

## **EAST (OUTER) AREA COMMITTEE**

**TUESDAY, 20TH MARCH, 2012**

**PRESENT:** Councillor K Parker in the Chair

Councillors S Armitage, M Dobson,  
P Grahame, P Gruen, W Hyde, J Lewis,  
M Lyons, T Murray and K Wakefield

### **70 Chair's opening remarks**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting

### **71 Late Items**

Although there were no formal late items, Members were in receipt of the following supplementary information for consideration at the meeting:

- revised pages 93-96 of the agenda relating to Children's Services Centre Inspection Judgement grades showing the levels achieved; that data not having been properly reproduced in the copying process (minute 80 refers)
- the Area Chairs Forum minutes of 13/1/12 which were not available at the time the agenda was despatched (minute 83 refers)

### **72 Declarations of Interest**

The following Members declared personal/prejudicial interests for the purposes of Section 81(3) of the Local Government Act 2000 and paragraphs 8-12 of the Members Code of Conduct:

Environmental Services Consultation on the 2012/13 SLA – Councillor Dobson declared a personal interest through being the Executive Member for Environmental Services (minute 77 refers)

Aire Valley Homes Leeds Service Delivery update – Councillor Murray declared a personal interest through being a member of the Aire Valley Homes ALMO (minute 79 refers)

Outer East Wellbeing budget – Councillor Armitage declared a personal interest through being the Chair of Swarcliffe Good Neighbours as the report contained details about the work being undertaken by this organisation following a grant by East Outer Area Committee (minute 81 refers)

Further declarations were made during the course of the meeting, minutes 77 and 80 refer

**73 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor A McKenna and Councillor Mitchell

**74 Minutes**

**RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the East Outer Area Committee meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2012 be approved

**75 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 10 minutes for members of the public to make representations or to ask questions on matters within the terms of reference of the Area Committee. On this occasion, there were no matters raised

**76 Date, Times and Venues of Area Committee meetings 2012/2013**

Members considered a report of the Chief Officer (Democratic and Central Services) setting out possible meeting dates for East Outer Area Committee for the 2012/2013 municipal year

It was noted that the next scheduled meeting of the Area Committee which would be to appoint a Chair for the new municipal year was 21<sup>st</sup> May 2012, with concerns being raised at this timescale in view of the Annual Council meeting being held later that day and the practicalities for Members

**RESOLVED –**

- i) That a revised meeting date be arranged to elect the Chair for 2012/2013
- ii) To agree the meeting dates for the 2012/2013 municipal year as set out in the submitted report
- iii) That the current arrangements in terms of time and venue be continued

**77 Environmental Services - Consultation on the 2012/2013 Service Level Agreement**

East Outer Area Committee considered a report of the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods setting out services to be added to the Locality Team's portfolio and included in the SLA for 2012/13. The report also sought to consult on updated priorities the Area Committee wished to see addressed in the new SLA

Tom Smith – Locality Manager South and Outer East Leeds presented the report and outlined the new services to be delegated, these being:

- Gully cleaning
- Graffiti removal
- Needle removal
- Ginnel clearance

Draft minutes to be approved at the Meeting to be held on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2012

- Dog Wardens

Members were informed that specific commitments relating to a number of issues, including cleansing/maintenance of priority ginnels; litter bin replacement; cleaning of arterial routes and enforcement would form part of the new SLA, together with specific events, ie the Olympic Torch relay and the event at Temple Newsam and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee events, including street parties

Members commented on the following matters:

- the need for the service to be provided equitably across the four wards comprising East Outer Area Committee
- the number of prosecutions secured in 2011 for dog fouling and some confusion over which bins dog owners should use to dispose of waste safely
- fly tipping, particularly of tyres in the Garforth and Swillington Ward and how this problem had been addressed
- the success of the first SLA and that thanks should be given to the staff who had embraced the changes and worked hard to deliver the service
- the event at Temple Newsam to celebrate the arrival of the Olympic Torch in Leeds and the need to work with Parks and Countryside staff to clear up quickly after what was expected to be a well-attended event
- the possibility of using mobile CCTV in well-known fly tipping hot spots

Tom Smith responded to the points raised and provided the following information:

