

SOUTH (INNER) AREA COMMITTEE

MONDAY, 26TH MARCH, 2007

PRESENT: Councillor A Gabriel in the Chair

Councillors J Blake, D Congreve,
D Coupar, G Driver and E Nash

72 Chair's Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed all in attendance to the March meeting of the South (Inner) Area Committee.

73 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made at this point in the meeting, however a declaration of interest was made at a later point in the meeting (Minute No. 78 refers).

74 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received on behalf of Councillors P Davey, A Ogilvie and the Lord Mayor, Councillor M Iqbal.

75 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 20th February 2007 be approved as a correct record.

76 Matters Arising from the Minutes

Progress on Regeneration and Development Issues Within South Leeds
(Minute No. 65 refers)

Having sought further information on this issue, Members were advised that the matter would be considered further at a later point in the meeting, as part of the Area Manager's report.

Learning Disability Day Centres Modernisation (Minute No. 67 refers)

The Committee was advised that some Members had been invited to attend a further briefing on this issue, and that any findings from such a briefing would be reported back to the Area Committee in due course.

77 Open Forum

In accordance with paragraphs 6.24 and 6.25 of the Area Committee Procedure Rules, the Chair allowed a period of up to ten minutes for members of the public to make representations or to ask questions on matters within the terms of reference of the Area Committee.

Raising of Curbs at Bus Stops

A representative of the local Tenants and Residents Association referred to the lack of progress which had been made throughout Inner South Leeds in relation to a city wide initiative to raise curbs adjacent to bus stops. Having asked which department would be the most appropriate to direct concerns,

both on this issue and on the provision of road markings to, the South Leeds Area Manager undertook to pursue such matters further.

The Condition of Highways throughout Leeds

A local resident raised concerns over the general condition of highways throughout the area. Having made reference to problems which related to drainage and pot holes, the resident enquired what action could be taken to address such issues.

Following a suggestion to receive an update on the condition of highways in the area at the next meeting of the Committee as part of the Area Manager's Report, it was proposed that a representative from Highways Services was invited to a future meeting of the Area Committee in order to discuss such issues in more detail.

78 Inner South Area Committee Mobile Youth Provision and Priority Neighbourhood Development Worker - The Next Steps

A report was submitted on behalf of the Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing which provided Members with a review of two initiatives, namely Mobile Youth Provision and the Priority Neighbourhood Development Worker, which had previously been commissioned by the Area Committee. As the contracts for the two projects were due to an end in August 2007 and July 2007 respectively, the Committee was asked to determine the next steps for both initiatives.

Having received a brief overview of the performance and achievements of the Mobile Youth Provision to date, a question and answer session ensued. The main points raised were as follows:-

- Having discussed the ways in which the provision intended to develop relationships with other agencies throughout the area, Members emphasised the need to further develop the provision's collaboration with the Youth Service;
- Members highlighted the need for the initiative to focus its provision in areas where there was no static youth provision available, as originally intended;
- The need to ensure that a consistent schedule of provision was established over a period of time, so that a solid relationship with young people in the area could be developed;
- The Committee emphasised the need for Members to be aware of the vehicle's location at all times, so that potential users could be signposted to the provision, and highlighted the need to ensure that a more effective dialogue was established between Ward Members and those managing the initiative;
- Members discussed the staffing issues relating to the initiative and acknowledged the difficulties of recruiting staff to certain working patterns;
- Members proposed that further discussions relating to the title of the Mobile Youth Provision would be undertaken in due course;
- The length of time spent in each venue and the need to ensure that the sessions were long enough in duration to enable the service to be maximised;

- The need to ensure that the provision's schedule was monitored in a more stringent way by the Area Management Team;
- Members discussed the proposals which had been set out for future provision, sought clarification on the number of sessions which were being provided by the service per week, and requested further information on the provision's schedule of activities and the attendance levels being achieved for each session;
- The need to ensure that appropriate publicity was being circulated about the provision's activities, prior to each session taking place.

A brief presentation was then made by the Priority Neighbourhood Development Worker on the progress he had made to date. Having received several comments from members of the local community which related to the positive work undertaken, Members emphasised the need to ensure that the work programme of the Priority Neighbourhood Development Worker did not become too wide ranging.

