

Report of East North East Area Leader

Report to Outer North East Area Committee

Date: 3rd December 2012

Subject: Environmental sub group

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

Summary of main issues

1. The Area Committee has nominated one member from each ward to form an Environmental sub-group. The sub-group focuses on issues relating to the delegated Environmental Service plus other issues concerning the Environment. It meets four times a year. This report sets out the key points from the sub-group's latest meeting.

Recommendations

2. The Outer North East Area Committee is asked to note the contents of the report.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform members of the issues discussed at the Environment sub-group.

2 Background information

- 2.1 The Outer North East Environmental sub group meets quarterly. Agenda items focus on issues relating to the delegated Environmental Service and any other services or issues of relevance to the environment in Outer North East Leeds.
- 2.2 Membership comprises one nominated member from each of the three wards, Alwoodley, Harewood, and Wetherby, including the Chair of the Area Committee who also chairs the sub-group. Officers attending include the Area Officer, ENE Locality Manager (Street Cleansing and Enforcement), plus representatives from Continental Landscapes, East North East Homes Leeds, Parks and Countryside and other services as appropriate.
- 2.3 The sub-group meets four times per year in March, May, September and November.

3 Main issues

- 3.1 The latest meeting of the sub group took place on 15th November 2012. In attendance were Cllrs Wilkinson and Buckley, John Woolmer (ENE Locality Team), Rob Double, (ENEHL), Paul Ackroyd (Parks and Countryside). Apologies were received from Cllr Robinson, and Continental Landscapes.

- 3.2 The sub group received an update on the following issues:

3.2.1 Parks and Countryside

- Wetherby Ings, problems with litter and dog fouling – new signage has been ordered. Any fixed penalties issued by the Environmental Locality Team will be publicised in the local press.
- Wetherby Wilderness cliff movement – contractors are starting on site to remove dangerous rocks;
- Works are progressing well on Whinmoor Cemetery, the first burials should begin in January 2013;
- Yorkshire in Bloom - Leeds won gold in the city category and Barwick in Elmet won gold in the large village category;
- Ash dieback – information was circulated on how to spot the disease, and the members requested further information on what action would be taken if the disease is found in a private garden.

3.2.2 Grounds Maintenance

- Continental Landscapes provided an update report on the contract. Members agreed that they are generally happy with the first year of the contract. They

recognised that it was an exceptional year for rainfall, which inevitably caused problems for the contract. Members also acknowledged that Continental Landscapes had responded well to issues raised.

3.2.3 Environmental Delegation

- The sub-group discussed the proposed format and content of the six monthly report to this area committee. They also discussed litter picking arrangements, ordering and placement of litter bins and leaf clearance.

3.2.4 Other issues

- Officers agreed to look at clearing the undergrowth from two copses in Alwoodley, behind Buckstone Avenue, with a view to Alwoodley Parish Council then taking over the maintenance, and also adjacent to the play area on Nursery Lane where the undergrowth is creeping across the grass.
- Wheelie bins - alternate green and black weekly bin collections from spring 2013 are being introduced over the next two years starting in South Leeds.
- Brown bins - collections from March – November; ward members have received feedback from residents that it stops too early as leaves are still falling, and it would help if the service could continue longer.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1.1 Ward members bring issues to the sub-group which have been raised by Town and Parish Councils, and by members of the public.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 4.2.1 There are no equality and diversity issues in relation to this report.

4.3 Council Policies and City Priorities

- 4.3.1 The Council's Constitution was amended, approved at Executive Board in March 2011 and ratified at the Annual Council meeting held on 26th May 2011, to include the environmental services delegation within the Area Committee Function Schedule. This sub group acts as the monitoring forum for that delegation in the first instance.

4.4 Resources and Value for Money

- 4.4.1 There are no resource implications as a result of this report.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

- 4.5.1 There are no legal implications or access to information issues. In line with the Council's Executive and Decision Making Procedure Rules, all decisions taken by Area Committees are not eligible for Call In.

4.6 Risk Management

4.6.1 There are no risk management issues relating to this report.

5 Conclusions

5.1 The Outer North East Environmental sub-group meets four times a year. Key points from the discussion are reported to the area committee.

6 Recommendations

6.1 The Outer North East Area Committee is asked to note the contents of the report.

7 Background documents

7.1 Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 26th May 2011

7.2 Council Constitution