- that the number of prosecutions for dog fouling in 2011 was small and that specific details could be provided in a future report. However, there was now greater emphasis on enforcement action with more people being trained to take witness statements and a referral plan being implemented for PCSOs to report incidents. The threshold for fixed penalty notices was also being reviewed as was the possibility, in serious cases, of prosecuting immediately rather than using the warning mechanism of fixed penalty notices
- that work was needed to better inform people that black bins could be used to dispose of dog waste as well as the specific bins provided
- that the problems of fly tipping of tyres in Garforth had abated and that firms had been targeted directly by Environmental Services about this matter and that the second SLA provided for targeting of zero tolerance enforcement, both geographical and issue based
- that mobile CCTV equipment although expensive, was available albeit on a limited basis but that if Members were of the view this was necessary to address persistent problems of fly tipping, this could be considered

## **RESOLVED -**

- i) To note the report and the comments now made
- ii) To note the addition of further services to the delegation as approved by Executive Board on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2012
- iii) To agree the development of the new SLA for 2012/2013 to be brought to the June cycle meeting for approval based on the newly delegated elements, additional delivery capacity, responses to Olympic and Queen's Jubilee events and refreshed Elected Member and Area Committee local priorities

During the discussions, Councillor Lyons declared a personal interest through being a Friend of Temple Newsam

At this point, Councillor Wakefield, who had to leave the meeting early, paid tribute to Councillor Parker who was chairing his last East Outer Area Committee meeting before he stepped down as an Elected Member

## **78 LDF Core Strategy - Publication Document**

East Outer Area Committee considered a report of the Director of City Development outlining the public consultation period for the Core Strategy and seeking comments from the Area Committee on the document

Kathryn Holloway – Team Leader Local Plans East and Lyla Peter – Team Leader - Data from City Development were in attendance and presented the report

Concerns were raised that for a matter of such importance, no Senior Officers from City Development had attended the meeting

Officers outlined the report and the challenges Leeds faced in terms of changing demographics and the infrastructure and green space requirements a growing city needed

A key aim of the Core Strategy was to provide a strategic overview for the preparation of a future Site Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD) and neighbourhood plans, therefore the Core Strategy was not site specific but took a district-wide approach to planning for homes, jobs etc

The importance of regeneration was emphasised as was the maintenance of distinctive communities and accessibility to public transport

Members were informed that the consultation related to the soundness of the plan rather than to general comments and changes

Members discussed the report and commented on the following matters:

- the remit of the consultation and the likelihood of the public engaging in this
- the real problems being faced by people in East Leeds due to a shortage of school places and poor transport
- demographics and the figures being used to predict demand, with concerns that mistakes made in the past should not be repeated
- the number of planning permissions granted where no development had commenced despite the need for housing in the city

- that developers would concentrate on areas of their choosing, with greenfield sites in outer areas being likely to be developed ahead of brownfield inner city sites
- that no mention of social housing had been made
- that population forecasts were paramount and that there should be regular reviews of the soundness of these figures
- the need to ensure there was good communication between the different sections within City Development, particularly where there were changing circumstances, with concerns that a recent residential development in LS15 had been recommended for approval, despite it failing to meet policy requirements for affordable housing; with the financial viability of the scheme being assessed by Officers. Following refusal of the application by Plans Panel East, it seemed the developer had now agreed to provide the level of affordable housing required
- concern that in concentrating on the Core Strategy, the Protected Areas of Search (PAS) sites would be forgotten and the need for planning applications on these sites to also conform to the same tests as in the Core Strategy, i.e. around identity/cohesiveness
- indications on the Core Strategy key diagram for 2000 – 3500 additional homes in Garforth and whether this related to the town or the whole Garforth and Swillington Ward and the need for further, specific information to fully understand the address the issues which would be raised by this
- the difficulties in aligning what Officers felt was needed with what developers wished to construct
- that demographics was not an exact science and that the projected drop in pupil numbers had not occurred
- that a key element was obtaining the right type of housing and that consultation on this was important
- the need for public consultation on the possible use of PAS sites
- the need for a fair approach to be taken across the city and for Members to be at the centre of discussions around proposals in their wards
- the importance of the availability of school places; that there should be a link made between education issues and the Core Strategy and that where there was a lack of school places in an area, people would not chose to live there

Officers provided the following responses to issues which had been raised:

- demographics; that the information from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) had been considered along with a study in 2010 of future demand for housing, with that study revising the demographics for Leeds and the ONS realising they had overestimated the figures for the city
- that in respect of PAS sites, further information would form part of the Site Allocations DPD and that some sites might be

revaluated but that some new sites would become PAS land and that the aim was to work with communities on these issues

- in terms of housing numbers, the figures contained in Spatial Policy 6 of the Core Strategy was for 70,000 dwellings (net) up to 2028, in a phased manner and that outstanding planning permissions up to a set time and existing allocations identified in the UPD would contribute towards the housing numbers
- that the Core Strategy contained broad steers in terms of minimum and maximum requirements relating to size/bedroom numbers and that there were policies covering independent living, but that much would be based on the individual applications which were submitted
- that the provision of 70,000 homes across the city was a vast undertaking and the desire to be equitable about the siting of developments would be hampered by the unsustainability of some areas to accommodate development, e.g. in areas which flooded.

