

At a meeting of the EAST SUNDERLAND AREA COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE, SUNDERLAND on MONDAY, 20th OCTOBER, 2014 at 5.30p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Ball in the Chair

Councillors M. Dixon, Emerson, Forbes, E. Gibson, Kay, Marshall, McClennan, Scanlan and Wood.

Also Present:-

Mick Hall	-	Neighbourhood Inspector, Northumbria Police
Matthew Jackson	-	Governance Services Officer, Sunderland City Council
Chris Marshall	-	Head of Operations, Gentoo
Jen McKeivitt	-	East Area VCS Network Representative
Sarah Reed	-	Assistant Chief Executive and Area Lead Executive, Sunderland City Council
Gillian Robinson	-	Area Co-ordinator, Sunderland City Council
Beverley Scanlon	-	Head of Educational Attainment and Lifelong Learning, Sunderland City Council
Jamie Southwell	-	Neighbourhood Inspector, Northumbria Police
Nicol Trueman	-	Area Community Officer, Sunderland City Council
Jeremy Wicking	-	Media Officer, Sunderland City Council
Mark Witherspoon	-	Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for Absence were received on behalf of Councillors Errington, Mordey and Price together with Hazel Clark, Nonnie Crawford and Paula Hunt.

Declarations of Interest

Area Budgets Report

Councillor Forbes declared that she was a Member of the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority

Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 23rd June, 2014

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 23rd June 2014 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

VCS Area Network Progress Report

The East Area Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Network submitted a report (copy circulated) which updated the Committee on the work that had been done by the VCS network since the last meeting of the Area Committee.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Jen McKevitt introduced the report and advised that the East Area Forum had been dissolved. The Area VCS Network now had 219 members and at the last meeting it had been unanimously agreed that Ross Wares be elected as independent co-chair of the network. Paula Hunt was also unanimously elected as the VCS Area Network Representative. They were both entitled to hold their position for the next 3 years.

2. RESOLVED that the VCS Network progress report be noted.

Northumbria Police Update

Inspector Mick Hall presented the update on crime figures relating to the Millfield and City Centre area. He advised that there had been an increase of 41 crimes compared with last year. In recent months there had been an issue with shoplifting in the area however this had now reduced and as such there had been 1 additional offence when compared with last year.

There had been an increase in violent crime of 21 offences however this was in part due to there being an increase in the reporting of domestic violence when victims decided not to make a complaint. There had been no change to the number of serious assaults which occurred with there being a total of 8 crimes.

Robberies had reduced by 40 percent which was 6 fewer crimes than last year. Vehicle crime had reduced by 14 percent; criminal damage had also reduced.

Burglaries had been a significant problem last year however with targeted resources there had been a reduction of 16 percent.

Antisocial behaviour in the area had increased by 17 percent however this had been adult antisocial behaviour such as drunk and disorderly behaviour. There were fewer issues within communities however there had been

problems in West Sunnyside; Park Lane and Mowbray Park. A 4G camera was to be installed in Park Lane and this camera had speakers attached so that it could play pre-recorded messages; the system had worked well in Cleveland. He also advised that although there were problems within the areas where there were a number of hostels it was not necessarily the hostels which were the cause of any problems as within the areas there were also services such as needle exchanges and chemists which supplied methadone. The 4G camera would be moved to this area after the period in Park Lane.

Councillor Wood stated that it was good to see that there had been a reduction in the amount of shoplifting. He commented that speeding traffic was still a big problem in the area; Inspector Hall advised that communities had been approached to arrange community speed watches however there had not been a good uptake and only a group in the West Sunderland Area had become involved.

Inspector Jamie Southwell then presented the figures for the East Area. There had been 20 fewer offences overall which was a reduction of 3 percent. Burglaries of dwellings had increased by 17 offences however the area still had the lowest number of burglaries in the city; in the last two weeks there had only been one offence and it was hoped that the forensic evidence would identify the offender. There would be a joint meeting held with officers from the West area as within that area there had been problems.

