

WEST (OUTER) AREA COMMITTEE

FRIDAY, 17TH DECEMBER, 2010

PRESENT: Councillor D Blackburn in the Chair

Councillors A Blackburn, A Carter,
M Coulson, J Hardy and J Jarosz

CO-OPTEEES: Rev Kingsley Dowling

APOLOGIES: Councillors R Lewis, J Marjoram and
R Wood

54 Presentation - PCSO Mick Cox

On behalf of the Area Committee, the Chair presented local PCSO Mick Cox with a Certificate of Appreciation in acknowledgement of his hard work and dedication in serving the residents of the area.

The Chair and Inspector Richard Cawkwell paid tribute to PCSO Cox, who had recently won a prestigious national Police award for his outstanding work, which Inspector Cawkwell stated was in the best traditions of the Police force. Local Members added their thanks and congratulations.

55 Declaration of Interests

No declarations of interest were made.

56 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors R Lewis, J Marjoram and R Wood and Liz Navin-Jones (Co-Optee).

57 Open Forum

Reference was made to the provision contained in the Area Committee Procedure Rules for an Open Forum session to take place at every ordinary meeting of an Area Committee, whereby members of the public could ask questions or make representations on any matter which fell within the remit of an Area Committee. On this occasion, no such matters were raised.

58 Minutes - 15th October 2010

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 15th October 2010 be confirmed as a correct record.

59 Matters Arising from the Minutes

Draft minutes to be approved at the meeting
to be held on Friday, 28th January, 2011

- a) Ex-Councillors Frank Robinson and Amanda Carter (Minute No. 38 refers)

On behalf of his wife, Councillor Carter passed on her thanks for the Committee's best wishes, expressed at the last meeting.

Councillor Carter reported that ex-Councillor Frank Robinson was recovering after his recent health problems, and also passed on his kind regards to the Committee.

- b) Community Safety Report – Cottingley Springs (Minute No. 44(a) refers)

Further to Minute No. 44(a), 15th October 2010, the Area Management Officer reported that, via the Health and Wellbeing Improvement Manager, the initiative of a possible food co-operative at Cottingley Springs was being pursued.

- c) Children's Services – Performance Report (Minute No. 44(b) refers)

Further to Minute No. 44(b), 15th October 2010, a group had been established in connection with teenage pregnancy 'hotspots' and Councillor A Blackburn (and N Taggart) had recently had a meeting with the newly appointed Young Person's Sexual Development Worker. A further event was planned for 13th January and Amanda Jackson, Children's Services, undertook to let Members have details.

- d) Community Centres – Update Report (Minute No. 44(c) refers)

The Acting Area Manager reported that the proposed report back on Community Centres had been overtaken by a corporate review of Area Committee delegations as a whole, therefore a report would have to be submitted to a later meeting.

Members briefly discussed charges and subsidy levels at Community Centres, both those operated directly by the Council and those leased out to other organisations. The Acting Area Manager undertook to forward to Councillor Hardy the brief for the current review referred to above.

- e) West Leeds Visitor Centre (Minute No. 44(d) refers)

Phil Staniforth, Parks and Countryside Service, reported that, via Corporate Property Management, some revised works were proposed to the entrance doors, an access ramp and re-configuring the furniture, to make the Centre more wheelchair accessible, but he could not state when the work would be completed.

- f) Youth Service Update Report (Minute No. 44(e) refers)

The Acting Area Manager reported that Youth Services had recently been discussed at the Area Committee Chairs' Forum, and a report would be submitted to all Area Committees shortly.

With regard to the recent issue regarding the cancellation of the football sessions at Pudsey Leisure Centre, referred to at the last meeting, the Acting Area Manager had raised Members' concerns with Suzanne Wainwright, Youth Services, and the criticism regarding the lack of consultation and communication with local Members had been accepted.

g) Wellbeing Budget 2010/11 – Update Report (Minute No. 46 refers)

Further to Minute No. 46, 15th October 2010, the Acting Area Manager reported that since the last meeting, a small grant application had been approved in respect of Friends of Woodhall Lake.

h) Posts of Community Environment Support Officers (Minute No. 47 refers)

Further to Minute No. 47, 15th October 2010, the Acting Area Manager stated that he had raised, at the centre, the Members' point regarding the funding of these CESO posts, but had received no assurance that any unspent Wellbeing Budget balances remaining at the end of the financial year would be allowed to be carried over into 2011/12. Members would therefore need to consider this matter on its own merits later in the meeting.

i) Proposed Delegation of Elements of the Streetscene Service to Area Committees (Minute No. 49 refers)

The Acting Area Manager indicated that a meeting of the Environmental Services Sub Group would be held in the New Year.

60 Minutes - ALMO West Outer Area Panel, 11th August 2010

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the above meeting be received and noted.

61 Wellbeing Budget 2010/11 - Update Report

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods submitted a report updating the Committee on its revenue and capital Wellbeing Budget balances for 2010/11, together with details of the Small Grants and Community Skips Budgets, and several applications for funding before the Committee today for decision.

