

INNER SOUTH COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, 21ST NOVEMBER, 2024

PRESENT: Councillor M Iqbal in the Chair

Councillors S Ali, E Carlisle, R Chesterfield,
W Dixon, A Maloney, E Pogson-Golden,
A Scopes and P Wray

29 Appeals Against Refusal of Inspection of Documents

There were no appeals.

30 Exempt Information - Possible Exclusion of the Press and Public

There was no exempt information.

31 Late Items

There were no formal late items.

32 Declaration of Interests

The following declarations of interest were made at the meeting:

Councillor E Carlisle declared a disclosable pecuniary interest (DPI) in relation to Agenda Item 10, Inner South Community Committee Finance Report, Brilliant Beeston Hill, as his spouse was employed by St Luke's Cares and the organisation had applied for Wellbeing funds. Details of this application can be found on page 46 of the agenda. In declaring his DPI, Councillor Carlisle took no part in the discussion or decision making of this specific funding application.

33 Apologies for Absence

No apologies for absence were received.

34 Minutes

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on the 4th of September 2024 be confirmed as a correct record.

35 Open Forum

In accordance with the Community Committee Procedure Rules, the Chair allowed a period of up to 10 minutes for members of the public to make representations or ask questions within the terms of reference of the Community Committee.

The following submissions were made as part of the Open Forum:

Gambling Harm Training

A local resident requested further information in regard to the offer of anti-bribery and gambling harm training that was available to Members of the Licensing Committee, and whether the invite to the training could be extended to the public. In response, it was noted that an email response had been received in relation to this query, confirming that the training session was exclusive to Licensing Committee Members, but other options were available for information on this topic which would be forwarded on to the enquirer.

INNER SOUTH COMMUNITY COMMITTEE UPDATE REPORT

The report of the Head of Locality Partnerships brought Member's attention to an update of the work in which the Communities Team was engaged in based on priorities identified by the Community Committee. It also provided opportunities for further questioning or to request a more detailed report on a particular issue.

The Localities Officer introduced the report, and the following points were highlighted:

- An update from the Children's and Families Champion was available at page 19 of the report, detailing that on the 9th of September 2024, a subgroup meeting had been held, with the Youth Service, St Luke's CARE and Forward Leeds in attendance. The Inner South Youth Summit had been arranged for the 5th of February 2025.
- An update from the Environment and Community Safety Champion was available at page 20 of the report, detailing that on the 7th of November 2024, a subgroup meeting had been held, with updates provided from West Yorkshire Police (WYP), LASBT, Selective Licensing, Housing, Cleaner Neighbourhoods Team, Refuse, Climate Energy and Greenspaces.

WYP Inspector Mark Lund, attending the Committee and provided an update on recent crime statistics:

- Crime data for the Inner South displayed an overall reduction, however, WYP were mindful of trends, with crime levels rising over the winter.
- In contextualising crime and anti-social behaviour, it was noted that figures for off road bike misuse did not reflect the full scope of the issue and was difficult to quantify and often under reported, however, further training and the gathering of intelligence was ongoing.
- There was a day of action in Cottingley ongoing on the 21st of November 2024, involving relevant partners to reduce anti-social behaviour and address organised crime.
- Data showed a reduction in reports of sex work in the Beeston area, it was noted this was still an issue, but work was ongoing and the reduction in reports from residents may coincide with the closure of nearby trap houses.
- Serious, violent, criminal incidents had occurred in the Beeston and Belle Isle area, with investigations currently sensitive but an update would be provided to Members when the further information was made public. These incidents were gang related, posed little risk to

the general public and individuals had been identified for investigation and possible prosecution.

In response to questions from Members, the following points were discussed:

- The serious incidents within Beeston and Belle Isle had led to some public concern, however, had occurred during the Middleton Park Christmas lights switch on, where the community had not been deterred.
- There had been a reduction in the issues surrounding community tension that had occurred during the summer. Considering community feedback in regards to the recent serious incidents, the public were aware of the lower scale risk posed to them but practical work to reiterate communications and keep the public up to date was needed to reduce fear and increase positive Police perception.
- Use of E-bikes, particularly in Cross Flatts Park had led to feelings of intimidation within the community and although not considered serious crime, residents needed to feel safe when using public open spaces. This issue, and associated anti-social behaviour, had somewhat increased tension between different demographics, such as between young and older people. WYP were to enhance Police presence in areas of high concern.
- A patrol plan was in place, covering Belle Isle and Cross Flatts Park in order to reassure the community and deter further crime, following the serious violent incidents.
- A walk and talk pilot scheme was being run in the Outer South area, with the hope to expand it to the Inner South once logistics had been worked out. Members were encouraged to discuss and promote this scheme with WYP.
- It was suggested that WYP could review and track crime statistics over recent years to analyse whether targeted, gang related crime or general crime was increasing. In response, it was noted that what was considered serious or targeted crime was often subjective but further discussions to address public concern were welcomed.
- It was outlined that due to the change in definition as to what defined burglary, with recent inclusions covering sheds, garages and allotments, data had been skewed. Residential burglary had reduced but recent burglaries from allotments had increased the figures.
- An individual had been jailed for theft from motor vehicle crimes and thus, figures for this category of crime had fallen since.
- It was confirmed that crime data relevant to the Inner South did not cover the Ward city centre boundaries.
- Given recent instances of anti-social behaviour at Hunslet Carr Primary School, it was confirmed that warnings had been submitted against perpetrators, however, not all the reports had been verified to be associated with the school, or immediate surrounding area.
- It was agreed that methods to develop a strategy for youth outreach would be sought, including attending the Children's and Families subgroup meetings, in order to engage with less heard from children.

