

WEST (OUTER) AREA COMMITTEE

FRIDAY, 16TH DECEMBER, 2011

PRESENT: Councillor D Blackburn in the Chair

Councillors A Blackburn, J Hardy, J Jarosz
and R Wood

Co-optees Rev Paul Ayers, Rev Kingsley Dowling

66 Appeals Against Refusal of Inspection of Documents

There were no appeals against refusal of inspection of documents in accordance with Procedure Rule 25 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules.

67 Exempt Information - Possible Exclusion of the Press and Public

There were no resolutions to exclude the public.

68 Late Items

There were no late items submitted to the agenda for consideration.

69 Declaration of Interests

No declarations of interest were made.

70 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Carter, Coulson, Lewis and Marjoram.

71 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 the Area Committee. On this occasion, no such matters were raised.

72 Minutes - 14th October 2011

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 14th October 2011 be confirmed as a correct record.

73 Matters Arising from the Minutes

Further to Minute 60, it was agreed that draft versions of the Wellbeing Fund reports would be circulated to all Members of the Committee in order that Members can alert the Chair and/or Deputy Chair of any potential issues relating to their ward.

Further to Minute 59, Councillor Jarosz informed Members that Stephen Walker, the Council's newly appointed Deputy Director of Safeguarding, Targeted and Specialist Services may be attending a future Area Committee meeting as part of the more localised approach to Children's care.

Further to Minute 63, Councillor Hardy reported that the Director of Children's Services was checking whether class size could be increased at schools close to the site of the former South Leeds Sports Centre.

74 Appointment of Co-optees to the Outer West

The Area Improvement Manager presented a report of the West North West Area Leader seeking approval for the appointment of a new Co-optee, the Rev. Paul Ayers from the Pudsey ward.

RESOLVED – That the appointment of the Rev. Paul Ayers as Co-optee to the West (Outer) Area Committee be approved.

75 Wellbeing Fund Budget Update

The Area Improvement Manager presented a report of the West North West Area Leader updating Members on the current amount of capital and revenue funding committed and available via the Area Committee Wellbeing Budget for wards in the Outer West area.

The Area Improvement Manager informed Members that if approved, the funding requested by New Farnley Community Association would be drawn from the 2011/12 revenue budget, not the 2012/13 revenue budget as stated in the report.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the relatively small amount of revenue Wellbeing Budget available for 2011/12 be noted;
- (b) That the following decisions be taken in respect of applications before the Committee today for consideration:

Revenue 2011/12

- (i) Replacing Damaged Tables - £1,660.16 – Approved.

Revenue 2012/13

- (i) Summer Bands in the Park - £3,000.00 – Approved.

- (c) The approval for the small grant given since the last Area Committee, as set out in paragraph 3.7 of the report, be noted.

(At the conclusion of this item the meeting was adjourned for 5 minutes from 1.20 – 1.25pm.)

76 Clare Wiggins and Sam Woodhead, Area Management Team

On behalf of the Committee, the Chair thanked Clare Wiggins and Sam Woodhead for the excellent support they had provided to the Area Committee and its Members. The Chair informed Members that both Sam and Clare had been appointed as Area Improvement Managers as part of the restructure of the Area Management Teams, and that Sam would continue to work in the West North West Area, but would not be attending Area Committee meetings, and Clare had now moved to the East North East Area team.

77 Area Progress Report

The Area Improvement Manager presented a report of the West North West Area Leader informing Members of progress against the Area Management work programme for Outer West Leeds and local contributions to Council priorities.

