

NORTH EAST (OUTER) AREA COMMITTEE

MONDAY, 6TH DECEMBER, 2010

PRESENT: Councillors A Lamb, J Procter,
P Harrand, A Castle, R Procter and
M Robinson

APOLOGIES: Councillors G Wilkinson, R D Feldman
and Mrs R Feldman

ALSO PRESENT: Tom Riordan, Chief Executive

40 Election of Chair for the Meeting

In the absence of Councillor G Wilkinson, it was:-

RESOLVED – That Councillor J Procter be elected to Chair the meeting.

(Councillor J Procter in the Chair.)

41 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors R D Feldman, Mrs R Feldman and G Wilkinson.

42 Declaration of Interests

The following declaration of a personal interest was made:-

- Councillor M Robinson – Agenda Item 10 (Minute NO. 47 refers) – Wellbeing Fund 2010/11 – Update Report – Application from Radio Tempo FM in respect of the Barleyfields Youth Club project – Councillor Robinson had a relative who worked at the radio station.

43 Open Forum

The agenda made reference to the provision contained in the Area Committee Procedure Rules for an Open Forum session at each ordinary meeting for members of the public to ask questions or to make representations on matters within the terms of reference of the Area Committee.

On this occasion, no such matters were raised.

44 Minutes - 25th October 2010

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 25th October 2010 be confirmed as a correct record.

45 Matters Arising from the Minutes

Proposed Delegation of Streetscene Services to Area Committees (Minute No. 35 refers)

In response to Members' queries, the Area Manager reported that it was proposed to submit a further report to the next cycle of Area Committee meetings, with a view to this function being delegated to Area Committees with effect from 2011/12 municipal year.

Members reiterated their reservations and concerns regarding this concept, expressed at the last meeting. The proposition had yet to be properly and fully explained to Members. The prospect of Parish and Town Councils possibly being interested in getting involved in operating the service in their areas was also raised.

RESOLVED – That the Area Manager be instructed to arrange a meeting between Local Members and Helen Freeman, Chief Officer (Health and Environmental Action Services) in the New Year.

- (NB: 1. Councillor R Procter joined the meeting at 5.35pm during the consideration of this item.
2. DLEQS refers to the District Local Environmental Quality Survey system designed by the Keep Britain Tidy Group.)

46 Community Planner - Update Report

Martin Sellens and Helen Cerroti, City Development Department, presented the report of the Head of Planning Services, updating Members regarding the role and work of the Community Planner funded by the Area Committee, and responded to Members' queries and comments.

In brief summary, the main discussion points were:-

- The work undertaken to date by the officer.
- The demands placed upon the post by Parish Councils which took perhaps a more proactive approach on planning matters than others, and the effect this had on the postholder in terms of being able to fulfil all aspects of the job description.
- The possible effects of the impending Localism Bill and the likely increased need for this type of post.
- The costs to the Area Committee of funding the post against a background of a reduction in the resources available to the Committee and also its existing commitments.
- The suggested need for a review of the role and remit of this post.

RESOLVED –

- a) That the report be noted.
- b) That the Community Planner liaise with Local Members to help to provide clarity to the role and remit of the post.
- c) That, without commitment on the part of the Area Committee, a further report be submitted in the New Year regarding the future of the post.

47 Wellbeing Fund 2010/11 - Update Report

The East North East Area Manager submitted a report updating the Committee on the current revenue and capital wellbeing budgets.

With regard to the accounting error referred to at the last meeting, (Minute No. 34 refers), the Area Manager referred to Paragraph 12 of the report, and the assurances which had been given by the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods at a recent meeting with Local Members, that resources would be found to meet all the Committee's existing commitments.

Members regarded that this commitment needed further refinement to identify all the commitments that had been given, both formal (i.e., previously formally approved by the Committee) and informal (i.e., schemes in development). It was agreed that the best way to take this forward would be to have those detailed discussions at the next round of Ward Member meetings.

