

WEST (OUTER) AREA COMMITTEE

FRIDAY, 7TH NOVEMBER, 2008

PRESENT: Councillor D Blackburn in the Chair

Councillors A Blackburn, M Coulson,
J Jarosz, R Lewis, J Marjoram and
A Parnham

CO-OPTees: Reverend Kingsley-Dowling – Faith Representative
Liz Navin-Jones – Business Representative

32 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of the Lord Mayor Councillor Frank Robinson, Councillor Andrew Carter, Howard Bradley, Co-optee - Youth Representative and Steve Crocker, West North West Area Manager.

33 Declaration of Interests

The following interests were declared:-

The Chair, Councillor D Blackburn declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 11 – Community Safety (Minute 40 refers) in his capacity as a Governor at Lower Wortley Primary School.

Councillor J Jarosz declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 11 – Community Safety (Minute 40 refers) in her capacity as a Probation Officer for the National Probation Service and in Agenda Item 10 – Leeds Colleges Merger Consultation (Minute 39 refers) as her son is a Lecturer at Leeds College of Building.

Councillor M Coulson declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 15 – Well-Being Fund Update – Appendix 1 Progress Report (Minute 44 refers) in his capacity as a member of Pudsey in Bloom.

Councillor J Marjoram declared a personal interest in Agenda Items 9 and 11 – West North West Homes Area Panel/Community Safety Update (Minutes 38 and 40 refer) in his capacity as a Outer West Area Panel Member.

Councillor R Lewis declared a personal interest in Agenda Items 9 and 11 – West North West Homes Area Panel/Community Safety Update (Minutes 38 and 40 refer) in his capacity as a Outer West Area Panel Member.

Note: Councillor A Blackburn declared a personal interest during consideration of Agenda Items 11 and 12 – Community Safety Update/Well-Being Fund Update – Appendix 1 Progress Report (Minutes 40 and 44 refer)

In her capacity as a Director of Leeds Groundwork and West North West ALMO.

34 Open Forum/Community Forums

The Chair made reference to the provision contained in the Area Committee Procedure Rules for an Open Forum session of up to 10 minutes at each ordinary meeting of an Area Committee to allow members of the public to make representations or to ask questions on matters within the remit of the Area Committee. On this occasion, no members of the public were present.

Councillor Coulson referred to Minute 7.1 of the Pudsey and Swinnow Forum meeting regarding the surfacing in Pudsey Park that had been ripped up. The Area Committee were informed that the surfacing had been reported and was now repaired.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the minutes of the Pudsey & Swinnow Forum meeting held on 15th September 2008 were submitted for information and noted.
- (b) That the minutes of the Tyersal Forum meeting held on 24th September 2008 were submitted for information and noted.
- (c) That the minutes of the Farnley and Wortley Forum meeting held on 25th September 2008 were submitted for information and noted.

35 Minutes - 12th September 2008

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 12th September 2008 be confirmed as a correct record.

36 Matters Arising from the Minutes

- (a) Minute 22 (a) – Outer West Well-Being Budget Update – Parking on Grassed Land on Surrey Grove

It was reported that a NASWA inspection of services on the grassed area and it was now anticipated that the bollards would be in place before Christmas 2008.

- (b) Minute 26 - Community Safety Update

The Chair reported that the Open Day at Pudsey Police Station had been a brilliant day and was well beyond their expectations. The Open Day had been well supported and that local Councillors as well as the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Leeds had also been in attendance.

- (c) Minute 28 – Outer West Well-Being Budget Update (Resolution c(i) – Fulneck Street Lighting

The Chair reported that Unitas (Fulneck's Management Company) had now donated £3,000 towards the cost of the project.

37 West North West Homes - Outer West Area Panel Meeting Minutes

Councillor Lewis informed the meeting that he had found out at a meeting in Swinnow on Thursday, 6th November 2008 that West North West Leeds Homes had arranged a meeting to do with finding capital budget for decency for the whole of the Outer West area which he raised as a Area Panel Member. The Councillor also found out at the Swinnow meeting that most Councillors have not been informed about this meeting.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Outer West Area Panel Meeting held on 11th June 2008 and 6th August 2008 were submitted for information and noted.

38 West North West Homes Leeds Area Panels

Referring to Minute 7, 11th July 2008 and Minute 22, 12th September 2008, the Chief Executive, West North West Homes submitted a report responding to the issues raised by West Outer Area Committee Members and suggested proposals for future presentations and work with the Outer West Area Committee.

Appended to the report was a copy of the West North West Area Panel Terms of Reference for Members' information.

