

SOUTH (INNER) AREA COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, 14TH DECEMBER, 2006

PRESENT: Councillor G Driver in the Chair

Councillors J Blake, D Congreve, D Coupar,
P Davey, E Nash and A Ogilvie

44 Appointment of Chair

By consent of the Members present, it was agreed that Councillor Driver assumed the position of Chair for the duration of this meeting only, as the elected Chair, Councillor Gabriel, had submitted her apologies for the meeting.

45 Chair's Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed all in attendance to the December meeting of the South (Inner) Area Committee.

46 Late Items

In accordance with his powers under Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Chair admitted to the agenda two Small Grant applications for determination, on which unanimous agreement had not been reached. The applications were to be considered as part of agenda item 12, entitled 'Area Committee Wellbeing Budget'. (Minute No. 56 refers).

Both applications had not been available at the time of the agenda despatch as this had occurred during the routine consultation period and both needed to be considered as a matter of urgency, as a deferral to the February 2007 meeting of the Committee would have been too late.

47 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Coupar declared a personal interest in relation to agenda item 12 entitled, 'Area Committee Wellbeing Budget' due to being a representative of the local authority on the Belle Isle Tenants' Management Organisation (BITMO) Board. (Minute No. 56 refers)

Councillor Blake declared a personal interest in relation to agenda item 10 entitled, 'Making Leeds Better Progress Report' due to being a member of the Making Leeds Better Project Board and a personal interest in relation to agenda item 12, 'Area Committee Wellbeing Budget', due to being a representative of the local authority on the BITMO Board. (Minute Nos. 54 and 56 refer).

Councillor Ogilvie declared a personal interest in relation to agenda item 9 entitled, 'Building Schools for the Future – Phase 1 – Cockburn High School', due to being a governor of Cockburn High School. (Minute No. 53 refers).

Councillor Congreve declared a personal interest in relation to agenda item 9 entitled, 'Building Schools for the Future – Phase 1 – Cockburn High School', due to being a governor of Cockburn High School. (Minute No. 53 refers).

48 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of the Chair, Councillor Gabriel and the Lord Mayor, Councillor Iqbal.

49 Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd November 2006 be approved as a correct record.

50 Matters Arising from the Minutes

Area Manager's Report (Minute No. 40 refers)

Members enquired whether further information had been sought from Councillor Harris in relation to the ways in which 'Narrowing the Gap' was being implemented within Inner South Leeds. In response, the South Leeds Area Manager confirmed that clarification on this issue would be sought from the Chair and that any information received would be forwarded to Members in due course.

51 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 ten minutes for members of the public to make representations or to ask questions on matters within the terms of reference of the Area Committee.

Tunstall Road Centre

A local resident raised concerns about the proposals surrounding Tunstall Road Centre and the transfer of the services currently based at the centre to alternative sites. He stated that as the centre was a focal point of the community, which had provided a range of valuable services for some 35 years, the lack of public consultation undertaken on the proposals had been unacceptable.

In response, Members expressed their concern at the recent developments, emphasised the importance of the centre and stressed the need for it to remain as a community facility. In conclusion local Ward Councillors assured the resident that the issue would be pursued further.

Street lighting in Cottingley

Concerns were raised by a representative of the local Tenants and Residents Association regarding the removal of a street lamp in Cottingley, the time it was taking to replace the lamp and the anti social behaviour that the lack of appropriate street lighting could encourage.

In response, Members concurred with the resident's concerns and the South Leeds Area Manager stated that he would seek further information on the issue.

52 Children's Trust Arrangements for Leeds

The Committee received a report from the Director of Children's Services which advised Members on the progress made in relation to the implementation of the Children Act 2004 and summarised the children's trust arrangements which were being adopted in Leeds.

Having received a brief overview of the issues detailed within the report from the Deputy Director of Children's Services, a discussion ensued. The main areas of debate were as follows:-

- That a tailored approach was required when implementing the children's trust arrangements in order to ensure that the specific needs of each individual community were catered for;
- Having stressed the need for services to be commissioned in a locally sensitive way whilst maximising local knowledge and experience, Members questioned how centrally based bodies such as the 'Integrated Strategic Commissioning Board' would be able to achieve this;
- The methods which would be used to ensure that any representatives appointed as part of the new arrangements would reflect the diverse nature of the local community;
- The extent to which local Ward Councillors had been consulted on the proposals and the ways in which Elected Members could become more involved in the process;
- Issues relating to the appointment of Elected Members as Corporate Carers and the extent to which the Committee had been consulted on the issue;
- The robustness of the work which was being undertaken in this field throughout South Leeds and the need to ensure that a more cohesive and multi agency approach would be taken in the future.