Concerns were raised at the accuracy of the information being provided in view of a recent meeting attended by some Members relating to proposals to locate 7,000 residential dwellings in an area which was susceptible to flooding

- that for Garforth, the numbers on the key diagram related to the town, rather than the whole Ward but that further, detailed information would come forward in the preparation of the Site Allocations DPD
- that the need for a defined link between the Core Strategy and education policy would be picked up

Whilst acknowledging the presentation which had been made and the responses provided, concerns were reiterated that further details were needed, especially relating to schools and that a further meeting be arranged within the consultation period, with Senior Officers from City Development attending

**RESOLVED** – To note the report and that a further meeting be arranged before 12<sup>th</sup> April to enable East Outer Area Committee to fully consider the report and comment, with Senior Officers from City Development being in attendance to respond to Members' queries and comments

(During consideration of this matter, Councillor James Lewis joined the meeting)

## **79 Aire Valley Homes Service Deliver Update**

(Prior to considering this matter, Councillor Wakefield left the meeting)

Members considered a report of the Chief Executive of Aire Valley Homes Leeds (AVHL) which provided an update on areas of activity and performance and highlighted areas of joint working between the organisation and other Council services

Simon Costigan, Chief Executive Aire Valley Homes Leeds presented the report and informed Members of the increased focus on partnership working and indicated that on issues around dog fouling and enforcement, AVHL staff were willing to assist the Locality Teams. Relating to earlier discussions around the use of mobile CCTV cameras to detect environmental crime, Simon Costigan stated that AVHL had such technology and would discuss the use of this with Tom Smith

The Chief Executive then outlined the following key areas of activity for AVHL:

- Outer South East Area Panel and the funding being provided through the Wellbeing budget
- Environmental clean up campaigns
- Joint working with the police
- Children's Services
- Older People's Housing Services, with discussions at an early stage with the NHS about the provision of bed spaces to help reduce bed blocking. Members were also informed of a recent 5 star rating which AVHL had achieved for Older People's Housing Services
- Community Payback
- Employment initiatives
- Energy efficiency
- Repairs and maintenance

In terms of customer satisfaction levels a recent survey showed an increase in this level from the 2010 STATUS survey of 69% to 90%

Simon Costigan also acknowledged the joint work being undertaken by the Aire Valley Homes Leeds and the South East Area Management Team

A discussion took place regarding housing priority for retired armed services personnel and a particular case in the area. Councillor Gruen stated that the family involved had been offered a property which had been accepted and that a report relating to issues raised in this case would be submitted to a future Executive Board meeting

**RESOLVED** - To note the report and the good work being undertaken

## **80 Children's Services Performance Report to Area Committees**

East Outer Area Committee considered a report of the Director of Children's Services which provided an update on the current issues facing the Directorate and partnership as well as progress being made against local and national agendas. Appended to the report was a copy of the Child Friendly City Priorities and statistical information on a range of issues relating to academic performance, referrals to Social Care, numbers of Looked after Children, NEET figures and Child Protection Plans – on a ward by ward basis across the city

Nigel Richardson – Director of Children's Services presented the report and asked for comments on the usefulness of the information being provided

(Councillor Murray declared a personal interest as the Chief Executive for Learning Partnerships)

Members commented on the following matters:

- that in Garforth, some of the key areas and obsessions for Children's Services were less a priority but that what was needed was information on outcomes, particularly the use young people made of the qualifications they had achieved
- the lack of school places in areas and that local children were not always able to obtain places at their local school
- academic attainment and why, year on year improved exam results did not translate into a higher national position when compared to other countries

Nigel Richardson responded and provided the following information:

