources and there needed to be an element of realism on what the sector could and couldn't provide. It may be that only a slight realignment on how things operated was needed as there was still a strong VCS in Washington and a lot to be proud of but it wasn't going to be easy moving forward.

The Chairman thanked the VCS representative for presenting the report and commented that it was important the message was put out on how important the sector was and how appreciated they were.

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

(b) Northumbria Police

Inspector Vicky Quinn submitted a report (copy circulated) on the crime and disorder figures for the period 1st December 2016 to 28th February, 2017.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Scaplehorn raised concerns on the increase in cases of serious sexual assault. Louise Butler, Area Co-ordinator advised that some of the cases were historical as people had become more confident in reporting crimes.

The Chairman requested if further clarification could be provided and the figures broken down to show which reports had been historical and which had been recent.

Councillor H. Trueman advised that the rise in crimes involving Alcohol had been given a special mention during a recent Police and Crime Commissioners meeting and that the reporting of crimes procedurally wasn't always fairly reflecting the situation.

There being no representative from Northumbria Police in attendance, it was:-

4. RESOLVED that the report from Northumbria Police be noted and Members comments and request for a breakdown of historical reports be passed on to Inspector Quinn.

People Board Progress Report

The Chair of the People Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update on the 2016/17 work plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

On behalf of the Chairman of the People Board, Councillor Williams introduced the report and drew Members attention to the work plan for 2016/17 and gave a summary of the key areas of influence and achievements of the Board up to 28th February 2017.

5. RESOLVED that Members:-

- (i) Considered the Washington Area People Boards Work Plan for 2016/17 and the update detailed in Paragraph 3.2 and attached as Item 4 Annex 1 to the report; and
- (ii) Supported the People Board recommendation to establish a Washington Support Partnership as detailed in the report.

Place Board Progress Report

The Chairman of the Place Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update on the 2016/17 Work Plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

The Chairman of the Place Board, Councillor F. Miller introduced the report and gave a summary of the key areas of influence and achievements of the Board up to 28th February, 2017.

In relation to the Local Services, Place Management, Councillor F. Miller advised that the delivery plan had now been compiled (copies circulated) and it was put before Members for approval.

Members agreed the 2017/18 Service Schedule and agreed to the establishment of a working group to manage small scale changes to Service standards, regularly review and share information and intelligence.

Members having considered the progress report, it was:-

6. RESOLVED that Members:-

- a. Considered the Performance update with regard to the Washington Area Place Board's Work Plan for 2016/17 attached as Item 5 Annex 1 of the report;
- b. the updates as presented in paragraph 3.2 of the report be received and noted;
- c. the schemes recommended in Item 5 Annex 2 of the report for inclusion in the Highway Maintenance Capital Programme 2017-2018 be confirmed
- d. agreed to extend the lifetime of the Neighbourhood Improvement Project to June 2017
- e. the Local Services Place Management 2017/18 Service Schedule was agreed along with the establishment of a working group to manage small scale changes to service standards and to regularly review and share information and intelligence.

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)

Members having fully considered the report, it was:-

7. RESOLVED that:-

- a. The financial statement balance be amended due to the Washington Healthy Lifestyles Project coming in under the approved budget. The amended balance of £82,476 was noted;
- b. Considered and approved the award of £97,000 from the 2016/17 SIB budget to the Washington Millennium Centre for the Washington Healthy Lifestyles Project as detailed in Annex 1 of the report;
- c. Considered and approved £10,000 from the Sib 2016/17 budget for the development of the Washington Support Partnership (Crisis Support) and Small Grants Scheme (under SIB procedures) as detailed under Item 4 of the agenda
- d. Considered and approved the alignment of £50,000 from the SIB 2016/17 budget for the Washington Health and Heritage Project
- e. Considered and approved £25,320 for the Healthy Places Healthy People Project as detailed in Annex 2 of the report
- f. the 11 Community Chest approvals as detailed in Annex 3 of the report be noted.

Planning Applications – For Information Only

Current Planning Applications relating to the Washington Area for the period 1st January, 2017 to 6th February, 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.