

## **SOUTH (OUTER) AREA COMMITTEE**

**20<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2006**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Finnigan in the Chair  
Councillors Dunn, Elliott, Galdas, Grayshon, Leadley,  
McArdle, Mulherin, Renshaw and Wilson

### **70 Chair's Opening Remarks**

The Chair welcomed all in attendance to the February meeting of the South (Outer) Area Committee and invited all those present to introduce themselves.

### **71 Declarations of Interest**

The following declarations of Personal Interest were made at this point in the meeting:

#### Item 8 (Minute 76) – Area Delivery Plan 2006-07 – Draft Action Plan

A Personal Interest was declared by Councillor McArdle, due to his position as Chair of the Morley Drugs Action Group.

#### Item 9a (Minute 77) – Wellbeing Application Proposals – Oulton and Woodlesford Sports and Social Facilities – Parks and Countryside

Councillors Galdas and Wilson both declared Personal Interests in this item due to being involved in fund raising activities for the Oulton and Woodlesford Sports and Social Club.

#### Item 9b (Minute 77) – Wellbeing Application Proposals – Rose Lund Improvements – Parks and Countryside

Councillors Galdas and Wilson both declared Personal Interests in this item due to being involved in fund raising activities for the Rose Lund Centre.

#### Item 9c (Minute 77) – Wellbeing Application Proposals – Rothwell Gardening Scheme – Care and Repair

Councillor Leadley declared a Personal Interest in this item due to being a Board Member of Morley Elderly Action.

### **72 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Beevers and Smith.

### **73 Minutes of the Previous Meeting – 12<sup>th</sup> December 2005**

**RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2005, be approved as a correct record.

### **74 Matters Arising from the Minutes**

#### Wellbeing Application Proposals – Leeds Credit Union (Minute 66i refers)

Members noted that it had now been confirmed that the accommodation rental costs for Leeds Credit Union were not free of charge, and therefore the Wellbeing funding which had been approved in principle by the Area Committee in December 2005, had been forwarded to Leeds Credit Union.

Wellbeing Application Proposals – Minibus – Birchfield Primary School, Gildersome (Minute 66xviii refers)

The Committee was advised that having sought clarification on the matter, it had now been confirmed that the allocation of £5,000.00 from the Area Committee's Wellbeing Capital budget towards the purchase of a minibus for Birchfield Primary School was a legitimate use of such funding.

**75 Open Forum**

In accordance with Paragraphs 6.24 and 6.25 of the Area Committee Procedure Rules, the Chair allowed members of the public to make representations or to ask questions on matters within the terms of reference of the Area Committee.

Bus Services within the Outer South Area

Further to Minute No. 63, 12<sup>th</sup> December 2005, the Chair introduced Philip Joyce, a representative from Metro, Howard Robinson and David Spire both representatives from Arriva and Richard Harris, a representative from First Bus who had all been invited to attend the meeting in order to answer any concerns and field any questions that members of the public and Elected Members had in relation to the provision of bus services in the Outer South area.

Following the introductions, a question and answer session then ensued. The main areas of debate were as follows:

- The reasons why the timetabling of bus services in South Leeds had changed and the extent to which all relevant groups, including schools, school pupils, parents and local Ward Councillors had been consulted about such changes prior to them taking place;
- The withdrawal and rescheduling of certain bus services which were predominantly used by pupils travelling to and from school, and the problems which had been experienced as a result of such changes;
- The methods used by bus operators when compiling data which related to the number of passengers using a particular service. Members then requested that further information be sought in relation to the number of passengers required to enable a dedicated school bus service to be established;
- Issues relating to the regularity and punctuality of certain bus services in the Outer South area which had been problematic in the past;
- The ways in which bus services in Leeds were both structured and regulated, and the alternative methods which could be used to enable a more reliable service to be delivered;
- The lack of notification and consultation which had occurred prior to the alteration of bus timetables for routes servicing Tingley and the Whinfield estate, the complaints by local residents which had been forwarded to the bus operators as a result of such alterations, and the methods which could be used to ensure that the consultation and notification procedures used by local bus operators were improved;
- The potential impact that quality contracts could have in relation to the provision of bus services in Leeds;
- The standard of the buses which were in circulation throughout the South Leeds area when compared with other parts of the city.

The Chair concluded by thanking all of those who had attended the meeting and contributed to the discussion. He then stated that he would forward all representations made to the Secretary of State for the Department for Transport.

**RESOLVED –**

- (a) That clarification be sought from Education Leeds in relation to the number of pupils required to warrant the provision of a dedicated school bus service;
- (b) That the issue of bus services within the Outer South area be revisited by the Area Committee if concerns still exist following the alterations which are to be made to the bus service timetable;
- (c) That all those in attendance at the meeting be informed by the Area Management Team of any relevant outcomes which arise from the discussions with Education Leeds and the bus operators.

**76 Area Delivery Plan 2006-07 – Draft Action Plan**

The Committee received a report from the Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing which outlined the draft version of the Action Plan section of the Area Delivery Plan (ADP) for the 2006/07 Municipal Year.

Members were invited to relay any suggestions they had in relation to the draft document to the Area Management Team prior to the April meeting of the Area Committee, when the document would be submitted to Members for their final approval.

**RESOLVED –**

- (a). That the report and information appended to the report be noted;
- (b). That Members be invited to relay any comments to the Area Management Team which relate to any service delivery enhancements or variations that they wished to be taken into consideration during the budget setting process for 2006/07;
- (c). That Members be invited to make proposals to the Area Management Team in relation to projects which could be commissioned by the Area Committee in 2006/07;
- (d). That a schedule of proposals to address Area Delivery Plan (ADP) priorities be submitted to the April meeting of the Area Committee for Members' approval.