- Engagement with youth services and third sector organisations may be a good arena for addressing issues which led young people into involving themselves with anti-social behaviour and crime, whilst considering the resource constraints faced by these organisations. Diverse activities options were also beneficial for keeping young people on the right path.
- It was confirmed that the Police Cadets based in South Leeds were only able to accommodate 15 cadets at a time due to resource limitations.
- Members thanked WYP for their work in Belle Isle and Beeston following the serious incidents.

RESOLVED – That the contents of the report, along with Members comments, be noted.

37 **COUNCIL HOUSING REPAIRS & VOIDS**

The report and presentation to Members provided the Inner South Community Committee with a service update for Council Housing Repairs & Voids.

The Area Manager, Communities, Housing & Environment and the Voids Service Manager, introduced the report and highlighted the following points:

- The term void denoted any property in Housing’s management which was not occupied by a customer or whilst repair work, to make the property ready for relet, was carried out.
- It was a key priority to minimise voids as they would not be generating income and could be subject to damage, as well as enabling quick turnarounds once a property became vacant.
- In void property repairs were based on the lettings standard model, to ensure that the property was in a safe condition and additionally assessing the extent of any further repair works.
- As required by law, gas and electrics checks were completed for incoming customers and copies of certification were provided, as well as a valid EPC (Energy Performance certificate). Once in place, responsibilities were passed onto the customer as they were higher priority for quicker responses from energy providers than businesses or Local Authorities. The recommissioning of gas and electric was carried out on the day that a new customer moved in, which was referred to as a final fix.
- The allocation and letting of an empty property took place in parallel to void repair work. Outgoing tenants were required to provide four weeks’ notice of leaving a property which assisted with timeframes for advertising the property.
- Examples when delays in reletting a property after repairs were completed, were outlined as, requiring to assess the suitability of the property for a customer’s needs, when a tenancy offer to a customer was declined at later stages, and for South Leeds there was a very limited waiting list for customers wanting 2 bedroom and age restricted properties.

- There was significant interest in the new extra care developments in Middleton Park, with the waiting list increasing. To be considered for the housing type, customers were required to have specific care need requirements.
- Performance data outlined that under 0.95% of Council properties in the South of Leeds were void, which was considered a good position.
- Many of the voids for South Leeds stemmed from a retirement complex in Kippax which was considered an undesirable facility and location for a proportion of customers, which skewed the overall figures for South Leeds. Members were encouraged to help identifying potential customers for this facility.
- Data specific to the Inner South area contained in the report outlined that there were 68 voids out of the 5625 Council properties in the area. Since publication this had reduced to 55 and was now below 1%

In response to questions from Members, the following points were discussed:

- It was outlined that under occupancy charge restrictions varied across Leeds, with some specific policies applying to individual areas or blocks of flats. There was a city wide review of policy for lettings and allocation, with information agreed to be provided back to Members once it became available. Allocation was done on a general case by case basis as customer's needs and letting policy varied widely.
- As part of the tenancy agreement, the property had to be a customer's primary home, and if a property was to be left vacant, notice was required. Fraud Investigation Officers were in post who dealt with any issues of subletting which could lead to prosecution, however, this was noted to be an intensive process.
- As occupational therapists conducted needs assessments for potential customers, and informed relevant adaptation works. The Housing adaptations service and GPs also provided guidance.
- It was noted that there could be differences in opinion between tenants and occupational therapists in terms of property suitability and required adaptation works, so it was important to work on a situational basis and identify the right property for a person's needs at an early stage to avoid future complaints and to use resources wisely.
- The service's flexibility for out of hours provision of customer requested repairs was queried. In response it was outlined that Leeds Building Services provided time slots and out of hours provision incurred additional costs, such as a premium cost of overtime, but the position was to be agreed to be reviewed where possible.
- Increased family accommodation consisting of multiple bedrooms was a priority for South Leeds, however, most customers were willing to view all housing options given the high demand and waiting list length. In January 2025, the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA), as part of the updated planning policy evidence base, was to be published which would detail housing demand for each Ward.
- Hedge height was generally covered within tenancy agreements but was dependent on the capabilities of the customer. Hedges were to be kept under 4ft in height, but, particularly for flats, issues of

responsibility arose. Gardening service provision was done on a case by case basis and any issues with foliage on Council housing land blocking pathways or highways should be reported to the service.