RESOLVED –

- (a). That the report and information appended to the report be noted;
- (b). That Members' comments relating to the Priority Neighbourhood Development Worker post and the Mobile Youth Provision be noted;
- (c). That the Area Committee's Priority Neighbourhood Development Worker post be extended for a further 12 months (August 2007 to August 2008), using the same provider (South Leeds Health For All), with the same level of wellbeing funding (£32,800.00) being allocated to the position, and that the Area Management Team be requested to amend the contract for the post in line with the areas of improvement identified by Elected Members and the Team;
- (d). That the Area Committee's Mobile Youth Provision scheme be extended using the same provider (St. Luke's Cares) for a further 12 months (July 2007 to July 2008), with the funding made available from the reduced vehicle hire costs for year 2 (£7,800.00) being added to the original funding allocation of £32,000.00, in order to enable a greater number staffing hours and sessions per week to be provided, and that the Area Management Team be requested to amend the scheme's contract in line with the areas of improvement which have been identified by Elected Members and the Team.

(Councillor Blake declared a personal interest in relation to this item, due to being a Trustee of South Leeds Health For All)

79 Area Committee Wellbeing Budget

The Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing submitted a report which updated Members on the current position of both the capital and revenue elements of the Area Committee's Wellbeing budget, detailed a projected revenue balance for 2007/08 and summarised the Small Grant applications which had been received since the last meeting.

With regard to the Small Grants application entitled, 'Future Roots', which had been submitted by the Youth Service and Leeds Racial Harassment Project, Members stated that at the February 2007 meeting the Area Committee had

agreed to determine this proposal via the Small Grants process, and confirmed that £1,000.00 had been agreed to be allocated to this project rather than the sum of £500.00, as Members had been inadvertently advised as part of the internal Small Grants approval process.

Members raised concerns over the accessibility of Small Grants funding for certain community groups, with particular reference being made to sports clubs. In response, Members discussed the potentially high volume of applications which a publicity campaign for such funding could create, and made reference to the ways in which a more prioritised and equitable system could be established.

The Committee then emphasised the need to ensure that the Area Committee received greater recognition for the financial support it provided.

RESOLVED –

- (a). That the report and information appended to the report, including the current position of the Area Committee's revenue and capital Wellbeing budgets, particularly in relation to the projected remaining revenue balance for 2007/08 of £28,237.00, be noted;
- (b). That the Small Grant proposals which have been approved since the last meeting of the Area Committee, be noted.
- (c) That £1,000.00 (not £500.00 as previously advised) be allocated from the Area Committee's Small Grants budget to the Youth Service and Leeds Racial Harassment Project for the proposal entitled, 'Future Roots'.

80 Area Manager's Report

The Committee received a report from the Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing which provided Members with details of the range of activities currently taking place within the Inner South area of Leeds.

In relation to the work being undertaken by the District Partnership's Health and Wellbeing Sub Group, Members views were sought on the possibility of the Area Committee requiring organisations in receipt of Wellbeing funding to use an approved logo to promote a smoking cessation message.

Further to Minute No. 58, 14th December 2006, when the Area Committee agreed to allocate the remaining £27,967.00 from the initial binyard improvement scheme to a further phase of binyard improvements, Members discussed several potential locations for the next phase of the scheme.

With regard to the Community and City Pride Awards, Members noted the lack of representatives from Inner South Leeds at last year's awards and discussed the ways in which the number of nominations submitted from Inner South Leeds for the 2007 awards could be increased.

Having received a brief overview of the issues surrounding subsidised swimming at South Leeds Sports Centre, Members discussed the usage rates for the centre, the methods which could be used to increase such rates, in addition to the ways in which the centre's viability would be monitored and

judged. It was then proposed that Members could be consulted further on the ways in which community use of the centre could be encouraged.

The Committee then underlined the need to ensure that other sports facilities in the area were safeguarded and discussed the accessibility of such facilities for the local community. Having emphasised the importance of adequate transportation links to and from sports facilities in the area, especially when considering the focus being placed upon the Extended Schools agenda, Members requested that further information on the provision of public transportation links to and from such facilities in Inner South Leeds were submitted to Members for information.

Having received a brief update on the preparations being made for the 'I Love South Leeds Festival', the Festival Co-ordinator circulated a revised draft programme outline and festival logo. Members' views were then sought on the venue for the final event and having discussed several alternatives, which included South Leeds Stadium and South Leeds Sports Centre, it was proposed that further consultation with Members would be undertaken on this issue.

