At a Meeting of the COALFIELD AREA COMMITTEE held at HOUGHTON LIBRARY, 74 NEWBOTTLE STREET, HOUGHTON-LE-SPRING, DH4 4AF, on WEDNESDAY, 11TH MARCH, 2015 at 6.00 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Scott in the Chair

Councillors Anderson, Blackburn, Cummings, Ellis, Lawson, D. Smith, Speding and Wakefield

Also in Attendance:-

Ron Barrass	Member of the Public	
Amelia Laverick	Member of the Public	
Charlotte Burnham	Area Lead Executive for the Coalfield Area Committee and Head of Scrutiny and Area Arrangements	Sunderland City Council
Melanie Caldwell	Head of Operations Houghton/Hetton	Gentoo Ltd.
Laura Cassidy	Health Improvement Practitioner	Sunderland City Council
Wendy Cook	Youth and Community Co-Ordinator	Sunderland North Community Business Centre
Debbie Hall	Area Response Manager	Sunderland City Council
Julianna Heron	Councillor	Hetton Town Council
Robert Heron	Councillor	Hetton Town Council
Pauline Hopper	Area Community Officer, Coalfield	Sunderland City Council
Lisa Musgrove	Neighbourhood Inspector	Northumbria Police
Kay Rowham	Member of the Public	
Christine Tilley	Governance Services Team Leader	Sunderland City Council
Gill Wake	Area Co-ordinator	Sunderland City Council

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Councillor Lawson highlighted that both Councillor John Scott and Councillor Florence Anderson would be retiring from the Council when their terms of office ended in May 2015. On behalf of the Committee, Councillor Lawson thanked the Members for the contributions they had made to the work of the Area Committee and Place Board and for the community leadership they had shown and work carried out over the years as Local Councillors.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Allen and W. Turton and Susan Brown (Area VCS Representative).

Declarations of Interest

Item 2 Place Board Progress Report

Councillor Julianna Heron (Hetton Town Council) made an open declaration as an allotment holder.

Item 4 Partner Agency Reports – Gentoo Revised Structure Verbal Update

Councillors Cummings and Julianna Heron (Hetton Town Council) made open declarations in respect of Gentoo Sunderland Ltd as Council representatives on the Board of the Company.

Item 5 Area Budgets Report

Councillor Blackburn made an open declaration in the Community Chest application from Easington Lane Community Access Point as a Council representative on the management committee of the community centre.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 3rd December, 2014 (copy circulated), be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Place Board Progress Report

The Chair of the Place Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update of progress against the current year's (2014/15) Place Board Work Plan and on performance.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Anderson thanked the Members of the Place Board for their support and interest commenting that she had very much enjoyed her time as Chair.

Councillor Anderson proceeded to brief the Committee on the key areas of influence/achievements of the Place Board to date and highlighted the piloting of 'rock cams' which had helped to secure the successful prosecution of a local businesswoman whose van was used to dump waste on the roadside.

Councillor Anderson drew attention to the initiative to deter unauthorised parking by the use of natural stone boulders at specified locations and to the joint approach between the Council and the Community Policing Teams to identify solutions to the antisocial behaviour problems caused by people riding quad bikes.

Councillor Anderson pointed out the concerns raised in the Market Street area and the request from residents to move the two benches there as they attract unwelcome activity and the consultation being undertaken in the area in relation to this.

Neighbourhood Inspector Lisa Musgrove confirmed that youth antisocial behaviour was an issue in the above location and advised of the work being done there jointly with the Local Authority which included the installation of a column onto which a 3G camera would be deployed once the power source was in place. Neighbourhood Inspector Musgrove advised that LMAPS funding was available to remove the benches until the end of the month if the Committee wanted to take this course of action.

Members discussed the issues raised and were in favour of the removal of the benches at Market Street and their storage until a suitable location in the Coalfield area for their re-installation was identified.

Councillor Anderson referred to Annex 2 which set out the streets as recommended by the Place Board for inclusion in the Highways Capital Maintenance Programme for 2015-2016.

With regards to the improvements made under the Neglected Land Project, Councillor Anderson referred the Committee to a list of sites to be prioritised for remedial action and further maintenance detailed at Annex 3 which would be funded using the existing Neglected Land SIB project.

Councillor Anderson highlighted the work which had been undertaken and was continuing to maintain the improvements to allotment sites.

Councillor Wakefield commented that no improvements had been made to the allotment sites in the Copthill ward and therefore the report was not strictly true when it stated that 'Allotment sites across the whole of the Coalfield are now improved and continue to be maintained'.

