

## **NORTH WEST (INNER) AREA COMMITTEE**

**9<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2004**

**PRESENT:** Councillor M Hamilton in the Chair  
Councillors Atha, Bentley, Ewens, Golton, Hussain,  
Illingworth, Minkin and Mulholland

**OFFICERS:** J Bracewell, Neighbourhoods and Housing  
J Singh, Neighbourhoods and Housing  
G Burnham, Neighbourhoods and Housing  
T O'Donovan, Neighbourhoods and Housing  
D Jones, Neighbourhoods and Housing  
Z Butt, Neighbourhoods and Housing  
C Haigh, Neighbourhoods and Housing  
K Baldwin, Neighbourhoods and Housing  
K Barker, Learning and Leisure  
J Kearsley, City Services  
P Markham, City Services  
G Hollings, City Services  
M Romagnoli, Chief Executive's  
J Grieve, Chief Executive's

### **43 Chair's Opening Remarks**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the December meeting of the North West (Inner) Area Committee and thanked Kirkstall St Stephen's C of E Primary School for hosting this event.

### **44 Late Items**

The Chair gave notice of a late item of business, Minute 57, Well Being Budget Commissioned Project.

The Chair indicated that in accordance with his powers under Section 100(B)(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, he had agreed to take this as a late item in order to consider the grant application at the earliest opportunity.

### **45 Declarations of Interest**

Councillor's Hamilton and Illingworth declared a personal interest in Minute 52 as current employees of Leeds University.  
Councillor Hamilton declared a personal/ prejudicial interest in Minute 57 as a Director of the Burley Lodge Centre.

### **46 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jennings, Morton and Rhodes-Clayton, Peter Yates, Chris Way, Judy Bourton, Amy Pickard, John Greenwood, Chris Webb and Rehana Minhas.

### **47 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 ten minutes for members of the public to make representations or to ask questions on matters within the terms of reference of the Area Committee.

In summary, the following issues were raised at the meeting:-

Bill Rollinson (Cardigan Triangle Community Association)

- reported on the establishment of the new Cardigan Triangle Community Association
- requested further information on the Schools Review with particular relevance to the North West Inner Area

Carine Aguet (Up Your Street Project)

- reported on a Leeds Metropolitan University Project to tackle graffiti

Kate Griffiths (Community Action Little London)

- expressed concern about the notification procedure associated with the Well-Being Grant Application Scheme

**RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the issues raised at the meeting be noted.
- (b) That in relation to Well-Being Grant Application Scheme, the applicant be advised to contact the Area Management office for further information about individual applications.

**48 Minutes**

Councillor Illingworth referred to an item discussed at the last meeting about Milford Sports Club in relation to the Council's charging policy and the possible reduction of the clubs operation as a result of increased prices. However no reference to this issue was covered in the minutes.

**RESOLVED –** That with the inclusion of the above reference, the minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2004 be approved as a true and correct record.

**49 Matters Arising from the Minutes**

- (a) Highways Issues at Butcher Hill , Becketts Park Drive and Lawnswood High School (Minute 29(a) refers)

The North West Area Manager informed the meeting that following advice from the Director of City Services, Butcher Hill did meet the appropriate criteria, Becketts Park Drive was within the Council's policy. With regard to the Lawnswood High School issue, Members expressed concern that the speed limit for Lawnswood roundabout was currently 40mph while approaches along the ring road up to the roundabout were 30mph.

- (b) Burley Issues (Minute 31 refers)

Councillor Minkin referred to a map, which had been circulated showing the boundary of the Burley area. Councillor Minkin said that she was not convinced that the map was strictly correct and that any comments from members of the Community who may have knowledge of the area would be welcomed.

It was agreed that any further comments on the Burley Area Boundary be reported back to the next meeting in February 2005.

- (c) New Housing Bill/HMO (Minute 34 refers)  
Richard Tyler spoke on the New Housing Bill/HMO and referred to Leeds Left Bank and the imbalance of demography.

It was agreed that the Planning Sub Group would take up the Leeds Left Bank proposal for further investigation.

- (d) Future of Headingley Forum (Minute 38 refers)  
Councillor Mulholland said that a report on proposals for consultation would be taken to the next meeting of the Forum.

## **50 Streetscene Services**

The Committee considered a report by the Director of City Services providing a comprehensive report on the Streetscene service operated by his Department, in consultation and co-operation with other Council Departments, with particular emphasis on the area covered by the Area Committee.

John Kearsley, Chief Officer, Support and Facilities attended the meeting and, together with Paul Markham and Graham Hollins from the Department who responded to Members' queries and comments. In brief summary, the main issues discussed were:-

- Street lighting performance indicators
- The recycling scheme and better clarification as to what contents should be put in the green bin and the need for further leafleting
- The issues surrounding contamination of the green bins
- The lack of green bins in the Little London area
- Bulky household waste arrangements
- PFI street lighting strategy 2006
- Street washing programme
- Pedestrian crossing facilities at Lovell Park Road

### **RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the report be noted.
- (b) That the Director submit a report to a future meeting on priority neighbourhood action.
- (c) That the Director be requested to submit a further report on the level of contamination of green bin loads within the Headingley collection area.