Claire Warren, Chief Executive, West North West Homes presented the report and responded to Members' questions and comments.

The Chief Executive pointed out that the Area Panels were only set up approximately 12 months ago and that each Area Panel found issues in terms of their development in different stages. It had been difficult to get Council representation at Area Panel meetings and to combat the problem there was now an annual calendar of meetings being scheduled for all Area Panel meetings.

In brief, the main issues raised were:

- The need to fill the huge gap between the ALMOs and Elected Members as it was felt by Ward Members that not enough information seems to be filtering through to them on local issues in their Wards and they also feel they are not being consulted.
- The need to revise the membership of the Area Panels as due to other commitments, only one local Councillor is often in attendance at the meeting. In response, the Chief Executive informed the meeting that the Area Panel membership was set by the Council and not with the ALMO and that she would convey Members views on this matter to the Strategic Landlord Section.
- The need to train Area Panel Members on exactly what their role is at the

Area Panel meetings as Members feel it is not clear role is expected from Councillors. In response, the Chief Executive informed the meeting that arrangements are being made to hold a briefing session for all Panel Members.

- The need to structure the Area Panel meetings more as it is felt that these meetings can last for as much as three to four hours. In response, the Chief Executive informed the meeting that part of the Area Panel's responsibilities were to consider environmental improvement works and much of the time was taken up at the Area Panel meeting to consider applications for funding – within the last six months the ALMO had received 136 bids.
- The need for the ALMO to set an earlier cut off date for these bids or to come up with an alternative mechanism by which the bids can be managed.
- Members expressed their concern that the applications/bids should be fully exclusive to everyone and Councillors need to be involved or at least consulted in the bidding process in order to make sure that there is consistency throughout their Wards.

The Chair thanked Claire Warren for her attendance

RESOLVED -

- (a) That the outcomes of West North West Homes Leeds Area Panel review will be fully reported to the 19th December 2008 meeting of this Area Committee, with the recommendation that improvements need to be made with the format and content of Area Panel minute summaries provided to the Board at West North West Homes, be noted.
- (b) That the Chief Executive, West North West Homes Leeds be requested to organise quarterly briefing events for Ward Members in the Outer West area to aid communication and joint working, commencing late November 2008.

39 Leeds Colleges Merger Consultation

The Deputy Manager, West North West informed Members of the Executive Board's endorsement of the proposed merger of the City's three largest colleges, namely Leeds Thomas Danby, Leeds College of Technology and Park Lane College which will result in the creation of a new single institution to be known as Leeds City College.

Christina George, Leeds Skills Council gave a short presentation informing the Area Committee of the progress made, setting out the rationale for the merger and gave a summary of the outcome of the extensive consultations which had been held over the past few years.

It was also reported that following a review of college provision in Leeds it had been concluded that some of the current college accommodation in Leeds was no longer fit for purpose and there was a duplication of provision. There

was also a need to raise post 16 educational achievement and increase numbers of students progressing to higher education.

The Area Committee were also informed that a Strategic Board comprising the Governors from the Colleges and an independent Chair was to be established in November 2008. Initial proposals had also included Joseph Priestly College and Leeds College of Building who had not opted to form part of the proposed Leeds City College. It was also reported that the Learning Skills Council would be committing 100% funding towards the merger.

In brief, the main areas of discussion were:

- Concern was expressed that the nearest college was Park Lane at Horsforth and was totally in the wrong direction for the West Outer area.
- The need for adequate community involvement at an early stage and to ensure local Councillors are involved in the outline planning process.
- Members felt that there was a need for a further education facility in the West side area of Leeds, one which could be accessed by both Leeds and Bradford. The Area Committee felt that there were a few adequate sites in the West Leeds area.
- Concern was expressed that the new college does not become another massive college in the City Centre as it was felt there was a need for education to be accessible and sustainable in the local community area.

The Chair thanked Christina George and Paul Forbes for their attendance. Christina George informed the meeting that should a Member come up with any suggestions in the interim, especially with regard to the refurbishment/upgrade of an existing community building for the provision of further education in the neighbourhood and communities served by this Area Committee, that she can always be contacted at the Leeds Skills Council.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the report be noted.
- (b) That a further report be submitted on the outcome of the accommodation/estates review of the new College once completed in 2009.

