

## **NORTH EAST (OUTER) AREA COMMITTEE**

**MONDAY, 3RD DECEMBER, 2012**

**PRESENT:** Councillor G Wilkinson in the Chair

Councillors N Buckley, D Cohen,  
P Harrand, J Procter and M Robinson

### **46 Chair's Opening Remarks**

The Chair welcomed all in attendance to the December meeting of North East (Outer) Area Committee.

### **47 Late Items**

There were no formal late items of business to consider, however the Chair agreed to accept the following as supplementary information:-

- Well-Being Fund Budgets – Revised Outer North East Area Committee Well-being Budget 2012-13 Appendix (Agenda Item 11) (Minute 55 refers)
- Well-Being Fund Budgets – Revised Well-being Fund Large Project Application – Wetherby and Harewood Farmwatch Patrols (Agenda Item 11) (Minute 55 refers)
- Well-Being Fund Budgets – Late Application – Wetherby and District Development Fund Project (Agenda Item 11) (Minute 55 refers)
- Environmental Services – Six Month Performance Update on the Services Level Agreement – Appendix C – Leeds Citizens Panel – Environmental Services satisfaction results (Agenda Item 10) (Minute 56 refers)

The documents were not available at the time of the agenda despatch, but subsequently made available to the public on the Council's website.

### **48 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors A Castle, A Lamb and R Procter.

### **49 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary and Other Interests**

There were no disclosable pecuniary and other interests declared at the meeting.

### **50 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 10 minutes for members of the public to make representations or to ask questions on matters within the terms of reference of the Area Committee.

On this occasion, there were no matters raised under this item by members of the public.

**51 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

**RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2012 be confirmed as a correct record and that this Committee formally ratifies the decisions taken at that meeting in relation to Minute numbers 43 and 44.

**52 Matters Arising from the Minutes**

a) East North East Health and Wellbeing Partnership Report (Minute 39 refers)

Carole Clark, East North East Area Officer referred to the above issue and updated the meeting on progress.

It was noted that additional information had been circulated to Members of the Area Committee in relation to Wrap Up Leeds and cavity wall insulation.

In concluding, the East North East Area Officer informed the meeting that the figures in relation to alcohol related illness or A&E admissions were as a result of long term related illness and not as a result of alcohol related accidents.

b) Children's Services – Update (Minute 43 refers)

The Chair referred to the above issue and informed the meeting that a decision had been taken to defer consideration of this item on today's agenda until the next meeting in February 2013 in view of the fact that the information contained within the report failed to provide the specific detail requested by Members at the last meeting. Also Councillor A Lamb, who had requested this information on behalf of the Area Committee, was unavailable at today's meeting.

**53 Children's Services**

(This item was withdrawn from the agenda and rescheduled for consideration at the next meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2013)

**54 East North East Homes Leeds Grounds Maintenance report**

The Head of Partnerships, East North East Homes, Leeds submitted a report informing the Area Committee of the work and progress made by the Grounds Maintenance contractor, Continental Landscapes, from April to November 2012 on the East North East Homes Leeds Grounds Maintenance.

Steven Vowles, Head of Partnerships, East North East Homes, Leeds presented the report and responded to Members' comments and queries.

He informed the meeting that the summary of performance monitoring (Appendix A refers) was still outstanding and he agreed to provide a copy to Members of the Area Committee via the East North East Area Leader for their information/retention.

Discussion ensued on the contents of the report.

In summary, specific reference was made to the following issues:-

- Clarification of how much extra monies had been paid to Continental Landscapes for work undertaken over and above the terms and conditions outlined in the contract  
*(The Head of Partnerships responded and informed the meeting that the extra monies paid was minimal. He agreed to supply this information to the East North East Area Leader for dissemination to Members of the Area Committee. In the interim period, it was noted that Councillor P Harrand would raise this issue at the appropriate Scrutiny Board)*
- Clarification of the number of cuts undertaken by Continental Landscapes within the period of the contract and details of where the savings had gone  
*(The Head of Partnerships responded and provided a breakdown of cuts undertaken. He agreed to supply a copy of the financial information to the East North East Area Leader for dissemination to Members of the Area Committee)*

**RESOLVED** -That the contents of the report be noted.

(Councillor J Procter joined the meeting at 5.40pm during discussions of the above item)

## **55 Well-being Fund Budgets**

The East North East Area Leader submitted a report providing Members with an update on the current position of the capital and revenue well being budget for the Area Committee and highlighting the applications made for consideration by the Area Committee.