## **51 The Parks and Countryside Service**

The Committee considered a report by the Chief Recreation Officer on the City-wide Parks and Countryside Service operated by the Learning and Leisure Department. The report set out the strategic context for, and a description of the Parks and Countryside Service. Information on key performance management initiatives was outlined together with the results of a major recent survey. The report also highlighted the challenges facing the service in terms of investment and the investment required to deliver the fixed play strategy and playing pitch strategy.

Kevin Barker, Operations Manger, Parks and Countryside Division attended the meeting and responded to Members' queries and comments. In brief summary the main issues raised were:-

- Parks and open spaces and the prestigious Green Flag Award
- Small areas of greenspace within the Kirkstall area
- The external maintenance of grass cutting instigated by the ALMO`s
- The co-ordination of Streetscene services after grass cutting had taken place
- Provision of playing pitches and their condition, noting that most pitches used for Rugby Union were in private ownership

**RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the contents of the report be noted.
- (b) To note that further reports would be submitted early in 2005 regarding the Playing Pitch Strategy, the Fixed Play Strategy and an evaluation of the market testing exercise for Streetscene Grounds Maintenance.

**52 Housing Act 2004 – Towards a Local Implementation Plan**

The Committee considered a report by the Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing providing an update on the Housing Act 2004 and the possible implications for the Inner North – West Area wedge. The report also provided the current position with Area of Student Housing Restraints (ASHORE) policy and the Shared Housing Plan.

David Jones, Area Committee Planner and Thomas O`Donovan, Area Management Officer from the Department attended the meeting and responded to Members` queries and comments. In brief summary the main issues raised were:-

- Local Development and implications for the ASHORE area
- Additional/ discretionary licensing in the ASHORE area
- Concerns about the delivery of the plan
- The notion of Diversity Zones
- 60% of housing in the Headingley area is privately rented
- Redress the balance of HMO`s in the ASHORE area

Richard Tyler from the HMO Lobby spoke at length on the report and put forward three proposals:-

- (i) Pursue additional/ discretionary licensing in the ASHORE area
- (ii) Redress the balance of HMO`s in the ASHORE area and the implications for the Diversity Zones
- (iii) Seek the employment of an HMO officer to look into the issue of Diversity Zones

(Councillors Hamilton and Illingworth declared personal interests in this item)

**RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the contents of the report be noted.
- (b) That the proposals put forward by Richard Tyler from Leeds HMO Lobby be noted.
- (c) That the Planning Sub Group be requested to look in detail at:-
  - (i) Government proposals for HMO licensing with specific reference to additional/ discretionary licensing

- (ii) The idea of Diversity Zones and the implications that might be reflected in future planning policies
- (iii) To report back to the Area Committee in due course

**53 Planning Officer – Evaluation and Future Funding**

The Committee considered a report by the Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing providing an evaluation and future funding of the Planning Officers' post.

David Jones, Area Committee Planner and Thomas O'Donovan, Area Management Officer from the Department attended the meeting and responded to Members' queries and comments.

**RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the contents of the report be noted.
- (b) That the effectiveness of the Planning Officer post be acknowledge by this Committee.
- (c) That the main functions of the Planning Officer as detailed in the submitted report be noted.
- (d) That approval be given to future monitoring and evaluation of the post on a six monthly basis to the Area Committee.
- (e) That this Committee notes that the day to day management responsibilities for the post would be undertaken by the Head of Development.
- (f) That approval be given, in principle, to extending the post for a two year period beyond July 2005, subject to budget availability at a cost of approximately £70K to the Area Committee and to request officers to bring back a further costed report to a future meeting.

**54 Proposals for a Special Cumulative Impact Policy under the Licensing Act 2003**

The Committee considered a report by the Director of Legal and Democratic Services on proposals to adopt a Special Cumulative Impact Policy under the Licensing Act 2003 in respect of Headingley, Hyde Park and Woodhouse and to seek the views of the Area Committee as part of the decision making process.

Michael Romagnoli, from the Chief Executives Department attended the meeting and responded to Members' queries and comments.

**RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the contents of the report be noted.
- (b) That any comments on the proposals be conveyed to the Director of Legal and Democratic Services in order that any representations may be reported to the Executive Board on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2004.

**55 Community Safety – Multi Agency Work**

The Committee considered a report by the Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing providing information about Operation Apollo, a multi agency crime reduction /prevention initiative planned in Pudsey Weetwood Police Division.

Zahid Butt, Area Community Safety Co-ordinator from the Department attended the meeting and responded to Members' queries and comments. In brief summary the main issues raised were:-

- Noise emanating from burglar alarms
- Private hire vehicles sounding their horns in the early hours
- The distribution of PCSO`s

**RESOLVED** – That the contents of the report be noted.

**56 Review of Leeds City Council Community Centres**

The Committee considered a report by the Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing regarding progress on a City-wide review of the control, condition, usage levels, lettings policies and charges in connection with the City Council owned or operated community centres.