Further to Minute No. 70, 20th February 2007, when the Committee had sought further information on the work of the Local Enterprise Growth Initiative (LEGI) in the area, Members were advised that as the LEGI team was currently seeking to focus upon the establishment of the initiative and promoting the initial phase of delivery, it was proposed that representatives of LEGI could be invited to the first meeting of the new Municipal Year, in order to update Members on the progress which had been made by the initiative.

Having sought nominations for Ward based representatives on the Committee's Community Centres Sub Group, Members proposed that the representatives from the Beeston and Holbeck and Middleton Park Wards could progress the Sub Group's work programme, whilst taking into consideration the interests of all areas within Inner South Leeds.

Members noted the increased collaboration between Environmental Health Services and Area Management and discussed the effectiveness of the mechanisms in place to deal with issues which had been reported, in addition to the extent to which the Local Authority was using its powers of compulsory purchase in respect of private dwellings.

Having received further information on the activity of Neighbourhood Wardens in the area and the more structured approach which Area Management was endeavouring to take in this field, Members' views were sought on the proposed Warden patrolling areas, as detailed within the report.

RESOLVED –

- (a). That the report and information appended to the report be noted;
- (b). That the Area Committee endorse in principle a requirement for all organisations who are in receipt of Area Committee funding, to promote as

part of the conditions for the funding arrangements where practicable, a smoking cessation message as part of a wider programme;

(c). That a further phase of binyard improvements (depending on funding and costings), in accordance with a proposed priority order of Bromptons, Stratford Terrace and Westbournes be agreed and funded via the Committee's remaining £27,967.00 allocation towards binyard improvements, and that further binyard improvements in the Dobsons area be agreed and funded via City and Hunslet's Capital Wellbeing budget;

(d). That Members be consulted further on the ways in which community use of the South Leeds Sports Centre can be encouraged;

(e). That the Area Committee's Community Centres Sub-Group continue to be established, and that those Ward representatives involved represent the whole of the Inner South Leeds area;

(f). That the proposed Warden patrolling areas, as appended to the report, be approved.

81 Area Delivery Plan 2007/08

Further to Minute No. 68, 20th February 2007, Members received a report from the Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing which sought the Area Committee's approval of the draft Area Delivery Plan (ADP) and Action Plan for 2007/08, as appended to the report.

Members noted that the previously agreed main headings and key thematic priorities of the ADP, the closer alignment with Leeds' Local Area Agreement (LAA), in addition to comments previously made by Members had all been incorporated into the final draft version of the 2007/08 ADP for Members' consideration.

RESOLVED –

(a). That the report and information appended to the report, be noted;

(b). That the proposed final Area Delivery Plan for 2007/08, which includes the proposed Action Plan, be approved.

82 The Children and Young People's Plan Review 2007

The Committee received a report from the Director of Children's Services which sought Members' support and input into the ongoing review of the Leeds Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP).

Having received a brief overview of the report from the EiC (Excellence in Cities) Director, Members discussed the wide range of issues and challenges currently faced by children and young people residing in the area, and emphasised the need for such issues to be prioritised and challenged in a 'wrap around' and co-ordinated way. Members then discussed the timescales and process which had been established for the recruitment of the five Locality Enablers.

The Committee emphasised the need to ensure that duplication in this field was avoided wherever possible, so that an effective mechanism could be established to fully address the variety of issues currently faced by young people in Inner South Leeds today.

RESOLVED –

- (a). That the report and information appended to the report, be noted;
- (b). That Members' comments relating to the Children and Young People's Plan Review 2007, be noted.

83 Dates, Times and Venues of Area Committee Meetings 2007/08

The Chief Democratic Services Officer submitted a report which invited Members to give consideration to agreeing the dates, times and venues of the South (Inner) Area Committee meetings for the 2007/2008 Municipal Year.

The Committee emphasised that the Civic Hall was the local venue for a significant number of people residing in and around the city centre, and it was therefore proposed that the Civic Hall was used as a venue for one meeting of the South (Inner) Area Committee during the 2007/08 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED –

That the following meeting dates and times be approved for the 2007/2008 Municipal Year (venues to be confirmed):

- Monday, 25th June 2007 at 6.30 p.m.
- Tuesday, 18th September 2007 at 6.30 p.m.
- Thursday, 1st November 2007 at 6.30 p.m.
- Thursday, 13th December 2007 at 6.30 p.m.
- Tuesday, 19th February 2008 at 6.30 p.m.
- Tuesday, 8th April 2008 at 6.30 p.m.

(The meeting concluded at 8.55 p.m.)