

**Report of the East North East Area Manager**

**North East (Outer) Area Committee**

**Date: 3 July 2012**

**Subject: Wetherby & Harewood Town and Parish Council Forum**

Are specific electoral Wards affected?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Harewood Wetherby		
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:		

**Summary of main issues**

1. The Outer North East Area Committee supports the Wetherby & Harewood Town and Parish Council Forum which is held quarterly with the venue and chair alternating between Wetherby and Harewood Wards. All Town and Parish Councillors are welcome to attend the forum.
2. This report provides the minutes of the forum for the area committee to note, and highlights any issues raised where the forum needs support in resolving them from the Area Committee.

**Recommendations**

3. The Area Committee is requested to note the minutes of the forum and, where appropriate, support the Parish Council Forum in resolving any issues raised.

## **1 Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Area Committee with the minutes from the meeting of the Wetherby & Harewood Town and Parish Council Fora on 19<sup>th</sup> January and 19<sup>th</sup> April.

## **2 Background information**

- 2.1 Wetherby & Harewood Town and Parish Council Forum provides an opportunity for the parish councillors from Wetherby and Harewood wards to:

- Receive presentations and hold discussions on issues of common interest;
- Share information and good practice;
- Raise any issues of concern;

- 2.2 The forum meets quarterly, with the position of chair rotating between the six Harewood and Wetherby ward members. Ward members have agreed that they will ensure that both wards are represented at the forum through the attendance of at least one member from each of the wards.

## **3 Main issues**

- 3.1 Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January forum – the meeting took place at Scholes and was chaired by Cllr Robinson. A representative from Metro attended to address problems highlighted about the bus services in Wetherby and Harewood Wards.
- 3.2 Also in attendance was Inspector Paul Dwyer, Wetherby and Harewood Neighbourhood Policing Team and Andrew Birkbeck, Localism officer.
- 3.3 Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> April forum – the meeting took place at Wetherby and was chaired by Cllr Lamb. Items discussed were the Environmental Service and Grounds Maintenance Contract, plus there was an update from the Localism Officer.
- 3.3 The minutes of both meetings are attached at Appendix 1.

## **Corporate Considerations**

## **4 Consultation and Engagement**

- 4.1 In their role as democratically accountable bodies, local councils offer a means of shaping the decisions that affect their communities. Parish and town councillors and officers possess local knowledge which can help decision makers in the City Council to make more informed decisions and parishes have made it clear that they would like more influence on services which affect their communities. They offer a means of decentralising the provision of certain services and of revitalising local communities. In turn, the local councils recognise the strategic role of the Leeds City Council and the equitable distribution of services which it has to achieve.

## **5 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration**

- 5.1 Attendance at the meeting is open to all parish councillors and the meetings are held a variety of venues throughout the two wards.

## **6 Council Policies and City Priorities**

- 6.1 Leeds City Council and the local councils within its area share the common belief that working closely together plays a vital contribution to the well being of the communities they serve.
- 6.2 To this end, Leeds City Council and the local councils in the Leeds City Council area have a Charter which sets out how they aim to work together for the benefits of local people.
- 6.3 Leeds City Council and the local councils are committed to the principles of democratic local government. They are keen to see continued efforts made to improve our system of local democracy and to see greater public participation in and appreciation of this system.

## **7 Resources and Value for Money**

- 7.1 The Town and Parish Council Forum is supported by an officer from the East North East Area Support Team.

## **8 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In**

- 8.1 In line with the Council's Executive and Decision Making Procedure Rules, all decisions taken by Area Committees are not eligible for Call In.

## **9 Risk Management**

- 9.1 There are no significant risks identified in this report.

## **10 Conclusions**

- 10.1 The Wetherby & Harewood Town and Parish Council Forum provides a place for the local councils to discuss issues of common interest and concern. It is supported by ward members and the Area Support Team.

## **11 Recommendations**

- 11.1 The Area Committee is requested to note the minutes of the forum and, where appropriate, support the Parish Council Forum in resolving any issues raised.

## **12 Background documents**

- 12.1 None