Members particularly discussed the following issues:

- The damage caused to the 'ginnel' by a runaway vehicle, and the difficulty encountered in establishing who is responsible for the boundary wall. The Area Improvement Manager informed Members that a letter would be sent seeking assurance that payment would be received for repairing the wall, and that a copy of this would be sent to the Calverley and Farsley Ward Councillors;
- The pilot of joined up working between West North West Homes ALMO and Environmental Services, which will take place on the Tongs estate. It was confirmed that the pilot would commence in January, and would be reviewed after four or five months;
- Concerns regarding the amount of litter on the footpath leading from Priesthorpe School. The Locality Manager informed Members that Green Flag (who operate in the same area) had been served with a fixed penalty notice, and further to Councillor Wood's request undertook to inform him of the date the notice was sent and the date it expires. He also informed Members that additional litter bins would be placed on the path on a temporary basis, as eighty one bags of rubbish had recently been removed from it. Members were also informed that in the new year, a week of targeted action would be undertaken with PCSOs in this area, following which there would be regular patrols, and that stickers would be placed on the bins to highlight the £75 fixed penalty notice;
- The resignation of the Chair and Deputy Chair from the Pudsey Business Forum. It was reported that the Pudsey Town Centre

Manager is attempting to resolve this issue, however the Business Forum may not continue as a result;

- Whether the Area Committee could provide funding for grit bins. Due to potential issues in relation to the placing of bins and keeping them stocked, the Area Improvement Manager undertook to look into whether this would be feasible; and
- The Committee's request to move trees in order for a nearby CCTV camera to gain visibility to the soft play area in Pudsey Park, which had not progressed due to the concerns of the Parks and Countryside service in relation to the cost of moving trees. It was agreed that the Area Leader would seek to progress this with the Head of Parks and Countryside.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the contents of the report be noted;
- (b) That the Area Improvement Manager investigate whether it would be feasible for the Area Committee to provide funding towards grit bins; and
- (c) That the Area Leader seek to progress the Area Committee's request to move trees in order for a nearby CCTV camera to gain visibility to the soft play area in Pudsey Park with the Head of Parks and Countryside.

78 Annual Community Safety Report

Gill Hunter, Area Community Safety Co-ordinator and Inspector Richard Cawkwell presented the annual community safety report, providing Members with details of the community safety activity undertaken during the last 12 months. The report also provided details of crime data, making comparisons with previous years.

Further to requests made by Members, the Area Community Safety Co-ordinator undertook to:

- E-mail the Calverley and Farsley Ward Councillors with an update in relation to the railing project being undertaken near to Red Lane;
- Look into opportunities for linking CCTV surveillance with that undertaken by West North West Homes ALMO; and
- Check whether there are still problems with bikes in the area around Lawns Lane, and pass on concerns raised regarding noise in Matalan car park (when it is closed) to the off road bikes team.

The Committee congratulated Inspector Cawkwell on the work undertaken by him and his team during the last year, and the improved crime statistics. Members felt that the media should be informed of the figures, and to that end it was agreed that officers would prepare a letter to be signed by all members of the Area Committee and sent to the local media.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the contents of the report be noted; and

- (b) That the officers prepare a letter regarding the improved crime statistics to be signed by all members of the Area Committee and sent to the local media.

79 Environmental Services - Update on the Service Level Agreement

The Locality Manager (West North West) presented a report providing an update on performance against the Service Level Agreement between the West (Outer) Area Committee and the West North West Environmental Locality Team.

Members were supportive of the intention to combine education and enforcement approaches to tackling long standing problems.

In response to a query raised regarding the purchasing of new litter bins, the Locality Manager confirmed that the Environmental Locality Team has six damaged bins, three of which could be refurbished for re-use.

RESOLVED – That the progress being made by the Locality Team in delivering the Service Level Agreement be noted.

80 Outer West Area Committee Business Plan

The Area Improvement Manager presented a report of the West North West Area Leader providing an update on the work to date to develop an Area Committee Business Plan Action Plan.

Members raised concerns regarding the new structure of the Area Management Team. It was agreed that the Area Leader would discuss these concerns further with the Chair of the Committee who requested that Councillor Carter and Councillor Coulson also be invited.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the contents of the report be noted;
- (b) That the contents of the Business Plan Action Plan, as attached at Appendix 1 to the report, be noted;
- (c) That the Area Management Team continue to develop the Business Plan;
- (d) That updates be received at future meetings, and that a four year plan be adopted at the March 2012 meeting that will be subject to an annual refresh; and
- (e) That the Area Leader discuss Members' concerns regarding the new Area Management Team structure with the Chair of the Committee, Councillor Carter and Councillor Coulson.

