

SOUTH (OUTER) AREA COMMITTEE

MONDAY, 15TH OCTOBER, 2012

PRESENT: Councillor K Bruce in the Chair

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

30 Declaration of Interests

Councillors Elliott, Leadley and Varley declared a pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 11, Garden Maintenance Service Evaluation 2011-12 due to their positions with Morley Elderly Action. They left the room while the decision was made on this item.

31 Minutes - 3 September 2012

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 3 September 2012 be confirmed as a correct record.

32 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 under this item by members of the public.

33 Proposals for Changes to Fire Service Emergency Cover in West Yorkshire

The report of West Yorkshire Fire Service outlined the proposed changes to West Yorkshire Fire Service, particularly to the Fire Stations of Hunslet & Morley and Garforth & Rothwell which cover the Outer South area.

The Chair welcomed the following to the meeting for this item:

- Ian Dunkley, Senior Operations Manager
- Mark Allen, Station Commander, Morley and Rothwell

Members were informed of spending cuts that the Fire Service faced following the Comprehensive Spending Review and the development of an eight year strategy to address this. A major study had been carried out across West

Yorkshire which had considered where to site stations and engines to minimise risk. Further considerations included the following:

- The introduction of combined aerial response units which reduced the need for two engines at incidents.
- The introduction of smaller vehicles for smaller incidents.
- Ensuring fire engines are stationed at optimum locations for responding to emergencies.
- Locations to site new stations between the current positions of Rothwell & Garforth and Morley & Hunslet.
- Fire Safety Awareness – the 4 strand plan for the area of Prevention, Protection, Response and Resilience.

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

- There had been a massive drop in the number of fires that the fire service attended and a reduction in the number of deaths. Closure of stations would not necessarily mean reduced response times as at the current time it could depend where appliances were located.
- West Yorkshire Fire Service had fitted over a million smoke alarms over the past 5 years.
- Morley was considered to be a low risk area with an average of a seven and a half minute response time. The target time for responses was ten minutes.
- Improving response times – roll out of traffic light computers.
- Concern that disadvantaged areas which had a higher risk would be worse off under the new proposals with regard to response times.
- Reductions to back office staffing.
- Shared fire control with South Yorkshire.
- New stations would be cheaper to maintain and be more efficient than existing stations.
- Members agreed that representation needed to be made regarding the proposals.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the Area Committee opposed the closures as outlined by West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue
- (2) That the area committee affirms its commitment to work together to reverse any decisions taken locally or nationally to close fire stations in its area and intends to write to local MP's and Leeds City Council seeking their support in doing so
- (3) That the Chair of the Outer South Area Committee submit a formal written objection to the fire station closures to West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue on behalf of the Outer South Area Committee

34 White Rose Learning Centre Update

The report of the Head of Employment and Skills provided an update on the employment and skills development opportunities for young people and adults at the White Rose facility.

Members were given a summary of services on offer at the White Rose Learning Centre and the following issues were highlighted:

- Partnership working with the Council and Job Centre Plus.
- Opportunities for 16 to 18 year olds – these included apprenticeships, vocational qualifications and work experience.
- Opportunities for adults included a 'Routeway to Work' course and a Sector Based Work Academy which helped with developing employment skills.

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

- It was felt that the White Rose Learning Centre was a step in the right direction and it was welcomed that it helped people get a work history and work experience.
- It was requested that there should be an Outer South Area Committee Member on the steering group.

RESOLVED –

1. That the report be noted.
2. Members would welcome the opportunity to visit the facility
3. Outer South Area Committee Membership on the steering group be requested.

35 Drighlington Library: Community Rental Subsidy

The report of the Area Leader outlined a request from the Friends of Drighlington Community Library to waive the standard community rental agreement (CRA) cost for space within Drighlington Meeting Hall and also requested that the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods agree a 100% reduction of £6,860 for the rent and service charges.

It was reported that the Friends of Drighlington Community Library had recruited over 60 volunteers willing to assist with the running of the library and it was proposed to open the library for 6 days a week. Members expressed support for what was considered to be an excellent example of community involvement.

