

At a meeting of the NORTH SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in SUNDERLAND YACHT CLUB, SUNDERLAND on MONDAY, 13th NOVEMBER, 2017 at 5.30p.m.

Present:-

Councillor D. Wilson in the Chair

Councillors Beck, Chequer, Curran, Davison, Foster, Francis, Howe, Jackson, Stewart and N. Wright.

Also in Attendance:-

Mr. Steve Graham	-	Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service
Ms. Vivienne Metcalfe	-	Area Community Development Lead (North), Sunderland City Council
Mr. David Mitchell	-	Youth Worker, SNYP
Ms. Allison Patterson	-	Area Co-ordinator (North), Sunderland City Council
Ms. Joanne Stewart	-	Principal Governance Services Officer, Sunderland City Council
Inspector Don Wade	-	Northumbria Police

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting, inviting introductions from those in attendance.

Councillor Paul Watson, Leader of the Council.

Prior to the commencement of the formal business, the Chairman paid tribute to Councillor Paul Watson who had recently passed away following a lengthy battle with cancer. Those present stood for a minutes silence as a mark of respect.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Bell, Elliott, Leadbitter and Macknight and on behalf of Ms. Wendy Cook, Ms. Ruth Oxley and Mr. Graham Wharton

Declarations of Interest

Item 5 – Strategic Initiative Budget (SIB) and Community Chest – Financial statement and proposals for further allocation of resources

Councillor N. Wright made an open declaration in the existing SIB project from the Friends of Thompson Park and Southwick Raising Aspirations Partnership Project as a Member of the Friends of Thompson Park Group and took no part in the consideration of the change to the project lead for the existing Improvements Project.

Councillors Beck, Francis and Howe made open declarations in the application for the SIB funding for refurbishments to Fulwell Community Library as Trustees on the Board of the Library and took no part in the consideration of the application.

Minutes of the last meeting held on 5th June, 2017

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 5th June, 2017 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Place Board Progress Report

The Chairman of the North Sunderland Area Place Board submitted a report (copy circulated) in respect of the above matter.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Foster presented the report which provided an update of the progress made against the current year's North Sunderland Area Place Board Work Plan.

Members of the Committee discussed the issues that had been raised previously at the Place Board around the Old North Pier and the inaccessibility of the area for pedestrians. Enforcement Officers had attended the site with Members and discussed the ongoing issues but since then no improvements had been made and the site was still of concern. Ms. Metcalfe advised that she would contact the relevant Officers to get an update on what the next steps were and feedback to Members directly.

Councillor Foster advised that he had spoken with the Lead Member, Councillor Mordey, in relation to the matter so that he was now aware of concerns Members had. Councillor Mordey had advised him that he would instruct Officers to ensure that the area was cleaned up and monitored.

Councillor Wright advised Members of the programmes and projects that had been undertaken in Thompson Park and advised that further courses would be offered in the future for residents. Councillor Wilson commented that the

Park should be added to a list of venues for the Committee to visit as part of their annual tour of the area in the spring of 2018.

Members having fully considered the report, it was:-

2. RESOLVED that the update on progress made against the North Sunderland Area Place Board Work Plan Priorities for 2017/18 be received and noted

People Board Progress Report

The Chairman of the North Sunderland Area People Board submitted a report (copy circulated) in respect of the above matter.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Davison presented the report which provided an update of the progress made against the current year's North Sunderland Area People Board Work Plan.

Councillor Foster referred to the plans for the football hub in the Downhill area as he had understood that some playing fields would remain open for use by the public but now it appeared that they would be enclosed within a fenced perimeter. Councillor Wilson suggested it may be beneficial to invite Ms. Victoria French along to a future meeting of the North Sunderland Area People Board to advise Members of the specific plans for the development.

Councillor Wright asked for an update in relation to the funding made available for young people from the North Sunderland area to take part as Sail Trainees in the Tall Ships Race 2018. Members were advised that conversations had been held with the voluntary and community sector to get them to have discussions with young people they came into contact with and encourage them to apply. They would continue to work to get the message out to as many groups as possible to ensure the opportunity was offered across a wide range of young people in the North Sunderland area.

Members were concerned that there was no evidence of how the young people were being engaged with and discussions they had had showed that very few young people were aware of the opportunity. Members asked that they be provided with figures of how many young people had been contacted and through which means Officers were looking to engage with young people to ensure that they were reaching as many young people as possible.

Councillor Davison and Ms. Patterson advised that they both attended the panel where applications were considered and could look to feedback Members concerns over how the opportunity to become a Sail Trainee was being advertised and ask what Members could be doing to help to get the message out to young people in the area and increase the number of applications being received.