RESOLVED – That the contents of the report be noted.

53 Building Schools for the Future - Phase 1 - Cockburn High School

A report was submitted on behalf of the Acting Chief Planning and Development Services Officer which provided Members with information on the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) Programme specifically in relation to Cockburn High School.

Having received a brief presentation on the programme from the Planning Projects Manager, a discussion ensued. The main areas of debate were as follows:-

- The levels of interest which had been attracted at the public consultation meetings;
- The length of time the development was scheduled to take and the extent to which pupils of the school would be disrupted;
- The enhanced catering facilities which were proposed as part of the new development;
- The extent to which the facilities within the new school would be accessible to the local community and whether such accessibility would be incorporated into the relevant contracts;

- The need to consider the demography of the local area when planning the development, in order to ensure that the school had the facilities to accommodate any demographic shifts.

RESOLVED – That the contents of the report be noted.

(Prior to the commencement of this item, Councillor Congreve indicated that he was a Member of the Plans Panel (East) and could possibly be considering this matter at a later date in that capacity.

He stated that in view of this, and in order to avoid any perception of pre-determination when the matter came before Plans Panel, he would not discuss any planning matters relating to this issue. Councillor Congreve also stated that he would not be bound by any discussions or decisions taken at today's meeting when this matter came before the Plans Panel, but would consider all representations and viewpoints presented at the planning meeting before reaching a conclusion based on the merits of the case).

54 Making Leeds Better Progress Report

Members received a report from the Making Leeds Better Programme Team updating the Committee on the progress which had been made in relation to the initiative.

The importance of this issue was emphasised by the Committee, especially when considering the socio-economic trends present in Inner South Leeds and the implications that the presence of such trends had on the community's health. Members stressed the importance of effective service provision at a local level in order to ensure that the inequalities which currently existed were addressed and sought assurances that the Making Leeds Better Programme would enable the necessary changes to service delivery to be made.

RESOLVED –

- (a). That the contents of the report, including the resolution of the NHS Boards from 19th September 2006, be noted;
- (b). That the comments raised by the Committee be relayed to the Making Leeds Better Programme Team for consideration.

55 Scrutiny Action Learning Project around Community Development in Health and Wellbeing

The Committee received a report from the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development which invited the Area Committee to discuss where community health development projects had made a difference in their local area and provided an opportunity for Members to help the Scrutiny Board identify and address potential barriers in the delivery of effective community health development work in Leeds.

Additional information relating to the terms of reference for the Action Learning Project had been circulated to Members for their information prior to the meeting.

Having emphasised the importance of community based health initiatives in the area, Members were encouraged to submit any comments or suggestions on this issue to the Area Manager who would in turn relay such comments to the Scrutiny Board (Health and Adult Social Care) for consideration.

RESOLVED –

- (a). That the contents of the report be noted;
- (b). That Members submit any comments or suggestions arising from the report to the Area Manager who will in turn forward them to the Scrutiny Board (Health and Adult Social Care) for consideration.

56 Area Committee Wellbeing Budget

A report was submitted on behalf of the Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing which updated Members on the current position of both the capital and revenue elements of the Area Committee's Wellbeing budget, summarised the Small Grant applications received since the last meeting and requested Members to determine the proposals for Wellbeing funding which had been submitted.

Members were also invited to determine two Small Grant applications on which unanimous agreement had not been reached. The Committee was advised that both applications urgently required a decision as a deferral to the February 2007 meeting would be too late.

With regard to the manager of the Belle Isle Family Centre, a position which had been funded by the Area Committee, Members noted that the position had recently become vacant and questioned whether any financial slippage had arisen as a result which could be returned to the Area Committee budget. In response, the Area Manager undertook to investigate the matter.