RESOLVED – That the rent and service charge for Friends of Drighlington Community Library use of the Library Space within Drighlington Meeting Hall be reduced to nil for a period of 12 months and that this agreement is backdated to the commencement of the letting and that the arrangement be reviewed annually to determine whether the letting agreement should continue and agree the future arrangements, with a view to reducing the level of discount on a sliding scale.

36 Garden Maintenance Service Evaluation 2011-12

The report of the Area Improvement Manager, South East Leeds provided an update and evaluation of the Garden Maintenance Scheme operated by Morley Elderly Action. The Outer South Garden Maintenance Scheme had completed the second year of a three year project agreed by the Area Committee.

Members were reminded that the report was deferred at the last meeting so that a representative from Morley Elderly Action could be present to answer questions. It was also noted that a concern was raised regarding a complaint of over-charging by a contractor...

The Chair welcomed Ann Minke of Morley Elderly Action to the meeting for this item.

The following issues were discussed:

- With regard to the previous concern that had been raised, it was noted that Morley Elderly Action had identified several improvements to the operation of the scheme that would, in future, benefit clients. It was also confirmed that the request for service by the client should have come directly to Morley Elderly Action before being allocated to a gardener. The improvements to the delivery of this service identified by Morley Elderly Action should remove the possibility of any future occurrence of this type of incident.
- Members questioned how the funding for the scheme was split between administration costs and payments to contractors.
- Work carried out on a Ward level across Outer South was discussed. It was suggested that the scheme be reviewed so that a revised scheme could be considered at the end of the current agreement.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the report be noted.
- (2) That Morley Elderly Action retain the under spend figure from the Outer South Garden Maintenance Service 2011/12 to support an enhanced service delivery in 2012/13

37 Summary of Key Work

The report of the Area Leader – South East Leeds presented an update on the key work that was taking place within the Outer South Leeds area.

Aretha Hanson, Area Officer presented the report.

Issues highlighted from the report included the proposed changes to Crime and Grime arrangements and Community First Panel funding. Ellie Rogers,

who had recently taken up the post of Priority Neighbourhood Worker was introduced to Members.

Members referred to the minutes of the Area Chair's Forum and discussed youth provision . Whilst it was acknowledged there had been an improvement with Youth Service provision in Outer South over the previous few years, it was felt that due to the differing needs across the wards it would be better if Youth provision was the responsibility of the Area Committee. This had been discussed at the Area Chair's Forum.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

38 Well-being report October 2012

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

- Confirmation of the 2012/13 revenue allocation.
- The current position of the Well-being budget.
- Details of capital and revenue funding for consideration and approval.
- 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 actions in the Area Committee Business Plan.

Aretha Hanson, Area Officer presented the report and informed the Committee that the funding approved at the September Area Committee for Newlands Church CCTV would not be progressed as the CCTV equipment had been installed prior to Area Committee approval. Funding regulations stipulate that wellbeing funding cannot be used for projects which have already taken place so the funding amount .had been returned to Morley South capital allocation.

Members were also asked to consider applications for the following projects:

- Crime & Grime: Feeling Safe in Rothwell
- Cold Calling Control Zones
- Christmas Trees and Lights 2012 – Rothwell and Ardsley & Robin Hood

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the report be noted.
- (2) That the position of the Well-being 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 following project proposals be approved:
 - Crime & Grime: Feeling Safe in Rothwell - £1,999.70 (revenue)
 - Cold Calling Control Zones - £1,535.82 (revenue)

- Christmas Trees and Lights 2012 (Rothwell) - £50 (revenue)
 - Christmas Trees and Lights 2012 (Ardsley & Robin Hood) - £2,797.40 (revenue)
- (6) That the small grants situation be noted.

39 Dates, Times and Venues of Future Meetings

- Monday, 3 December 2012 at Drighlington Meeting Hall
- Monday, 4 February 2013 at Morley Town Hall
- Monday, 25 March at Rothwell One Stop Centre

All meetings to commence at 4.00 p.m.