Councillor Wakefield stated that stronger enforcement action needed to be taken on those allotment holders who were not using their allotment for the intended purpose and were not acting responsibly.

In connection with the project to improve the Local Shopping Centres, Councillor Anderson drew attention to the 'Shiney Easter' event which aimed to attract more people into the shopping area and support local traders.

Councillor Anderson cited the 'Love Where You Live and Community Involvement' project as an example of good community engagement. She also highlighted the heritage and celebration events the area committee had supported including the Heritage Lottery Fund application for Parks for People for improvements to Houghton Rectory Park.

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

2. RESOLVED that:-

(i) the progress and performance update with regards to the Coalfield Area Place Board's Work Plan for 2014/15 including recommendations for future delivery be approved and adopted; and
(ii) the recommendations of the Place Board regarding the Highways Capital Maintenance programmes for the Coalfield area for 2015/2016 as detailed at Annex 2 of the report be approved.

People Board Progress Report

The Chair of the People Board submitted a report (copy circulated) which provided an update of progress against the current year's (2014/15) People Board Work Plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Lawson referred the Committee to paragraph 4.1 detailing the key areas of influence/achievements of the People Board to date. She highlighted the changes made to the system for ensuring Members were aware of the issues being considered by LMAPS and the outcomes from this process and commented that the system was working well.

Councillor Lawson drew attention to the update on the performance of commissioned youth contracts and encouraged Members to attend the Youth Operational Group so they could gain an insight into how the service operated and feed into decisions made locally regarding provision.

With regards to the Health and Greenspaces Project, Councillor Lawson referred the Committee to the project update set out at Annex 2 which detailed initiatives developed by the Working Group to engage local people in using outdoor space to improve their health.

Ms. Pauline Hopper, Area Community Officer, Coalfield drew the Committee's attention to the initiative to improve and develop cycleways and pursue a comprehensive cycle route across all areas of the Coalfield, linking to other areas of the City. Ms Hopper circulated an update providing details of an opportunity to

extend the planned cycle network, the first phase of which would centre round the Houghton Primary Care Centre. The spend of £100,000 including S106 and LTP monies available from the build of the Centre would be prioritised during 2015/16. Ms. Hopper advised that Committee endorsement of the proposal would allow core budget to be utilised and further funding to be levered in to the project from other sources and future developments in the area.

Ms. Hopper also provided details of a proposal to develop the 'Four Parks Route'. She explained that this was a circular route linking Hetton Lyons Country Park, Herrington Country Park, Elba Park and Rainton Meadows. She advised that the proposal had been discussed and agreed by Members as part of the Health and Greenspaces Project and was now seeking the Committee's endorsement to further investigate the development of the route.

Under the priority to support opportunities for young people at risk of becoming NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training), Councillor Lawson highlighted the opportunity to be involved in the 'Working Rite' Programme, which bridges the gap between school and work and matches young people with local employers for a six month paid training placement.

Councillor Speding enquired how this programme would link to other projects aimed at supporting young people at risk of becoming NEET both in the area as well as across the city and asked that this be taken into account. Councillor Speding also asked whether any form of expenses was being considered for the participants on the Working Rite programme such as a travel warrant.

In response, Ms. Hopper advised that the Working Rite Charity had secured funding for the programme which was a start up grant from the Vardy Foundation to pilot the programme in the North East and the Coalfield area and part of County Durham would be target localities. The People Board had agreed to support the delivery of the programme in the Coalfield area and to invite the Project Co-ordinator to a future meeting. The Board would also consider whether to give financial support to the project for travelling costs and out of pocket employment related expenses.

Councillor Lawson highlighted the grants awarded to three groups of young people from the CAN DO fund as part of the Healthy Life Choices area priority and outlined the process the young people needed to follow in making an application. Councillor Lawson recommended that the Committee support the continuation of the project during 2015/16 to further develop the skills of young people.

Councillor Lawson referred to the funding allocation from the Sunderland CCG to enable delivery of projects to support joint priorities for the area and to the Board's decision that focus of the work should be on increasing social participation as a way of reducing social isolation for vulnerable and older people. She advised that the finance report on the agenda detailed how the Board would like to take the project forward.