Appended to the report was a copy of a document entitled 'Outer North East Area Committee Well-Being Budget 2012-13' (Appendix 1 refers) for the information/comment of the meeting.

In addition to the above documents, the East North East Area Officer circulated a copy of a revised appendix of the Outer North East Area Committee Well-Being Budget 2012-13, together with a revised copy of the Wetherby and Harewood Farmwatch Patrols project application as supplementary information.

Also circulated, as supplementary information, was a copy of a late Wellbeing application regarding the Wetherby and District Development Fund Project.

Carole Clark, East North East Area Officer presented the report and responded to Members' comments and queries.

Inspector Paul Dwyer, West Yorkshire Police was also in attendance to provide the meeting with background information in relation to the Wetherby and Harewood Farmwatch Patrols project.

Detailed discussion ensued on the contents of the report and appendices.

**RESOLVED –**

- a) That the contents of the report and appendices be noted.
- b) That this Committee notes the spend to date and current balances for the 2012/13 financial year in accordance with the report now submitted.
- c) That the following projects be dealt with as follows:-

| <b>Organisation</b>             | <b>Project</b>                                     | <b>Amount</b>  |
|---------------------------------|--|--|
| Alwoodley Community Association | Extension of equipment storage                     | Agreed £10,000 (2012/13)   |
| Slaid Hill in Bloom             | Environmentally Friendly Planting in an urban area | Agreed £1,419 (2012/13)  |
| West Yorkshire Police           | Wetherby and Harewood Farmwatch Patrols            | Agreed £6,000 (Harewood £3,000/Wetherby £3,000) (2012/13) towards the daily running costs of two landrover 4x4 vehicles, namely fuel and tyres |
| East North East Homes Leeds     | Verge Improvements, Moss Syke                      | Deferred for more information  |
| Leeds City Council              | Wetherby and District Development Fund             | Agreed £20,000 (2012/13) for future projects in Wetherby   |

- d) That the following Wellbeing decision which was approved as a delegated officer decision due to the timescales for the project be endorsed:-

West Yorkshire Police Winter Crime Reduction - £2000 to be used to provide additional patrols in Wetherby Town Centre

- e) That in relation to the issue raised regarding skips and small grants within the Harewood ward, the East North East Area Officer be

requested to provide an update on progress at the next meeting in February 2013.

(Councillor P Harrand left the meeting at 6.00pm after consideration of the Verge Improvements, Moss Syke project)

**56 Environmental Services - Six Month Performance Update on the Services Level Agreement**

Referring to Minute 11 of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2012, the Locality Manager (East North East Area) submitted a report which provided a half year update on the performance against the Service Level Agreement (SLA) between Outer North East Area Committee and the East North East Environmental Locality Team.

The report also provided the Area Committee with information of the range of functions being delivered across the area during this period against the priorities and commitments set out in the SLA, and how they were helping to make a difference on the ground/at the front line.

It was noted that the Area Committee had an opportunity to influence the service and budget planning process for 2013/14 and that views on service developments and continued top priorities for Outer NE were sought, particularly in light of the expected further financial pressures.

Appended to the report was a copy of the following documents for the information/comment of the meeting:-

- Analysis of service requests responded to by ENE Locality Team during the reporting period May to October 2012 (Appendix A refers)
- Analysis of legal notices and Fixed Penalty Notices issued by the ENE Locality Team during the reporting period May to October 2012 (Appendix B refers)
- ENE Locality Team – Financial Position 2012/13 (half year update) (Appendix B refers)

In addition to the above documents, a copy of Appendix C - 'Leeds Citizens Panel – Environmental Services satisfaction results' was circulated as supplementary information.

John Woolmer, East North East Locality Manager, Environment and Neighbourhoods Directorate presented the report and responded to Members' comments and queries.

Beverley Kirk, Technical Enforcement Officer, Environment and Neighbourhoods Directorate was also in attendance to provide background details around enforcement.