Non youth antisocial behaviour had increased by 70 incidents; the majority of this had been due to neighbour disputes and also from adults playing football and listening to music in the street during the warm weather in the summer. Youth antisocial behaviour had reduced by 14 percent which was 31 incidents; there were no significant issues however there were pockets of antisocial behaviour in Hendon, Grangetown and Ryhope. Officers had been to schools in the area to talk to young people about the dangers of fireworks.

Violent crime in the area had reduced by 27 percent which burglaries had reduced by 22 offences and there had only been one additional shoplifting offence. Theft from motor vehicles had reduced by 31 percent however recently there had been a spate of smash and grab offences in Moorside; these had been random offences with the offenders smashing the window to search the glove box and in a number of the cases there had not been any property stolen.

Councillor E. Gibson commented that like many estates Moorside had a lot of alleyways and footpaths which could be used as getaway routes for offenders.

3. RESOLVED that the update from Northumbria Police be noted.

Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service Update

Mark Witherspoon advised that there had been a decrease in the number of incidents however within the last month there had been six injuries from fires

although they were minor injuries. There had been a number of kitchen fires including chip pan fires.

There had been a number of deliberate fires recently including a spike in car fires. Wheelie bin fires were still an issue and there had been work done to encourage residents not to leave their bin out for longer than necessary.

The bonfire season was approaching and as such there had been targeted work done with schools and a consequences DVD had been produced to highlight safety messages; there was a need to focus on youth groups and providing activities for young people so that they did not decide to light bonfires.

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

Gentoo Update

Chris Marshall delivered a powerpoint presentation which informed Members of the work that had been done by Gentoo in the East Area especially the redevelopment works that had been undertaken in Doxford Park and Ryhope Village to replace the housing which had previously been demolished.

(For copy presentation – see original minutes)

Councillor McClennan commented that Gentoo were creating new communities. She asked whether there were councillor contact details and voter registration forms included in the welcome pack for new tenants and also asked whether there were plans to replace the lifts and central heating within the high rise tower blocks as this was a concern for residents of the blocks. Mr Marshall advised that the pack did include councillor details however he would have to check whether voter registration forms were included; many people just wanted to get the keys and get moved in and as a result the welcome pack had been slimmed down and the handover now only took around 30 minutes rather than the hour it used to take. There were modernisation plans in place which would see the lifts replaced in the high rise tower blocks.

Councillor Scanlan queried how much the houses would cost to buy; she was informed that none of the houses were for sale, there were bungalows for sale and these were offered on a shared ownership scheme with prices starting at £75,000 to buy a 50 percent share of the bungalow.

Councillor M. Dixon commented that it was excellent to see that bungalows were being built; he queried what percentage of the bungalows would be for sale. Mr Marshall advised that 60 percent would be for rent with the remaining 40 percent being available to buy; the figure varied between developments as it depended on how much government grant was awarded for each development. Properties needed to be sold to fund the social rentals where

there was insufficient government funding in place. Funding had been an issue for starting the works and the lack of funding was why Gentoo was doing developments outside of the city; the profits from these developments being used to subsidise social rented properties in Sunderland.

Councillor E. Gibson commented that the works in Doxford Park had transformed the area.

Councillor Emerson advised that there had been a lot of complaints from residents in Ryhope about construction traffic; there had also been a number of incidents of construction vehicles driving on footpaths which was then breaking the flagstones and creating a trip hazard.

Mr Marshall advised that access onto the site was difficult and the situation was less than ideal as roads had needed to remain open during the works. After Christmas it was anticipated that the situation would improve as the structural works would all be completed so there would be less traffic accessing the site. There had been instructions to contractors that they were not to arrive on site prior to 8am however some contractors had been arriving early and had then been waiting in their vehicle with the engine running.