(Councillor Jarosz left the meeting at 3.00pm, at the conclusion of this item.)

81 Developing a Locality Approach between Leeds City Council Services and Neighbourhood Police Teams/Police Community Safety Officers (PCSOs)

Gill Hunter, Area Community Safety Co-ordinator presented a report of the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods providing Members with an overview of progress to develop more joined up working arrangements between locality based City Council services and Neighbourhood Police Teams/PCSOs.

Members requested an update in relation to the dog watch initiative, and the Area Community Safety Co-ordinator undertook to provide this at a future meeting of the Area Committee.

***RECOMMENDED –**

- (a) That the progress made to develop more joined up working within localities between LCC services and Neighbourhood Police Teams/PCSOs be noted; and
- (b) That an update on the dog watch initiative be provided at a future Area Committee meeting.

82 Update Report on Pudsey Market

The Markets Service submitted a report updating Members on current issues and opportunities facing Pudsey Market and outlining future proposals to better promote the market. As the Markets Manager was unable to attend to present the report and respond to Members' questions, the Chair agreed to defer consideration of this report.

83 Area Chairs Forum Minutes

***RECOMMENDED –** That the minutes of the Area Chairs Forum meeting held on 5th September 2011 be received and noted.

84 Localism Act 2011

The Assistant Chief Executive (Customer Access and Performance) submitted a report providing a high level summary of the main elements of the Localism Act that will be of direct relevance to area committees and to provide an opportunity to debate and influence the way the Council implements the legislation.

Members were requested to provide any comments regarding this report to the Area Leader and/or Area Improvement Manager.

***RECOMMENDED –** That the report be noted.

85 Capital Receipts Incentive Scheme Report to Executive Board

The Assistant Chief Executive (Customer Access and Performance) submitted a report making Area Committees aware of the report on the Capital Receipts Incentive Scheme that received approval at the Executive Board meeting held on 12th October 2011.

Members were requested to provide any comments regarding this report to the Area Leader and/or Area Improvement Manager.

***RECOMMENDED** – That the contents of the Executive Board report on the Capital Receipts Incentive Scheme be noted.

86 Leeds Citizens Panel in Support of Locality Working

Chris Dickinson, Area Improvement Manager presented a report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Customer Access and Performance) outlining the progress being made to create a new Citizens' Panel of 6000 residents who would be representative of population profiles at Area Committee level. The report also set out how the new Leeds Citizens' Panel will be developed and managed, and sought the Area Committee's views on the opportunities it presents for supporting local decision making.

Members were supportive of the proposals within the report, but highlighted the importance of achieving a representative panel, and ensuring that activists do not have the opportunity to distort the views of the Panel. As only residents aged 18 and over can join the Panel, it was recommended that the Youth Council be used to obtain the views of Leeds' younger citizens.

***RECOMMENDED** –

- (a) That the report be noted; and
- (b) That the use of the new Leeds Citizens' Panel be supported, and that it be used as part of the Committee's community engagement activities in support of Wellbeing fund priority setting and in the development of the Area Business Plans.

87 Forward Plan

The Area Improvement Manager informed Members that a Community Safety Update would not be submitted to the Committee in January due to the short timescale between today's meeting and the January meeting. It was also confirmed that the report on Pudsey Market which had been deferred from today's agenda would now be received in January.

The Chair requested that the update on Dog Watch be submitted to the January meeting, if possible.

***RECOMMENDED** – That the forward plan be noted.

88 Dates, Times and Venues of Future Meetings

Friday 20th January 2012 at 1.00pm, Farsley Community Church

Friday 23rd March 2012 at 1.00pm, Swinnow Community Centre

Friday 18th May 2012 at 1.00pm, Venue tbc

The meeting concluded at 3.35pm.

* As the Committee was inquorate during the consideration of this item, the decisions will be ratified at the next meeting, to be held on 20th January 2012.