The report invited the Area Committee to comment on a draft lettings and pricing policy appended to the report, and the North West Area Manager indicated that Members could forward their comments to him by the end of January 2005.

**RESOLVED** –

- (a) To note the issues contained within the submitted report relating to the overall portfolio of community centres and the departmental vesting arrangements now in place for centres in the area.
- (b) To provide details of any local organisation/forum, which should be consulted on the draft pricing and lettings policy to the Area Manager by 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2004 (estimated 60-70 groups within the area).
- (c) To provide any comments on the draft pricing and letting policy to the Area Manager by the end of January 2005.

(Having declared a personal/prejudicial interest in the following item, Councillor Hamilton vacated the Chair and Councillor Mulholland assumed the Chair. Councillor Hamilton left the room throughout the duration of this item).

**57 Inner Area Committee Well-Being Budget 2004/05**

The Committee considered a report by the Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing on the Inner North West Area Committee Well-Being Budget 2004/05.

The purpose of the report was to:-

- provide Members with a current position statement on the Well-Being Budget
- provide a progress report on projects agreed at the last meeting and additional proposals received
- To provide details of Small Grant applications received

The North West Area Co-ordinator presented the report and responded to Members' queries and comments.

**RESOLVED** –

- (a) That the contents of the report be noted.
- (b) That this Committee notes the current budget position of the

- Well-Being Budget as set out in 2.1 of the report.
- (c) That the Well-Being projects outlined in Appendix 1 of the report be noted.
  - (d) To approve the following Well-Being fund projects: Burley Model Allotments (£2,000), Far Headingley Village Statement (£3,000) and the Burley Lodge Centre (£3,112.50) as outlined in appendix 2 (revised) of the circulated report. (That in respect of the Beckett Park Play Area application, the applicants be advised to resubmit their application).
  - (e) That approval be given to additions to the Well-Being project schedule in accordance with the submitted report.
  - (f) That the small grant applications as detailed in section 4.1 of the report be noted. (Moor Grange action Group be requested to resubmit there application in 2005).

(Councillor Hamilton resumed the Chair)

## **58 Funding Officer Evaluation**

The Committee considered a report by the Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing providing an update on the progress of the Funding Officer Project and to consider options for the future.

Thomas O`Donovan, Area Management Officer from the Department attended the meeting and responded to Members` queries and comments.

Detailed discussion ensued on the future project delivery options outlined in Section 3.0 of the submitted report.

### **RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the contents of the report be noted.
- (b) That approval be given for officers to pursue option 2.
- (c) That the options for the location of the postholder listed in section 4.1 of the report be noted and that Area Management Officers and VA-L be requested to agree an appropriate base.
- (d) That approval be given, in principle, to funding from 2005/06 and 2006/07 for the preferred option taking into account points raised in section 5.2 of the submitted report.
- (e) That a further report on the Funding Officer be presented to the Area Committee once budget implications for 2005/06 are known.

## **59 Capital Schemes and Expenditure**

The Committee considered a report by the Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing alerting Members to a request to bring forward any potential projects that may require capital funding either through the Council`s Capital Programme or the Committee`s own capital allocation through it`s Well-Being Budget.

The North West Area Manger presented the report and responded to Members` queries and comments.

### **RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the contents of the report be noted.

- (b) That this Committee notes the two routes through which capital schemes may receive support.
- (c) That Members be requested to raise with the Area Manager before 31<sup>st</sup> December 2004 any proposals or ideas for development around capital schemes that may be eligible for support from the Area Committee`s Well-Being budget.
- (d) That this Committee notes the opportunity to raise ideas or schemes with the Area Management Team that may be put forward as a possibility for funding from the capital scheme.

**60 Key Messages from Area Forums**

The Committee considered a report by the Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing providing an update on the feedback of Key Messages from area forums and sub groups.

Thomas O`Donovan, Area Management Officer from the Department attended the meeting and responded to Members` queries and comments.

**RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the contents of the report be noted.
- (b) That the format of the Key Messages as detailed in Appendix 1 of the submitted report be approved.
- (c) That approval be given to future Key messages from area forums and sub groups being brought to the Area Committee in this format.

**61 North West Leeds District Partnership/Regeneration Plan Update**

The Committee considered a report by the Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing providing an update on the work undertaken to date by partners, including the North West Leeds Area Management Team to establish and progress the North West Leeds District Partnership (the Partnership).

Jason Singh, Area Co-ordinator from the Department attended the meeting and responded to Members` queries and comments.

**RESOLVED –**

- (a) That the contents of the report be noted.
- (b) That the progress that had been made in establishing the North West Leeds District Partnership be noted.
- (c) That the work being commissioned to develop a new North West Leeds District Regeneration Plan be noted.
- (d) That a further progress report on the development of the Regeneration Plan be submitted in February 2005.
- (e) That the Partnership`s ability to add value to schemes like the PCT`s initiative described in the submitted report be noted.
- (f) That local Ward Members receive copies of the District Partnership minutes and reports.

**62 Date, Time and Venue of Next Meeting**

Thursday 17th February 2005 at 7.00pm in the Headingley Ward (venue to be confirmed).

(The meeting concluded at 9.25 pm)