RESOLVED –

a)

Draft minutes to be approved at the meeting
to be held on Friday, 28th January, 2011

- a) That the report be noted, including the revenue and capital wellbeing budget balances and the Small Grants and Community Skips approved since the last meeting.
- b) That the following decisions be taken in respect of those applications before the Committee today for determination:-

Revenue

- i) Summer band concerts - £3,000 – Approved
- ii) Town Centre Manager post - £25,000 – Approved
- iii) Farnley and Wortley noticeboards - £2,054 - Approved
- iv) New Farnley Village Design Statement - £3,432.49 – Approved
- v) Community Environmental Support Officers - £10,135.71 – Approved

Capital

- i) CASAC Burglary Reduction - £10,000 – Approved
- ii) Bagley Lane traffic scheme - £10,600 – Approved
- iii) Lidget Hill layby - £20,000 – £10,000 approved in principle, subject to further representations regarding this being match funded (£10,000) from the Town and District Centre Regeneration budget;
- iv) New Farnley Community Centre – roof repairs - £2,300 – Approved.

62 Area Manager's Report

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods submitted a report updating the Committee on progress against the Committee's Area Delivery Plan 2008-11.

In brief summary, the main points of discussion were:-

- Transport – Paragraph 3.17 refers – The Acting Area Manager corrected the information at Paragraph 3.17 of the report – following the meeting with local traders, it was actually the Robin Lane car park which would be restricted to 2 hour parking, not Lidget Hill. The existing short stay spaces in Lidget Hill and the Leisure Centre car parks would be retained;

- Young People – Amanda Jackson, Children’s Services, undertook to furnish Local Members with some further information regarding the content of Paragraph 3.14.

RESOLVED – That report be noted, and the draft Community Charter and the ‘Leeds Spending Challenge’ documents be received and endorsed.

63 Forward Plan of Area Committee Business

RESOLVED – That report be noted.

64 Towards Integrated Locality Working

The Assistant Chief Executive (Planning, Policy and Improvement) submitted a report outlining proposals for the development of locality working in Leeds, involving the proposed introduction of three, wedge-based Area Leader posts, to replace existing senior area management arrangements, and the development of greater levels of integrated working arrangements, both in-Council, but also with the Council’s partner organisations, to achieve greater levels of service delegation and better outcomes for residents across the City.

Shaid Mahmood, Locality Working Pathfinder, SE Leeds, attended the meeting and responded to Members’ queries and comments. In brief summary, the main discussion points were:-

- Regardless of the merits, or otherwise, of the proposals, Members were highly critical of the manner in which they were being handled. They had already been approved by the Executive Board on Wednesday, 15th December, so Area Committees were not being consulted on the proposals, they were being informed of a decision already taken.

In response, Shaid Mahmood indicated that the proposals had previously been discussed at the Area Committee Chairs’ Forum, and endorsed in principle. It was very unfortunate that, due to the meeting cycle, some Area Committees had been informed of the proposals prior to the Executive Board meeting, and others afterwards. The need to bring the proposals forward more quickly than might otherwise have been the case was entirely due to the financial situation the Council now found itself in following the Government’s Comprehensive Spending Review, and the drive for leaner, more co-ordinated services across the public sector. He emphasised the benefits of the proposals, and that the 10 draft design principles appended to the report were just that – draft principles which would be consulted on. He was happy to provide local Members with separate in-depth briefings, and some Members would also be involved in the recruitment process for the new Area Leader posts. It was also proposed to provide Council Members with a copy of the response to Councillor Cleasby’s recent queries and criticisms.

RESOLVED – That, subject to the above comments, the report be noted.

65 Parks and Countryside - Annual Report

Phil Staniforth presented the report of the Head of Parks and Countryside, outlining current services and planned improvements to facilities in the Committee's area.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

66 Community Safety - Annual Report

Inspector Richard Cawkwell and Gill Hunter, Divisional Community Safety Co-ordinator, presented the annual report of the NW Divisional Community Safety Partnership, and responded to Members' queries and comments.

In particular, they offered to pursue in greater depth a CCTV incident, if the Member in question supplied them separately with further details.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted, and the Police and officers be congratulated in respect of their hard work, which is evidenced in the report.

(NB: Councillor A Blackburn joined the meeting at 3.45 pm, during the consideration of this item.)

67 Dates, Times and Venues of Future Meetings

Friday, 28th January 2011, 2.00 pm, Tyersal Social Club.

Friday, 25th March 2011, 2.00 pm, Farnley Hall.

Councillor Hardy indicated that when consideration was given to setting dates and times for the 2011/12 municipal year, he would like some thought to be given to the possibility of at least some of the meetings being held in the evening.

68 Councillor J Jarosz

On behalf of the Committee, the Chair congratulated Councillor Jarosz on her recent marriage.

The meeting concluded at 4.00 pm.