Note:

- (i) Councillor A Blackburn joined the meeting as approximately 2.50 p.m. during consideration of the above item.
- (ii) Councillor J Jarosz declared a personal interest in the above item due to her son being a lecturer at Leeds College of Building

40 Community Safety Update

The Inspector and Gill Hunter, Community Safety Co-ordinator updated Members' on the North West Division operation launched on 16th October 2008 which is linked to the 'Inside Justice Week' – a national awareness campaign in respect of proceeds of Crime Act. The Area Committee were

also updated on several police initiatives to tackle burglary, as well as other local initiatives in Outer West.

The Area Committee were also given an overview of Operation Champion that took place in the Farnley area on 24th to 26th September 2008 as outlined in Appendix 1 attached to the submitted report. The West Area Community Safety Co-ordinator also informed the meeting that the time switches left over from distribution last year will be redistributed in both the Inner and Outer wards.

In brief, the main issues raised were:-

- The recent good news story regarding the notorious Bradford car thieves who had recently been captured. The Inspector had recently sent out over 200 letters to local residents in the Calverley/Pudsey area warning them to lock their doors, put their car keys out of sight and in a safe place in order to avoid any more cars from being stolen during possible burglaries.
- The recent Open Day held at Pudsey Police Station. The Area Committee were informed that at the Open Day they carried out a customer satisfaction survey and the public were asked what they thought i.e. what the Neighbourhood Policing Teams did well and, in their opinion, what they may not have done so well on especially with regard to response times. The survey was carried out in order that improvements could be made on the service provided by the Policing Teams.
- That extra policing patrols were being brought in over the Christmas period, particularly in identified anti social behaviour hot spot areas. Members were asked to pass on any information regarding potential hot spot areas during the Christmas period so that incidents could be stopped before they and so that the extra patrols can be directed into position early.
- The 'Proceeds of Crime Act' which was part of the Inside Justice Week. Members were informed that this Act was to encourage people to inform the Police Authority if someone was living beyond their means although they may not be in full time employment. The new Act enables the Police to confiscate and sell on the goods bought from the proceeds of crime. Approximately, 50% of the value of the good will then be donated to the area in which the goods had been confiscated. The Open Day at Pudsey Police Station had on show a confiscated Mercedes which had been bought from the proceeds of crime.
- The outstanding contributions made by the Neighbourhood Wardens in the community and the huge success with the work carried out on the Cobdens clearing the bin yards and cutting back shrubbery and waste alongside Cast, Unpaid Services, the Probation Team and pupils from Farnley High School.
- The need to engage more with the community and to encourage them to take more pride and responsibility for the area in which they live.
- The need to encourage the community to attend public events, open forums and briefing sessions etc to make them aware of what can be

achieved in the community. The Area Management Officer informed the meeting that this matter was being given serious consideration by West Area Management and that the points raised at today's meeting would be taken on board.

The Chair thanked Inspector Tim Warren and Gill Hunter for their attendance.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the update report be received and noted.
- (b) That the West North West Area Manager be instructed to write on behalf of the West Outer Area Committee to all the Outer West area Wardens thanking them for all the hard work they had put in over the last few months, especially the valuable contributions made when working as part of the partnership agency and the recent work carried out on the binyards.
- (c) That the West North West Area Manager report back to the next Area Committee meeting on proposals for more publicity to engage more people in the community to attend events, meetings, presentations etc.

41 Area Manager's Report

The West North West Area Manager submitted a detailed update report on the progress of a number of initiatives and projects within the Outer West Leeds Area Delivery Plan.

Appended to the report at Appendix 1 was a table highlighting the proposed Area Functions for 2008/2009.

Sam Woodhead, West Leeds Area Management presented the report which gave an update on the following main issues:-

- **Area Functions** – Community Centres, Neighbourhood Wardens, CCTV, and Neighbourhood Management Co-ordination.
- **Area Roles** – Community Engagement, Area Based Regeneration Schemes and Town and District Projects and Conservation Area Reviews.

In conclusion, Members noted the functions and roles of the Area Committee aim to:

- Improve the quality and value for money of Council service delivery.
- Improve the quality of democracy and find new ways to facilitate citizen participation in local government through the development of links between Ward Members and their communities.
- To co-ordinate the policy and service delivery between the local services providers.

RESOLVED – That the contents of the report be noted.

42 Update on Flood Risk Management

The Head of Risk and Emergency Planning submitted a report in support of a presentation by the Council's Water Asset Management Working Group on recent work undertaken to improve the management of flood risk both nationally and locally and the implications of this for the Outer West Leeds area.

Richard Davies, Head of Risk and Emergency Planning, Resources Department and David Sellers, Principal Engineer, Main Drainage – Development Department gave a lengthy presentation and responded to Members' questions and comments.