Prior to discussing the report, the Area Committee were requested to consider the following specific issues:-

- i) what aspects of the service they feel were working well and delivering against the commitments made in the SLA;
- ii) what aspects of the service do they feel were not working as well as they should against the commitments made in the SLA and would like to see improvements made;
- iii) what additional information Members would find useful in future performance reports to help make judgements about the delivery against the SLA commitments;
- iv) what the Area Committee's views were on the key service developments and what continued top priorities for Outer NE should be in planning for 2013/14, particularly in light of the expected further financial pressures

Detailed discussion ensued on the contents of the report and appendices.

In summary, specific reference was made to the following issues:-

- Clarification of the locations identified for new litter bins within the three NE (Outer) wards  
*(The East North East Locality Manager responded and agreed to forward the relevant site location details to the East North East Area Leader for dissemination to Members of the Area Committee)*
- Clarification of the process in relation to the team away half-days held in October
- Clarification as to why the figures in relation to overgrown vegetation were significantly different within the three wards
- Clarification of the financial information in relation to cover for streets operatives (leave) as outlined in Appendix B
- The need to reduce flooding in certain areas i.e. Collingham and to ensure that Highways and Yorkshire Water were taking measures to replace gullies that had collapsed or become damaged  
*(The East North East Locality Manager responded and outlined the contracted arrangements that were currently in place. He made reference to regular meetings held with Highways and agreed to raise this issue at future meetings. Following discussions, it was also agreed to discuss this issue in more detail at the next Environmental Sub Group)*
- Clarification of the financial contribution received from Highways in relation to gullies and on the discussions being undertaken to date at the Environmental Sub Group regarding Area Committees taking on this delegated responsibility
- Clarification of the number of appraisals undertaken with all staff across the Locality Team  
*(The East North East Locality Manager responded and confirmed that 100% of all appraisals had been undertaken across the Locality Team with half yearly reviews pending. Arising from discussions, the Area Committee commended the East North East Locality Manager and his support team on such a high percentage rate of appraisals undertaken during the June/July period)*
- The need to prevent dog fouling and to try and prosecute those people who commit this offence

- Clarification if there had been a significant difference in prosecutions and levels resulting from dog control orders  
(*The East North East Locality Manager responded and agreed to look at the figures with a report back in due course*)

**RESOLVED-**

- a) That the contents of the report and appendices be noted and welcomed.
- b) That the follow up issues raised above be addressed by the East North East Locality Manager and the East North East Area Leader.

(Councillor D Cohen left the meeting at 6.10pm during discussions of the above item)

**57 Wetherby and Harewood Town and Parish Council Forum**

The East North East Area Leader submitted a report providing the Area Committee with the minutes from the meeting of the Wetherby and Harewood Town and Parish Council Forum a held on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2012.

Appended to the report was a copy of the notes of the Harewood and Wetherby Town and Parish Council Forum held on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2012 for the information/comment of the meeting.

**RESOLVED -**

- a) That the contents of the report of the report and appendices be noted.
- b) That the issues raised be noted and through this Area Committee, the Parish Council Forum be supported in resolving those issues.

**58 Environmental Sub Group Report**

The East North East Area Leader submitted a report on the issues discussed at the Environmental Sub Group.

Carole Clark, East North East Area Officer presented the report and responded to Members' comments and queries.

Discussion ensued on the contents of the report.

Councillor N Buckley made reference to 3.2.4 'Other issues' and informed the meeting that 'Nursery Lane' should have read as King Lane in the body of the report.

Carole Clark responded and apologised for this administrative error.

**RESOLVED** –That the contents of the report be noted.

**59 Area Chairs Forum Minutes**

The Assistant Chief Executive (Planning, Policy and Improvement) submitted a report on the Area Chairs Forum minutes held on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2012.

Appended to the report was a copy of the minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2012 for the information/comment of the meeting.

**RESOLVED –**

- a) That the contents of the report and appendices be noted.
- b) That this Committee notes the contents of the Area Chairs Forum minutes held on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2012.

**60 Date and Time of Next Meeting**

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2013 at 5.30pm in the Civic Hall, Leeds.

(The meeting concluded at 6.30pm)