Inspector Griffiths reported that the first of the enhanced week-end police patrols in Wetherby in the run-up to Christmas, funded by the Area Committee, had taken place last week-end. Although it had not been possible to deploy the mounted patrols, due to the adverse weather conditions, nevertheless the extra police presence had been welcomed by licensees and, by and large, by the public.

RESOLVED –

- a) That the report be noted.
- b) That the application for £1,109 in respect of the Radio Tempo FM project at Barleyfields Youth Club be approved, to be met from the Wetherby Ward Members MICE money.
- c) That the proposed methods of funding the remaining revenue projects, as outlined in the report, be noted.
- d) That the St. Paul's Church graveyard project, Shadwell, be deleted from the list of capital projects in development.

- e) That the current budget summary contained at Appendices A and B be the subject of further discussion at Ward Member meetings, in the light of the information set out at Paragraph 12 of the report.

48 Area Delivery Plan 2008 - 11 - Update Report

The East North East Area Manager submitted a report updating the Committee on progress in implementing the actions contained in the Area Delivery Plan 2008-11. He also made reference to a 'Leeds Spending Challenge' public consultation exercise currently being undertaken.

In brief summary, during the course of the item, the following main points were discussed:-

- Children's Services – Further to Minute No. 26, 20th September, and Minute No. 33(a), 25th October 2010, reference was made to the work being carried out behind the scenes to develop fit for purpose Children's Services Joint Collaborative Committees, which took account of the full involvement of Local Members.
- Some scepticism was expressed regarding the usefulness, purpose and effect of the 'Spending Challenge' consultation exercise, and why the Council had not yet published details of all its expenditure over £500, as required by the Government.

Members were assured that the 'Spending Challenge' was a very real exercise which could influence the Council's budget plans, which were currently at an early stage. The Council also fully intended to comply, at the earliest opportunity, with the Government's voluntary initiative for all local authorities to publish details of all expenditure above £500, but, with a local authority as large and complex as Leeds, these things took time to achieve.

- The Council's current early leaver initiative, and the need for caution and consideration when deciding which staff to retain and which to let go. Learning the lessons from big businesses was also touched upon.

RESOLVED –

- a) That the update report be noted.
- b) That the Area Management Officer ensure that local Town and Parish Councils are aware of the current 'Spending Challenge' public consultation exercise being undertaken by the City Council, and that they may formally participate if they so wish.

49 Parks and Countryside Service - Annual Report

The Head of Parks and Countryside submitted a report regarding the Service's operations and assets in the Committee's area.

Phil Staniforth and Victoria Nunns, Parks and Countryside Service, attended the meeting and responded to Members' queries and comments. In brief summary, the main points discussed were:-

- Priorities for improvement – It was agreed that these should be the subject of more detailed discussions at Ward Member meetings.
- Hetchell Wood, Bardsey – Anti-social behaviour and nuisance associated with young people.

It was believed that these woods were owned by English Nature. Nevertheless, the officers undertook to pass on the concerns and to assist with possible suggested preventative measures.

- Chippies Pond – The area was somewhat overgrown and lacked litter bins. The officers undertook to follow this up.
- Tree removal in urban areas, e.g. Scholes. Trees were often removed from urban areas, especially roadsides, due to root damage/subsidence/disease problems, but rarely replaced, thereby changing the very nature of these streets.

The officers indicated that this was an issue which the Division's Trees Officer was keen to address, and he would be asked to respond direct to Councillor Robinson.

- The proposed review of outdoor bowling greens was noted.

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

50 Town and Parish Council Feedback Report

RESOLVED –

- a) That the notes of the Harewood and Wetherby Town and Parish Council Forum meeting held on 21st October 2010 be noted;
- b) That in future, all Ward Members receive, via Area Management, a summary of the action points arising from these meetings, as quickly as possible after the event.

51 Forward Plan of Area Committee Items

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

52 Dates, Times and Venues of Future Meetings

Monday, 7th February 2011, 5.30 pm, Civic Hall.

Draft minutes to be approved at the meeting
to be held on Monday, 7th February, 2011

Monday, 21st March 2011, 6.00 pm, Tree Tops Community Centre, Alwoodley.

The meeting concluded at 7.10 pm.