**77 Wellbeing Budget Report**

A report was submitted by the Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing which updated Members on the current balance of both the South Outer Area Committee Wellbeing Fund and the Small Grants Fund, and also invited Members to determine the Wellbeing funding applications which had been submitted to this meeting for consideration.

Following a discussion which related to the sustainability of, and the geographical area covered by the Rothwell Gardening Scheme, Members proposed that the progress of the scheme be monitored and revisited by the Area Committee during the 2006/07 Municipal Year.

**RESOLVED –**

- (a). That the report and information appended to the report be noted;

- (b). That the Wellbeing Revenue Projects identified in Appendix 1 of the report be noted;
- (c). That the Wellbeing Capital Projects identified in Appendix 2 of the report be noted;
- (d). That the small grant budget position, as detailed within the report, be noted;
- (e). That the following decisions be made in respect of the wellbeing funding applications submitted for consideration at this meeting:-
  - (i). Oulton and Woodlesford Sports and Social Facilities – Parks and Countryside - £20,000 Wellbeing Capital Funding – **Approved;**
  - (ii). Rose Lund Improvements – Parks and Countryside - £20,000 Wellbeing Capital Funding – **Approved;**
  - (iii). Rothwell Gardening Scheme – Care and Repair - £15,850 Wellbeing Revenue Funding for financial year 2006/07, £14,050 Wellbeing Revenue Funding for financial year 2007/08 and £13,050 Wellbeing Revenue Funding for financial year 2008/09 – **Approved in principle, subject to the progress of the scheme being monitored and revisited by the Area Committee during the 2006/07 Municipal Year;**
  - (iv). Dance Classes – Dance Action Zone Leeds (DAZL) - £11,100 Wellbeing Revenue Funding for 2006/07 – **Approved in principle, subject to the costs detailed within the report being confirmed.**

## 78 Wellbeing Monitoring Report

The Committee received a report from the Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing which gave Members the opportunity to review and comment on the projects which had been funded by both the Area Committee's revenue and capital Wellbeing funds.

A question and answer session relating to several projects which were detailed within the report then ensued. The main areas of discussion were as follows:

- The reasons why some projects were unable to be delivered by Leeds Youth Service during the current Municipal Year and the proposal that they would be delivered during the 2006/07 Municipal Year;
- Details relating to the show which had been scheduled to be performed by Dance Action Zone Leeds (DAZL);
- The effectiveness and geographical location of the dual purpose litter bins in the Outer South area of Leeds which had been funded by the Area Committee's Wellbeing fund;
- The possibility of providing litter bins outside Rothwell Sports Centre;
- The current recycling rate achieved by Leeds City Council and the ways in which such a rate could be improved;
- The use of the pedal cycles by Rothwell Neighbourhood Policing Team which had been funded by the Area Committee;
- The progress which had been made by the Horticultural Project, which had been partly funded by the Area Committee.

### **RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the contents of the report and the information appended to the report be noted;
- (b) That the process detailed within the report for feeding back Wellbeing monitoring to the Area Committee be approved;

- (c) That Members note the several projects detailed within the report which were unable to be delivered by Leeds Youth Service during the 2005/06 financial year, and approve that such projects be delivered during the 2006/07 financial year;
- (d) That further information be sought in relation to a show which is to be performed by DAZL, with any details being forwarded to Members for their information;
- (e) That the possibility of litter bins being provided outside the Rothwell Sports Centre be explored;
- (f) That the locations of Area Committee funded litter bins in the Outer South area be clarified and that further information be sought from City Services, with regard to the effectiveness of the bins;
- (g) That an update report on the Horticultural Project be submitted to Members for their information.

## **79 Leeds Supertram**

The Director of Development submitted a report which updated Members on public transportation issues within Leeds, following the confirmation that the Government had withdrawn their funding for the Leeds Supertram project.

A debate then ensued which related to the methods of public transport which could be used as an alternative to the Supertram. The main issues raised were as follows:

- Alternatives for the Leeds Supertram which would affect the Outer South area, such as 'Park and Ride' schemes. Members then discussed the cost effectiveness and efficiency of such alternatives;
- Issues relating to the route which had been proposed for the Supertram;
- The need for cleaner, cheaper and more reliable bus services to be established in Leeds, the need to encourage school children to walk to and from school and the need for feeder buses to be provided in order to ensure that more rural communities were catered for;
- The way in which the bus services within Leeds were currently structured and regulated, and the methods which could be used to improve the current system.

### **RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the report and the information appended to the report be noted;
- (b) That Members note the intention for a detailed briefing on future public transport proposals to be submitted to the Area Committee when further information is available.

## **80 Area Manager's Update Report**

The Committee received a report from the Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing detailing a range of activities which had taken place or were scheduled to take place within the Outer South area. The report also sought Members' views on several important issues which were ongoing within the area.

In response to Members' enquiries which related to the ways in which the Community Action Service Team (CAST) operated and the sites which had been visited by the Team, the Committee was assured that location based

information, which detailed the sites visited by CAST would be circulated to Members for their information.

A discussion then ensued which related to the effectiveness of the services provided by Streetscene Environment Services in the Outer South area and the actions which could be taken by the Area Committee in a bid to improve the team's performance.

**RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the report be noted;
- (b) That further location based information which details the areas visited by CAST in the Outer South area be submitted to Members for their information;
- (c) That consideration be given by the Area Committee into the ways in which Streetscene Environment Services operates in the South Outer area.

(Councillor Mulherin left the meeting at 6.10pm during the consideration of this item)

**81 Date and Time of Next Meeting**  
Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2006 at 4.00pm

(The meeting concluded at 6.15pm)