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

3. RESOLVED that:-

(i) the progress and performance update with regards to the Coalfield Area People Board's Work Plan for 2014/15 including proposals for future delivery be approved;
(ii) delivery of the Working Rite Programme in the Coalfield Area be supported and the Project Co-ordinator be invited to attend a future meeting of the People Board once in post;
(iii) the proposals to pursue a comprehensive cycle route for the whole area and to further investigate the development of the 'Four Park Route' and for updates on progress to be brought to the June meeting of the Area Committee be endorsed; and
(iv) approval be given to the CAN DO Project continuing during 2015/16 and utilising the remaining budget of £9,907 to further develop the skills of young people.

Partner Agency Reports – Coalfield Area Voluntary and Community Sector Network Progress Update

Ms. Susan Brown and Ms. Sam Gallilee, Area Network Representatives submitted a report (copy circulated), providing an update with regard to the Coalfield Area Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Network.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Pauline Hopper, Area Community Officer, Coalfield briefed the Committee on the report highlighting the community event which was being jointly organised and co-ordinated by Gentoo and the VCS Network and the Council taking place on Friday 10th April at Rainton Meadows Arena. Ms Hopper circulated a draft poster advertising the event and encouraged Members of the Committee, Partner organisations and Members of the public present at the meeting to attend.

Ms. Hopper drew attention to the nomination of VCS representatives due to the vacancies left by Ann Owen from HRCAP, as the organisation had ceased to operate as a charity and by Sam Gallilee, who had resigned due to other obligations. Ms. Hopper advised that two nominations had been received for consideration from Wendy Cook, Sunderland North Community Business Centre and Dave McCreedy, Fence Houses YMCA.

With regards to the Area Annual Report, Ms. Hopper highlighted that the VCS Network Members felt that community IT provision and support in locally accessible venues was an increasing pressure on local organisations due to large numbers of people seeking help with on line forms and applications. The network Members had agreed to hold a workshop to discuss key priorities for next year and feed them in to the Area Committee.

Councillor Lawson paid tribute to the contribution the VCS Network made to the work of the Area Committee and the support provided to local communities.

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

4. RESOLVED that:-

(i) the contents of the report be received and noted; and
(ii) the views of the VCS Network Members be considered when setting the Area Committee priorities for 2015-16.

Partner Agency Reports – Northumbria Police

Neighbourhood Inspector Lisa Musgrove provided the Committee with a verbal update on crime in the Coalfield Area. She advised that overall crime was down by 3% compared to the same period the previous year. There were also decreases in crimes relating to vehicle damage, burglary and criminal handling. There had however, been an increase in violent crime some of which was domestic violence related and there was a lot of work ongoing to bring these figures down.

Neighbourhood Inspector Musgrove advised that Youth antisocial behaviour incidents were down by 18% for the year; there was a lot of partnership work going on which was contributing to this. Non youth antisocial behaviour was however, up by 9% and related to motorcycle disorder, predominantly in Easington Lane although there had been incidents in Shiney Row and Philadelphia. This was difficult to resolve due to the amount of open land in these areas but the Police were working with local people. The priorities were therefore to tackle antisocial behaviour in Market Street, Hetton and motorcycle disorder in Easington Lane.

Neighbourhood Inspector Musgrove reported that LMAPS funding was providing for an additional column to accommodate a 3g camera in Church Street, Houghton near the bridge to combat disorder in that area and in Dorset Street, the Brickgarth, Easington Lane near the Flatts Youth Centre.

In response to Councillor Lawson, Neighbourhood Inspector Musgrove advised that there had been some reports of antisocial behaviour around Grangewood Care Home and this was on the patrol area for the Officer.

Councillor Anderson reported that there had been incidents of malicious damage resulting in a large amount of broken glass at Springwell Terrace and North Road and that she had been fearful that this would cause injury to animals. She advised however that the glass had since been removed.

Neighbourhood Inspector Musgrove stated that she would ask Officers to make enquiries in relation to the above matter.

In response to Councillor Speding, Neighbourhood Inspector Musgrove confirmed that Houghton Police Station would be remaining open and what was more was that Northumbria Police had purchased the Court building next door and the Traffic Officers and Dog Unit would continue to be based there also. There was a

possibility that more Officers would be stationed at Houghton as there was now more accommodation.

Members welcomed the above news and full consideration having being given to the information presented by Neighbourhood Inspector Musgrove, it was:-

5. RESOLVED that the update from Neighbourhood Inspector Musgrove be received and noted.

Partner Agency Reports – Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service

Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service submitted a report (copy circulated) providing commentary on incidents in the Coalfield Area from 1st December 2014 to 25th February, 2015.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The Chairman requested that any questions on the report be forwarded to Ms. Pauline Hopper, Area Community Officer, Coalfield for onward submission to the Fire and Rescue Service.