Members having fully considered the report, it was:-

3. RESOLVED that:-

- The update of the progress made against the North Sunderland Area People Board Work Plan for 2017/18 be received and noted; and
- Members be provided with information on the actions taken to date to engage with and promote the Tall Ships 2018 programme to young people in the area and what the Area Committee could do to increase engagement and maximise take up of the opportunity.

Partner Agency Reports – North Sunderland Area Voluntary and Community Sector Network

The Voluntary and Community Sector Network submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update with regard to the Network.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

In the absence of an Area Network Representative, Ms. Metcalfe took the Committee through the report providing an update on the work being undertaken by the North Sunderland Area VCS Network.

Mr. Mitchell, SNYP referred to the issue of holiday hunger with the young people that he came into contact with through his role as a youth worker. He commented that he would encourage any holiday programmes that the Committee looked to support in the future had a meal element built into it.

Members discussed a project into holiday hunger that they had supported in the past through Area Committee funding but stated that they had been given the impression that the data results showed that it had not been a success. Members suggested that it may be an area for consideration in the future when considering school holiday projects.

Members having fully considered the report, it was:-

4. RESOLVED that the content of the report and the opportunities and issues raised by the North Sunderland Area Voluntary and Community Sector Network be received and noted.

Partner Agency Reports – Northumbria Police

Neighbourhood Inspector Don Wade of Northumbria Police gave an update to the Committee on the current position with regards to crime and anti-social behaviour data and of any on-going issues in the North Sunderland area.

Members were provided with a verbal summary of crime figures within each ward by Inspector Wade and advised of successful and forthcoming operations in relation to the North Sunderland Area of the city.

Members commented that they were delighted to see issues being dealt with in and around the North Sunderland Area and thanked Councillor Wade and his Officers for all of their help and asked that their appreciations be forwarded on.

Members thanked Inspector Wade for his informative report advising that it gave a real insight to the diversity of the work that Northumbria Police continued to carry out in the North Sunderland Area, and it was:-

5. RESOLVED that the update from the Northumbria Police be received and noted.

Partner Agency Reports – Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Services

Mr. Steven Graham, Station Manager, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Services provided a verbal update to the Committee, on performance in relation to the local indicators for the North Sunderland Area Committee area and of the proactive work Officers continued to undertake in the area.

Mr. Graham drew Members attention to the difficult circumstances Officers had had to work in over the bonfire night weekend; dealing with some of the most difficult situations and inappropriate behaviour from youths that they had ever experienced.

Councillor Wilson commented that he would like to meet with Mr. Graham and Inspector Wade to have discussions around the experiences they had faced and what, if anything, the Area Committee could do to help in the future.

Members thanked Mr. Graham for all of the work and support undertaken in the area and asked that this be conveyed to his team.

The Chairman having thanked Mr. Graham for his report, it was:-

6. RESOLVED that the update from the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service be received and noted.

Financial Statement and Proposals for Further Allocation of Resources

The Head of Member Support and Community Partnerships submitted a report (copy circulated) which requested Members to give consideration to a financial statement as an up to date position in relation to the allocation of Strategic Initiatives Budget and Community Chest and presented proposals for further funding requests.

(for copy report – see original minutes)

Ms. Metcalfe, Area Community Development Lead, presented the report drawing attention to the recommendations detailed within the report.

Having fully discussed the applications and Members having had any questions answered, it was:-

7. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the financial statements as set out in paragraphs 2.1 and 3.1 of the report be noted;
- (ii) approval be given to the allocation of £25,000 SIB funding from the budget for 2017/18 towards the Creating a Community Hub @ Dame Dorothy Primary School;
- (iii) approval be given to the allocation of £24,446 SIB funding from the budget for 2017/18 towards refurbishments in Fulwell Community Library;
- (iv) approval be given to the alignment of £30,000 SIB funding from the budget for 2017/2018 towards a CCTV proposal for the North Sunderland Area to be developed by North LMAPs and the North Sunderland Area Place Board;
- (v) approval be given to the change in project lead from Sunderland City Council Design Services to the Friends of Thompson Park and Southwick Partnership led by SNYP in order to continue to deliver improvements in the park;
- (vi) the proposal set out in relation to the Youth Work Project be received and noted;
- (vii) the amendment to the calculations of SIB funding remaining agreed at the June meeting of the North Sunderland Area Committee be received and noted;
- (viii) approval be given to the remainder of the budget of £7,272 from the Friends of Thompson Park and Southwick Raising Aspirations Partnership Project, which was allocated for security now be allocated towards further improvements such as cutting and pruning, lighting, signage and bollards installation; and
- (ix) the seventeen approvals for Community Chest supported from the 2017/18 budget as set out in Annex 2 to the report be noted.

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

(Signed) D. WILSON,
Chairman.