

SOUTH (OUTER) AREA COMMITTEE

MONDAY, 21ST OCTOBER, 2013

PRESENT: Councillor K Bruce in the Chair

Councillors N Dawson, J Dunn, J Elliott,
S Golton, T Leadley, L Mulherin, D Nagle,
K Renshaw and S Varley

28 Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests, however Councillors Leadley, Varley and Elliott brought to the Committee's attention that they were all members of Morley Elderly Action

29 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors B Gettings and R Finnigan.

30 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 no members of the public in attendance.

The Chair introduced Neil Evans, Director of Housing and Environment to the meeting. Mr Evans gave the Committee an overview of his responsibilities and informed the Area Committee of the recent transfer of housing functions to the Council from the ALMOs.

In response to Members comments and questions, the following was discussed:

- Investment in new social housing – this would be a city wide programme and not concentrated on any specific areas. Along with new building, there would be other incentives such as right to buy schemes.
- Estate management and tenant participation – there was a need to demonstrate transparency and accountability and there would be a need to demonstrate how decisions were taken. Tenant participation remained essential as part of the way housing was managed and there would be an ongoing role for the Area Panels.

- Future delegation of parks to Area Committees – the major tourist parks would not be included in any delegation but smaller community parks could be.
- Alternative weekly collection – Members indicated that this had commenced reasonably well. It was suggested that there could be more co-ordination for street cleansing following refuse collections. This had been raised at Environmental Sub Group meetings.
- It was intended that the ALMO Estate Caretaker Services become part of the Environmental Action Teams.
- Performance management information – involvement of tenants and community groups.

31 Minutes - 16 September 2013

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 16 September be confirmed as a correct record and decisions taken at the meeting be formally ratified.

32 Strengthening Relationships between the Outer South Area Committee and the Third Sector

The joint report of the South East Area Leader and Chief Officer of Voluntary Action Leeds updated the Area Committee about recent developments regarding work with the third sector. The report sought Members support for the direction of travel outlined and presented key initiatives for discussion.

David Smith of Voluntary Action Leeds, presented the report.

Members' attention was brought to the pilot initiative that was underway to bring the third sector together in the South East area and the Third Sector Goes Local Event that was held in July. Members were also informed of third sector work with local partners including the Council and Health Service providers. Further issues highlighted from the report included initiatives to strengthen the relationship between the Area Committee and Third Sector.

In response to Members comments and questions, the following was discussed:

- Work was ongoing to provide a database of third sector providers. It was a key challenge to be able to provide more data about the sector.
- Involvement of Elected Members in future events.
- Involvement of Area Lead Members with third sector providers of corresponding services.
- The use of Wellbeing Funds for Third Sector activity.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the report be noted.
- (2) That the work been done to strengthen links between the Third Sector and Area Committees be supported.

- (3) That the key initiatives outlined in paragraph 3.4 of the report be agreed subject to the removal of paragraph (f)

33 Children's Services Area Committee Update Report

The report of the Director of Children's Services summarised performance at Area Committee level with an acknowledgement of city level performance.

Nigel Richardson, Director of Children's Services and Martyn Stenton presented the report.

The Area Committee was reminded of the ambition for Leeds to become the best city in the country and the desired outcomes against the obsessions to make Leeds a child friendly city. Reference was made regarding work with partners across the city and how these could contribute to meeting the outcomes.

Members were given an update on issues relating to the obsessions since the previous report to Area Committee. These included the following:

- Requests to Children's Social Services had reduced in Outer South Leeds and the number on Child Protection Plans had reduced. It was felt that work on early intervention had supported this.
- Work on reducing NEETs had involved a wide range of agencies across the city and although there had been a slight rise, this was normal for the time of year and had also been due to identifying others previously class as not known.
- School attendance figures across the area were pleasing.
- There had been a reduction in the number of young offenders in the area.

In response to Members comments and questions, the following issues were discussed:

- Health issues, particularly mental health support for young people – this was an issue that had been raised by both the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Children's Trust Board.
- There were encouraging trends across the city in the reduction of NEETs.
- Youth Service provision – Leeds had maintained more provision than other authorities and the Breeze offer had helped to capture and shape services and activities that young people required.
- Foster Carers – it was recognised that the Council needed to recruit more foster carers.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

34 Summary of Key Work

The report of the South East Area Leader presented an update on the key work taking place within the Outer South Leeds area not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

Members discussed traffic and highways issues and proposed changes to the Neighbourhood Policing Teams. It was reported that a briefing on the policing review would be given to Area Committee Chairs.

Aretha Hanson, Area Officer presented the report. The following issues were highlighted:

- The Outer South Area Committee Business Plan 2013/14: Actions and Priorities. Members were asked to approve the priorities and actions.
- Consultation with young people and the Youth Matters Group.
- International Day of Older People – There had been two successful events held in the Outer South area attended by over 400 people.
- Community First grants that had been approved.
- There had been a first meeting of the Working Group on strengthening relationships with Town and Parish Councils. An update would be brought to a future meeting.
- Springlands and Moorlands NIP – a previous wellbeing funded project proposal had been cancelled and £1,000 would be returned to wellbeing funds.

During the discussion on this item, Councillor Leadley left the meeting. As there was no longer a Member in attendance from Morley North, the Area Committee was advised that there was no longer a quorum and any decisions would have to be ratified at the next meeting or made by officer delegation following consultation with Members.

RECOMMENDED –

- (1) That the report be noted.
- (2) That the Outer South Area Committee Priorities and Actions be approved.

35 Wellbeing Report

The report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Citizens and Communities) provided Members with the following:

- Details of the Wellbeing Budget Position
- An update on both the revenue, capital and activities fund elements of the Wellbeing budget
- Details of revenue projects agreed to date which link to the priorities and actions in the Area Committee Business Plan

- The current position of the Small Grants Budget

Aretha Hanson, Area Officer presented the report. It was reported that there were no projects for approval and Members were informed of projects that had been approved via delegated decision since the last meeting.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the report be noted
- (2) That the position of the Wellbeing, capital and Activities fund elements of the wellbeing budget be noted.
- (3) That the revenue projects already agreed be noted.
- (4) That the Small Grants situation be noted

36 Date and time of next Meeting

Monday, 2 December 2013 at 4.00 p.m.