

SOUTH (OUTER) AREA COMMITTEE

12TH JULY 2004

PRESENT: Councillor Finnigan in the Chair
Councillors Dunn, Mulherin, Renshaw,
Leadley, McArdle, Beevers, Elliot,
Grayshon, Galdas, Smith and Wilson

1 Election of the Chair

The Chief Democratic Services Officer submitted a report explaining the arrangements or the annual election of the Chair of the Area Committee.

It was reported that two nominations for Chair had been received on behalf of Councillors Dunn and Finnigan.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16.4, a recorded vote was requested. Councillor Dunn received three votes in favour of his nomination (Councillors Dunn, Mulherin and Renshaw). Councillor Finnigan received six votes in favour of his nomination (Councillors Finnigan, Leadley, McArdle, Beevers, Elliot and Grayshon).

RESOLVED:

(a) That the report be noted.

(b) That Councillor Finnigan be elected as Chair of the South (Outer) Area Committee for 2004/2005.

2 Chair's Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed everyone to the inaugural meeting of the South (Outer) Area Committee for 2004/2005 and invited everyone present to introduce themselves.

3 Late Items

The Chair gave notice of a late item of urgent business (Minutes No.12), a report by the Chief Democratic Services Officer relating to Local Authority Appointments to Outside Bodies.

The Chair indicated that in accordance with his powers under Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, he had agreed to take this as a late item of urgent business in order to agree the nominations, without delay, to those organisations which fell to the Area Committee to make appointment to.

4 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

5 Constitutional Considerations Relating to Area Committees

The Chief Executive submitted a report outlining the basis upon which Area Committees were established by Full Council, and specifically on how executive functions may be exercised by Area Committees.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

6 Consultation and Community Involvement Arrangements

The Acting Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing submitted a report to enable the Area Committee to consider arrangements for community consultation and engagement. Officers presented the report to Members and a detailed discussion ensued. In brief summary, the main points were as follows:

- Members asserted that community consultation and involvement arrangements were of the highest priority.
- Members expressed concern as to the limited number of co-optees allowable under the Area Committee Procedure Rules.
- Support was expressed for the regular inclusion of an Open Forum at Area Committee meetings and that Councillors should promote it.
- Members were keen to ensure that any new arrangements should complement and utilise panels and community groups already in existence.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the report be noted.
- (b) That a consultation and engagement process be developed within the context of an integrated multi-agency approach.
- (c) That Area Management officers work with partner agencies and departments to identify potential opportunities for joint consultation.
- (d) That an Open Forum be included on the agenda of all future meetings of the Committee and to initially allow up to 30 minutes for this.
- (e) That reports/agenda be made available to community groups prior to Meetings of the Area Committee to facilitate their active engagement in the democratic process.
- (f) That a decision with regard to co-optees be deferred.
- (g) That a budget of £10,000 be delegated to the Area Manager for carrying out the Area Committee's communication activities.

7 Profile and Priorities for 2004/2005

The Acting Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing submitted a report to inform Members of the current work which had been carried out by the South Leeds Area Management Team on drawing up a Profile and Priorities Document for the Area Committee.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the report be noted.
- (b) That the proposed structure and contents of the Profile and Priorities Document be approved.
- (c) That an informal meeting be arranged in August 2004 between Area Management and Members to look in more detail at the service priorities for this Committee.
- (d) That the current revenue commitments agreed by the former Community Involvement Teams be noted.

8 Small Grants Fund

The Acting Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing submitted a report to seek approval for the setting up of a Small Grants Fund.

Support was given to the framework for administering the Fund as presented in the report.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the report be noted.
- (b) That the setting up of a Small Grants Fund for the Area Committee be approved.
- (c) That £15,000 be allocated to the Small Grants Fund to consider grants of up to £1000 in accordance with the framework outlined in section 3.0 of the report.
- (d) That a summary report of Small Grant applications be circulated to all Area Committee Members for comment prior to Area Committee meetings.
- (e) That Area Management, Finance and Legal Services draw up Operating Guidelines for administering the Fund prior to its launch and promotion.
- (f) That options for Member and potentially wider consultation on small grants be kept under review.

9 Area Committee - Future Work Programme

The Acting Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing submitted a report to the Committee providing Members with an initial outline of a proposed work programme for South (Outer) Area Committee.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That an agenda item with regard to the Youth Service be brought forward from February 2005 to November 2004.
- (b) That subject to the above, and discussions between South Area Management and Members of the Area Committee planned for August 2004, the work programme be approved.

10 Dates, Times and Venues for Future Meetings

The Acting Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing submitted a report regarding a provisional schedule of meetings for the South (Outer) Area Committee.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the report be noted.
- (b) That approval be given to the following dates and times for the South (Outer) Area Committee meetings for the Municipal Year 2004/2005, and for rotating the venues within the four Wards:
Monday 13th September 2004 at 5.00 pm (Rothwell venue to be confirmed)
Monday 18th October 2004 at 5.00 pm (Morley venue to be confirmed)
Monday 13th December 2004 at 5.00 pm (Ardsley & Robin Hood venue to be confirmed)
Monday 14th February 2005 at 5.00 pm (Morley venue to be confirmed)
Monday 25th April 2005 at 5.00 pm (Rothwell venue to be confirmed)

11 Local Authority Appointments to Outside Bodies

The Chief Democratic Services Officer submitted a report outlining the Area Committee's role in relation to Elected Member appointments to Outside Bodies. The purpose of the report was to agree the nominations to those organisations which fell to the Area Committee to make an appointment to.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the report be noted.
- (b) That in respect of Outside Bodies schedule, approval be given to the following appointments:

South Homes ALMO	Councillor S Smith
South Homes ALMO	Councillor J Elliott
- (c) That a decision with regard to Thomas Lee's Poor Estate of East and West Ardsley be deferred pending further information.