

SOUTH (OUTER) AREA COMMITTEE

MONDAY, 2ND JULY, 2012

PRESENT: Councillor K Bruce in the Chair

Councillors N Dawson, J Dunn, J Elliott, R Finnigan, T Leadley, L Mulherin, K Renshaw and S Varley

1 Late Items

There were no late items. A revised appendix was circulated for Agenda Item 10, Aire Valley Homes Service Delivery Update.

2 Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

3 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors B Gettings and L Mulherin.

4 Minutes - 18 May 2012

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 18 May 2012 be approved as a correct record.

In response to a Members query concerning the ‘in principle’ agreement to divide remaining Wellbeing revenue funding equally between the four Wards, it was reported that this was subject to the development of suitable projects and funds could still be used for projects that covered more than one Ward with Area Committee agreement.

5 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 of an Area Committee, 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 matters were raised under this item by those members of the public who were in attendance.

6 Notification of Appointment of Area Committee Chair for 2012/13

The report of the Chief Officer (Democratic and Central Services) informed the Committee of the appointment of Councillor Karen Bruce as Chair of the South (Outer) Area Committee at the meeting of Council on 212 May 2012.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

7 Aire Valley Homes Service Delivery Update

The report of the Chief Executive, Aire Valley Homes provided an update on areas of activity and performance. It also highlighted areas of joint work that were currently ongoing between AVHL and other Council Services to deliver a comprehensive service that is responsive to the needs of individual local communities.

The Chair welcomed Simon Costigan, Chief Executive, Aire Valley Homes to present the report.

Issues highlighted in the report included the following:

- Financial input from AVHL and funding from the Area Panel.
- Environmental Clean Up Campaign.
- Joint work with the Police and how AVHL could influence Police activity – funding towards PCSOs and management of the Anti Social Behaviour Team
- Work with Children's Services – stock provision for children's homes and extensions for foster carers.
- Older People's Services – there were nearly two thousand units for older people and the service had just received a 5A rating for sheltered housing which was in the top fifteen nationally.
- Commissioning of services from the Community Pay Back Scheme.
- Energy Efficiency – partnership programme with Eggborough Power Station and initiatives with energy providers for efficiency schemes.
- An improvement plan had begun in relation to the repairs and maintenance contract.
- Integration of the Anti Social Behaviour team.
- Resident engagement – over 50% of AVHL stock was covered by tenants and residents groups.
- Local Ward Member engagement.
- Tenancy management – Members were informed of the estate walkabouts and engagement with customers.
- AVHL Capital Programme.

In response to Members questions and comments, the following issues were discussed:

- Members congratulated AVHL on the achievement of the 5A rating for the Older People's Supported Housing Service.

- Provision for foster carers in respect to housing allocation. A project board had been established and there would be some discretion to take account of foster carers responsibilities.
- Plans to extend properties and the shortage of 4 bedroom properties for larger families in the Outer South area. There were no plans at present but there would be a consideration of housing stock and the impact of welfare reform in relation to this. Members were informed that converting two 2 bedroom properties into a 4 bedroom property had an impact on rent related issues and would probably become too expensive to let.
- There had been significant recent improvements with the maintenance contract but it was still felt there was room for more improvement and improved customer satisfaction levels.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

8 Delegation of Environmental Services - Service Level Agreement

The report of the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods presented a final version of the Service Level Agreement (SLA) through which the work of the Environment Locality team would be steered over the year. The Area Committee was asked to approve the SLA.

The Chair welcomed Tom Smith, Locality Manager (South and East Leeds) to the meeting for this item.

The following issues were highlighted in relation to the Service Level Agreement:

- New service commitments included the following:
 - Ginnel clearing
 - Cleaning arterial routes
 - Litter bin replacement
 - Increased enforcement
- The new SLA would see improved performance reporting.
- Work with AVHL.
- Ward based workshops – draft SLA had been sent to Ward Members for consultation.

In response to Members comments and questions, the following issues were discussed:

- A number of priority ginnels had been identified to be put on a rota for cleaning. Those not on the rota would be dealt with on a reactive basis. The rotas could be changed according to priorities.
- Community clean ups and the engagement of community groups.
- Gully clearing and problems where drains were blocked – it was reported that the scheduled service had recently been suspended to target areas where flooding had occurred.

- It was hoped to replace damaged litter bins over the next six months. An audit was being carried out of litter bins and suggestions for re-location of bins would be welcomed.
- The streetscene team was thanked for their work on the Olympic Torch route.
- Town centre cleaning.
- Details of fixed penalty notices and enforcement action taken were requested.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the report be noted
- (2) That the Service Level Agreement be approved.