In particular, the presentation pointed out the 'Role of Area Committees' in Flood Risk Management and it was emphasised that the Area Committee need to:

- Be aware of overall flood risk agenda and what the Flood Risk Management Team are seeking to achieve when this issue is raised.
- Consider and raise flood risk issues in relation to new developments in their area.
- Act as 'eyes and ears' through links to community and inform the Flood Risk Management Team about any problems with flooding before they become an issue.
- Offer support for any bids made to either the corporate centre or external bodies in order to resolve known flood risk problems.

In brief, the main issues raised were:-

- The need to maintain and watch for fallen branches/trees on the main rivers at Wortley Beck and Farnley Wood Beck.
- The need to increase the height of the river bank between the beck and the main road.
- The need for Yorkshire Water Services and the Environment Agencies to maintain the public sewers and encourage maintenance on the private sewers.
- The need to ensure that gullies are regularly unblocked, especially along the Ring Road.
- That parts of Butt Lane have no gullies at all and the water eventually cascades down to the Ring Road.
- The need for the West Outer Area Committee and Community Forums to receive regular updates.

The Chair thanked Officers for their attendance.

RESOLVED - That the contents of the report and presentation be noted.

43 Community Engagement

The Area Committee considered a report by the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods following proposals approved by the Executive Board in November 2007 to extend and enhance the roles of the Area Committees during 2008/2009. Community Engagement was included as a specific function with a requirement for the agreement of a local community engagement plan for each area. The report outlines proposals for community engagement in Outer West Leeds and described how the Area Committee could engage and involve local residents. This involves the production of an area plan for community engagement which will include:

- **A Community Profile** of local data and intelligence, with information about the local communities, identified key contacts and routes to reach local neighbourhood and interest communities;
- **A Calendar of Planned Communication and Engagement activity**, including in 'About Leeds' at least once each year and;
- **Community Engagement Activities** within particular neighbourhoods and communities linked to Area Delivery Plan priorities.

Sam Woodhead, Area Management Officer presented the report and, together with Jason Singh, Deputy Area Manager responded to Members questions and comments.

In brief, the main issues raised were:

- Members expressed their concerns regarding who will be accountable when people in the community make a bid under the participatory budget scheme and concern that only the strong characters in the community might be the only ones to prevail.
- Members requested more information on the participatory budget schemes that have already been approved.

The Chair informed the meeting that it had been intended to present a video of a successful participatory budget scheme that had taken place in the South Outer area but due to the timescale and numerous presentations at today's meeting this video will now be shown at a future meeting.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the report be received and its contents noted.
- (b) That Members be provided with more information on those participatory budget schemes already approved.

44 Outer West Area Committee Well-Being Fund Update

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods submitted a report updating Members on the latest situation regarding the Committee's revenue and capital Well-Being Budget for 2008/2009, including identified pressures on the budget, small grants and skips made since the last meeting and details of applications for funding.

Appended to the report was an update on the progress of well-being projects approved between November and April 2008.

Sanm Woodhead, Area Management Officer presented the report and responded to Members' questions and comments.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the progress of well-being projects approved between November 2007 and April 2008 be noted.
- (b) That the current amount of Revenue Well-Being funding available to the Committee in 2008/09 is £25,023 and Capital Well-Being fund is £32,640.12, and the budget pressures set out in Paragraph 6 of the report, be noted.
- (c) That the list of Small Grant and Skips made since the last meeting as set out in Paragraph 4 of the report, be noted.
- (d) That the following decisions be taken in respect of the applications for funding:

Revenue

- (i) Trail Biking - £1,000 – Approved.
 - (ii) West Leeds Sports Development Programme - £6,000 – Approved.
- (e) That the Community Sports Officer (West Leeds) be invited to attend one of the Crime and Grime meetings as it was felt that it would be useful for him to pick up on relevant hotspot information, for example on 'repeat local offenders' who would benefit greatly by participating in the proposed sporting activities outlined in Appendix 3 of the submitted report.

45 Forward Plan for Outer West Area Committee

The West/North West Area Manager submitted a list of agenda items suggested for the next meeting of the Outer West Area Committee.

RESOLVED - That the following items be submitted on to the agenda of the next West Outer Area Committee:

- (a) Area Panel Review – new framework.
- (b) Community Safety Year Review.
- (c) Well-Being Budget Update.
- (d) Feedback report on the Greenhill Primary School Market Place event.

46 Date and Time of Next Meeting

Friday, 19th December 2008 at 2.00 p.m. (Themed Forum Meeting and possible venue at the Elite Business Centre to be arranged).