RESOLVED –

- (a). That the report and information appended to the report, including the current position of the Area Committee's revenue and capital Wellbeing budgets in addition to the Small Grants budget be noted;
- (b). That the following decisions be made in relation to the Small Grants funding proposals which have been submitted for determination to this meeting (funding will be allocated from the Area Committee's 2006/07 Small Grants budget unless otherwise stated):-
 - (i). Fayre Care for Christmas – Fayre Care for Christmas - **£500.00 – Approved;**
 - (ii). Youth Worx – Youth Worx Wednesday Youth Club - **£580.00 – Approved.**
- (c). That the following decisions be made in relation to the Wellbeing funding proposals which have been submitted for determination to this meeting (funding will be allocated from the Area Committee's 2006/07 Wellbeing budget unless otherwise stated):-
 - (i). Lady Pit Lane Allotment Regeneration – Parks and Countryside (Learning and Leisure Department) - **£5,250.00 Revenue – Approved, subject to confirmation being sought from the Learning and Leisure Department that the improvements cannot be funded internally and that alternative sources of funding cannot be found;**

- (ii). The 'Feel Good' Furniture Shop – South Leeds Alternative Trading Enterprise (SLATE) - **£3,000.00 Revenue – Approved;**
- (iii). Conversion of housing office into Credit Union & Community Meeting Space – Belle Isle Tenants' Management Organisation (BITMO) - **£30,000.00 Capital – Approved, with £15,000.00 being allocated from Middleton Park's 2006/07 Capital Wellbeing budget and £15,000.00 being allocated from Middleton Park's 2007/08 Capital Wellbeing budget.**

57 Parkside and Westland Road Industrial Estates CCTV Scheme

Members received a report from the Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing which provided a review of the Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) Scheme on the Parkside and Westland Road Industrial Estates, gave an assessment of future developments, sought Members' views on future funding arrangements and requested that the report was referred to the Beeston Hill and Holbeck Regeneration Board.

Following a brief summary from the Neighbourhood Renewal Manager which highlighted the main issues within the report, a question and answer session ensued. The main areas of debate were as follows:-

- The current performance of the scheme and the proposals in place to develop it further;
- The upgrading of the CCTV equipment used as part of the scheme and the benefits which would be reaped by such an upgrade;
- The extent to which the cameras could focus upon the wider area, rather than solely focussing upon the premises, in order to support both the local community and local businesses;
- The possibility of the area in question being used as a bus route and the implications that this would have on the scheme.

RESOLVED –

- (a). That the contents of the report and information appended to the report be noted;
- (b). That the Parkside and Westland Road Industrial Estates CCTV scheme be referred to the Beeston and Holbeck Regeneration Board for consideration.

58 Area Manager's Report

The Committee received a report from the Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing which provided Members with details of the range of activities currently taking place within the Inner South area of Leeds.

Regarding the Middleton Regeneration Board, Members noted that the Board was now operational and that the first meeting had been held successfully.

With regard to Leeds South Homes environmental bids, Members were requested to forward any suggestions to the Area Management Team by 19th December 2006 for consideration.

Due to the additional funding received from the City Services department for the Beeston Hill Binyard Improvement Scheme, Members noted that there

had been an underspend of approximately £27,967.00. It was then proposed that the underspend could be used to fund additional binyards in the Beeston Hill area, to enable an even greater impact to be achieved.

With regard to the key themes and priorities of the 2007/08 Area Delivery Plan (ADP), the South Leeds Area Manager confirmed that an informal meeting had taken place on 12th December 2006 to consider the issue. The Committee noted that several suggestions for additional key themes and priorities had been received which would be addressed as part of the 2007/08 ADP process. Members were then advised that it was intended to formally submit the ADP for 2007/08 to the next meeting of the Committee for approval.

In response to Members' enquiries regarding the community facilities audit which was currently taking place in the Middleton Park Ward, the Area Manager undertook to keep Members updated on the initiative and confirmed that it was intended to roll out the audit across all three Wards.

RESOLVED –

- (a). That the contents of the report and information appended to the report be noted;
- (b). That the draft Terms of Reference for the Middleton Regeneration Partnership Board be noted;
- (c). That Members' suggestions on environmental improvements to be carried out by Leeds South Homes ALMO be forwarded to the Area Manager by Tuesday, 19th December for consideration;
- (d). That the 'underspend' of approximately £27,967.00 from the Beeston Hill binyard improvement scheme be used to create additional binyards in the Beeston Hill area of Leeds.

59 Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting

Tuesday, 20th February 2007 at 6.30 p.m. at Belle Isle Family Centre, Belle Isle Road, Leeds, LS10 3PG (TBC).

(The meeting concluded at 8.35 p.m.)