9 Priority Neighbourhood Worker

The report of the Area Leader, South East Leeds provided the Area Committee with a six month update on the Priority Neighbourhood Worker (PNW) project and arrangements to recruit to the vacant PNW post following the previous post holder's resignation in June 2012. The report also outlined the development of a new programme of work which incorporated the health and community safety themes and asked Members to consider a proposal to address some of the ongoing issues by developing a new model of working in priority neighbourhoods.

Tom O'Donovan, Area Improvement Manager presented the report and introduced Aretha Hanson, Area Officer to the meeting.

Issues highlighted in relation to the report included the following:

- The final Neighbourhood Improvement plans had now been completed.
- Interviews for the vacant post would take place on 12 July.
- Opportunity for the new postholder to shape and influence the role in relation to the health and community safety themes.

In response to Members' comments and questions, the following issues were discussed:

- Members welcomed the opportunity to re-evaluate the role of the Priority Neighbourhood Worker.
- Members requested that their thanks to Nicky Greening be recorded for her work whilst in post.
- It was reported that the recommendation to fund for a further 3 years was subject to funding being received annually.
- Concern that the funding should be used for other things.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the report be noted.

- (2) That a further 3 year term for the Priority Neighbourhood Worker from March 2013 be approved.
- (3) That the development of the proposal outlined in the report be agreed.

10 Well Being Budget Report

The report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Customer Access and Performance) provided Members with the following:

- Confirmation of the 2012/13 revenue allocation.
- The current position of the Wellbeing Budget.
- Details of revenue projects agreed to date.
- Details of capital projects agreed to date.
- A summary of the revenue for 2011/12 and 2012/13 already approved and linked to the priorities and outcomes in the Area Committee Business Plan.
- The current position of the Small Grants budget.

Aretha Hanson, Area Officer presented the report. Members were asked to note the expected costs of CCTV at Newlands Church from the Morley South Capital allocation, a project still to receive Area Committee consideration. It was reported that there were no projects for consideration.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the report be noted.
- (2) That the position of the Wellbeing Revenue Budget be noted.
- (3) That the revenue projects already agreed be noted.
- (4) That the capital projects already agreed be noted.
- (5) That the small grants be noted.

11 Summary of Key Work

The report of the Area Leader – South East Leeds presented a summary of key work that had taken place within the Outer South Leeds area and was not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

Tom O'Donovan, Area Improvement Manager presented the report.

Members attention was brought to the following:

- Appointments to Area Committee Sub-Groups
- Community First Panels.
- Peel Street Centre – proposals to make this Centre surplus to requirements and citywide arrangements for community centres and issues surrounding resources.
- Continuation of funding for off-road police bikes.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the report be noted.
- (2) That the following Members be appointed to Area Committee Sub-Groups:
 - Community Centres Sub Group
 - Councillor R Gettings
 - Councillor L Mulherin
 - Councillor J Elliott
 - Councillor D Nagle

 - Environmental Sub-Group
 - Councillor R Finnigan
 - Councillor S Varley
 - Councillor K Renshaw
 - Councillor K Bruce
- (3) That Peel Street Community Centre be confirmed as surplus to requirements.
- (4) That the West Yorkshire Police Off Road Bikes scheme be continued.

12 Local Authority Appointments to Outside Bodies

The report of the Chief Officer (Democratic and Central Services) outlined the procedures for Council appointments to outside bodies and the Committee was requested to consider and make appointments to the following outside bodies:

- Morley Town Centre Management Board
- Morley Literature Festival Committee
- Outer South ALMO Area Panel.

The appointments would be for the 2012/13 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED – That the following appointments be made to outside bodies for the 2012/13 Municipal Year:

Morley Town Centre Management Board

Councillor Finnigan
Councillor N Dawson

Morley Literature Festival Committee

Councillor B Gettings
Councillor J Elliott
Councillor S Varley

Outer South ALMO Area Panel

Councillor J Dunn
Councillor K Renshaw

13 Dates, Times and Venues of Future Meetings

Monday, 3 September 2012 –Rothwell One Stop Centre

Monday, 15 October 2012 – Thorpe Primary School

Monday, 3 December 2012 – Drighlington Meeting Hall

Monday, 4 February 2013 – Morley Town Hall

Monday, 25 March 2013 – Rothwell One Stop Centre