6. RESOLVED that the contents of the report be received and noted and any queries on the information submitted be forwarded as detailed above.

Partner Agency Reports – Gentoo Revised Structure Verbal Update

Ms. Melanie Caldwell, Head of Operations Houghton/Hetton, Gentoo Ltd. provided an update on the changes to the structure of Gentoo Housing and Neighbourhood Management and circulated copies of the new 'Art of Living' Delivery Model.

Ms. Caldwell highlighted the information detailing the Art of Living Co-Ordinators for each locality. She advised that to date 145 surveys across Sunderland had been completed by the Coordinators advising tenants of the services and support provided by Gentoo available to them.

Ms. Caldwell provided an update on the 'Big Local' Programme advising that Gentoo had become the trusted organisation for the Programme and that discussions had been held with the decision making panel and the delivery plan had been agreed to draw down the money into the communities of Easington Lane, Moorsley and part of Hetton as the Programme had intended. Ms Caldwell advised that the priorities of the Programme mirrored and matched those of the Area Committee and it would be up to the residents as to how it was spent. She would keep Members briefed on progress.

The Chairman thanked Ms.Caldwell for her report and it was:-

7. RESOLVED that the update be received and noted

Area Budgets Report

The Chief Executive submitted a report (copy circulated) providing a financial statement as an update position on progress in relation to allocating Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIB) and Community Chest funding and presenting proposals for further funding requests to support initiatives that will benefit the area.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Pauline Hopper, Area Community Officer, Coalfield presented the report drawing the Committee's attention to the financial position as set out in paragraph 2.1 of the report advising that a balance of £60,065 remained.

Ms. Hopper highlighted the application for SIB funding, which was a recommendation from the Area People Board, detailed at paragraph 2.2 and Annex 1. She advised that the application for funding was for a project to support increased social participation for vulnerable adults and older people and match fund the Sunderland Clinical Commissioning Group's allocation of £20,000; thus providing a total of £40,000 to allocate against the joint priority. Ms. Hopper advised that if approved the People Board would make a call for projects.

Ms. Hopper referred the Committee to the Community Chest approvals and current balances as at February 2015 detailed at paragraph 4 and as set out at Annex 2 of the report.

Consideration having been given to the report it was:-

8. RESOLVED that:-

a) the financial statements set out in sections 2.1, 3.1 and 4.1 of the report be noted;
b) the request for SIB funding of £20,000 as set out in paragraph 2.2 and Annex 1 of the report for a project to reduce Social Isolation for Vulnerable Adults and Older People, be approved;
c) the process and timescale for developing a Call for Projects in respect of the above project set out in Annex 1 of the report including the recommendation from the People Board that Option C (one project brief at £20,000 with one successful applicant and one project brief at £5,000 maximum with a potential for 4 small projects), be approved; and
d) the 11 Community Chest approvals supported from the 2014/15 budget as set out in Annex 2 be noted.

Area Committee Annual Report 2014-15

The Chair of the Coalfield Area Committee submitted a report (copy circulated) seeking approval of the Annual Report for 2014-15 which would be submitted to Full Council as part of the combined Area Committee Annual Report for 2014-15.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Ms. Gill Wake, Area Co-ordinator presented the report advising that the breakdown of how SIB had been allocated in line with People, Place and Economy priorities would be updated following recent allocations.

9. RESOLVED that approval be given for an updated and completed version of the Coalfield Annual Report being included in the combined Area Committee Annual Report for 2014-15.

Current Planning Applications (Coalfields Area)

A schedule (copy circulated) of current planning applications lodged during the period 1st January to 16th February 2015 was submitted for Members' information only.

(For copy schedule – see original minutes).

10. RESOLVED that the schedule be received and noted.

Presentation to the Chairman and Alternate Vice Chairman of the Area Committee

Ms. Charlotte Burnham, Area Lead Executive for the Coalfield Area Committee and Head of Scrutiny and Area Arrangements presented Councillors Scott and Anderson each with a leaving card to thanks them for their contributions with the best wishes of the Area Committee.

Councillors Scott and Anderson thanked Members and Officers of the Area Committee for their support in carrying out their respective roles which they stated they had both enjoyed doing greatly and wished the Area Committee well in delivering its priorities.

The Chairman, having thanked everyone for attending, closed the meeting.

(Signed) J. SCOTT,
Chairman.