5. RESOLVED that the update from Gentoo be noted.

Place Board Progress Report

The Chair of the Place Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Members with an update on the work done by the Place Board against the priorities set out in the workplan for 2014/15.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Scanlan, Chair of the Place Board introduced the report and advised that there had been delays in the painting of shop fronts as part of the gateway programme; the work in Ryhope and Grangetown would be commencing in November. There had been work done around encouraging the use of green space and as part of this there had been a number of projects awarded SIB funding to support this priority which were detailed in the table at paragraph 2.1 of the report. As part of the Coastal Path: Better Than Basic Signage Project it had been agreed that there would be artwork installed at Panns Bank, consultation had been undertaken to identify the preferred option for the artwork and the work to install the artwork had now been completed.

Jen McKevitt queried whether the information on the work plan could be shared with the VCS Network. Ms Trueman advised that it could be and that the network would be receiving a presentation from Dan Hattle on the City Centre Regeneration.

6. RESOLVED that:-

- a. The Place Board Work Plan set out at annex 1 and the SIB Live Performance Report set out at annex 2 be noted.
- b. The 'Green Adventure' SIB programme progress be noted and further progress reports be received.
- c. Consideration be given to receiving further updates on the City Centre Regeneration Programme.
- d. Consideration be given to how best to:-
 - i. Promote the Accreditation Scheme and engage with landlords to sign up to the scheme, especially in the Selective Licensing area and for Houses of Multiple Occupation
 - ii. Approach local traders who could offer discounts to local Accredited Landlords
 - iii. Ask tenants to only use accredited landlords; and
 - iv. Support landlords to self-regulate.
- e. A Private Landlord Accreditation scheme event be held in early Spring 2015
- f. The Place Board's support for and recommendation to approve £36,000 of SUB funding for the Community Leaders Programme be noted.
- g. It be noted that consultation on the Highways Maintenance Programme for 2015/16 would commence in November 2014.

People Board Progress Report

The Chairman of the People Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update on the work done by the People Board against the work plan for 2014/15.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Councillor Emerson, Chair of the People Board, introduced the report and advised the Committee that the work the People Board had undertaken was set out in the table at paragraph 2.1 of the report.

Ms Trueman advised that since the publication of the agenda there had been a lot of requests for funding received under the Little Bit Extra 2 project.

Councillor M. Dixon referred to the priority based on working with the East Clinical Commissioning Group; he suggested that it would be useful for someone to attend the board to provide an update on the work being done around dementia and making the area dementia friendly.

7. RESOLVED that:-

- a. The People Board Work Plan set out at annex 1 and the SIB Live Performance report set out at annex 2 be noted.
- b. The progress of the 'Green Adventure' SIB programme be noted and further progress reports be received to future meetings.

- c. Consideration be given to the influencing of future youth contracts in East Sunderland and feedback be provided for the November meeting of the board.
- d. The People Board's recommendation to approve £22,449 of SIB funding for the 'Achieving Everyone's Potential' project and £6,600 SIB funding for the 'Safety of the Streets' transportation costs be noted.
- e. Uptake of the Little Bit Extra Fund be promoted by the People Board Members.

Area Budgets Report

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided Members with the financial statement which detailed the current position on progress in relation to allocations of SIB and Community Chest funding and which sought Members approval of proposals for funding.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Nicol Trueman introduced the report and advised the Committee of the financial statements and the proposals for funding which Members were asked to consider.

The financial statement for SIB funding was set out at paragraph 2.1 of the report. There were three applications for SIB funding and all three were recommended for approval. These three applications totalled £65,049 and should they all be approved there would still be £187,996 of SIB funding available. The detail of the applications was set out in annex 1 to the report. The projects supported the area priorities.

There had been 34 Community Chest approvals since April 2014 totalling £29,233.98 and this left a remaining budget for the area of £39,094.43.

8. RESOLVED that:-
 - a. The financial statements set out at paragraphs 2.1 and 3.1 be noted
 - b. The three SIB applications totalling £65,049, as set out in annex 1, be approved
 - c. The 34 Community Chest approvals from the 2014/15 Community Chest budget as set out in annex 2 be noted.

Planning Applications – For Information Only

Current Planning Applications relating to the East Sunderland Area for the period 1st August to 25th September 2014 were submitted for Members information only (copy circulated).

(For copy report – see original minutes)

9. RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

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

(Signed) E. BALL,
Chairman.