- that destination data could be provided and would be of increasing importance when schools would be held to account in terms of this
- that whilst some areas of the city were performing well against the Department's three obsessions, when the further eight profiles were considered which related to issues like healthy lifestyle and engagement, then there were areas to explore
- that Children's Services had inherited a challenge around school places and resources citywide and that a cross-directorate group had been pulled together to examine the data and how to respond to the issues it flagged up
- that movements of children across the city to travel to school was an issue which was compounded when taking into account pupils with Special Educational Needs who were having to travel some distances each day and that these issues were a priority for Children's Services
- regarding academic achievement levels, whilst Leeds had improved performance, so had other Local Authorities so despite the best ever results on a 5A-C GCSE standard of 53%, Leeds was ranked 126 out of 151 Local Authorities
- that the real challenge in Leeds was about narrowing the gap between the top students and those less advantaged pupils and that even in schools where improvements had been made, this gap had not closed and that developing the Leeds Education Challenge was one way to address gaps in achievement

**RESOLVED –**

- i) To note the report and the comments now made
- ii) To note the request for further information on outcomes for young people once they had left school

**81 Outer East Area Committee Well Being Budget**

East Outer Area Committee considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Customer Access and Performance) providing a summary of revenue spend approved for 2011/2012; an update on small grants approved and details of a new project seeking funding

The Area Improvement Manager presented the report and informed Members that the gardening scheme which had secured wellbeing funding

Draft minutes to be approved at the Meeting to be held on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2012

would recommence on 1<sup>st</sup> April, with adverts and posters informing people about the service being distributed across all four wards. A target of 400 gardens to be completed by September had been set and that if Members knew of any referrals, they could contact the Area Office

The Community Payback scheme would continue and that, as agreed through the Environmental Sub-Group, an emphasis for the project would be on cleaning up ginnels

In respect of the Olympic Torch relay, Members were informed that school cluster managers in all four wards were enthusiastic about the opportunity to participate in projects around this event

Regarding Garforth parking strategy, a sum of £40,000 had been allocated for use across 6 town and district centres. As Garforth's plans were the most advanced, a request for funding of £5,000 was being made to the Area Committee to fund the first stage of the project, together with some funding secured from Aire Valley Homes Leeds

**RESOLVED -**

- i) To note the position of the Wellbeing budget
- ii) To note the small grants approved to date
- iii) To note the progress relating to the Olympic Torch relay
- iv) To note progress relating to funding of the gardening scheme and community payback scheme
- v) To confirm approval of the following project:
  - Garforth parking strategy - £5,000

**82 Outer East Area Committee Business Plan - 2011-2012**

Members considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Customer Access and Performance) presenting the Area Committee Business Plan for 2011/2012

The Area Committee discussed the Business Plan which was appended to the submitted report, with the following main points being raised:

- the functions delegated to the Area Committee and concerns that not all of these had been given attention
- that highways maintenance, youth services and area based regeneration should be considered in the next year
- that agenda setting should take place which allowed for regular items to be considered together with items throughout the year covering all of the priority advisory functions

**RESOLVED -**

- i) To note the contents of the Business Plan, in particular Section 6 – Priorities and Actions 2012
- ii) To receive updates at future meetings and for the Area Committee to adopt a three year plan that will be subject to a refresh annually
- iii) To note the comments now made

### 83 A summary of key work

The East Outer Area Committee considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Customer Access and Performance) detailing priority work carried out in the area, outlining details on key issues affecting the Outer East area and providing the minutes relating to community engagement activities, partnership meetings and the Area Chairs Forum meeting

The Area Improvement Manager presented the report and outlined the key issues relating to:

- Garforth parking strategy – that this was to be considered by the Highways Board on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2012
- Grafton Villas long footpath – that highways had not begun to remove the York stones but that this would commence next week, with the scheme being completed on time
- White Laithe shops – that planning permission would be considered for the provision of security gates to an alley way in early April
- Community Payback – that referrals were increasing and now stood at 58 from a previous level of 37
- Tasking meetings – with changes to the way police-led multi-agency initiatives to tackle crime and grime would operate
- Olympic Torch route – that work was progressing well
- Wykbeck Valley Pride – that work had commenced to improve this area at Halton Moor

Councillor Grahame expressed her thanks for the work carried out on the Grafton Villas long footpath

The possibility of involving older people in the area's Sheltered Homes, in projects around the Olympic Torch route was raised, with the Area Improvement Manager agreeing to approach elderly groups and support workers on this matter

**RESOLVED** - To note the report

Councillor Lyons took the opportunity to thank Councillor Parker for the work he had undertaken, not just with the East Outer Area Committee but in the community, with Councillor Hyde seconding these comments

### 84 Date and time of next meeting

To be confirmed