- There were enforcement processes in place for instances of breaking tenant agreements, however, this was impacted by time and resource limitations. The maximum enforcement level was eviction.
- Homeless people were of some priority allocation when seeking Council housing, within the context of high demand from all demographics in need of housing. The service was partnered with other Council services who were able to provide emergency accommodation contacts.
- The process for downsizing or house swaps, to suit different needs, was explained as, maintaining a regular list of customers benefit entitlement changes, contacting under occupied houses in a non-coercive manner and mutual exchange options via a national website. Members suggested discussions on this topic may be suitable at Neighbourhood Network meetings.
- How the possessions of previous tenants were managed was queried. In response, it was noted, following failure of getting in contact with the previous tenant, fittings were often removed as Council material was standardised, rewiring often occurred if electrical works had taken place, items were often reused or stored and locally, and items were often sent to the free shop in Cottingley.
- The process for report issues and requesting cleaning following litter, fly tipping or the attraction of vermin was explained as, reporting to the service, identifying the issue and taking appropriate cleaning action.
- An invite to a briefing on Leeds Housing options to be held at Merrion House, including letting and allocation policy details, was extended to Members.

RESOLVED – That the contents of the report, along with Members comments, be noted.

38 INNER SOUTH COMMUNITY COMMITTEE FINANCE REPORT

The report of the Head of Locality Partnerships provided the Community Committee with an update on the budget position for the Wellbeing Fund, Youth Activity Fund (YAF), Capital Budget as well as the Community Infrastructure Levy Budget for 2024/25.

The Localities Officer presented the report, outlining the following information:

- The remaining Wellbeing balance available to the Committee was £148,810.81, with the Ward breakdown as, Beeston and Holbeck £49,589.73, Hunslet and Riverside £46,671.98 and Middleton Park £52,549.10, as detailed in table 1.
- Since the last Community Committee on 4th September 2024, one project has been declined by delegated decision which was for the Women's Wellbeing Group, for the amount of £1,000.
- Monitoring information was available on page 48 of the report with an update provided for a previously approved funding application project,

Breeze in the Park, (Beeston & Holbeck, Hunslet & Riverside and Middleton Park) with 5,560 people attending the event.

- The remaining YAF balance available to the Committee was £48,274.77, with the Ward breakdown as Beeston and Holbeck £13,049.30, Hunslet and Riverside £13,624.22 and Middleton Park £21,601.25, as detailed in table 2.
- Tables 3, 4 and 5 detailed the Small Grants, Community Skips and Capital budget position, respectively.
- The remaining CIL balance available to the Committee was £139,349.62 with the Ward breakdown as Beeston and Holbeck £50,582.71, Hunslet and Riverside £84,803.49 and Middleton Park £3,963.42, as detailed in table 6.

During consideration of the Finance Report, the following was discussed:

- For the Live Well funding application, Members approved £1,120 out of the £4,000 that had been applied for (Beeston & Holbeck: £640 and Hunslet & Riverside: £480). Members agreed to fund the portion of the project for the participants in their respective Wards.
- The Speed for Sport Sprint Competition for Children funding application was declined as Members raised concerns regarding that the project required significant funds but was only to run for 3 months, the applicant had also alluded to being in partnership with Beeston Juniors Football Club, however, contacts with the football club were unaware of the organisation. Members required evidence as to who the organisation were and further details of the proposals.
- The SCORE Development Centre funding application was declined as the Committee had funded a significant number of grass roots football clubs and the same applicant appeared to have recently partnered with Cross Flatts Football club, so clarity as to what the unique selling point of the project was sought.
- The From Bangladesh to Beeston – Our Story funding application was approved, following discussions as to whether the applied for funding was reasonable for a community film budget. Members also requested that they were able to attend a screening of the film.
- Members agreed to ringfence half (£4,020) of the project costs for the Brilliant Beeston Hill application, which was agreed in principle, pending the remaining match funding that was sought.
- The Leeds Inner South Menopause and Midlife Health Support Pilot was approved, however, Middleton Park Ward Members requested confirmation that provision within their Ward was ensured and also details whether sessions were to be held remotely or in person. The Localities Officer agreed to follow up Members queries with the applicant.
- Members queried the timeframes for the next CIL injection, which was to be followed up by the Localities Officer.

RESOLVED –

- a. That the details regarding the administration of small grants (paragraph 16), be noted.

- b. That the details of the Wellbeing Budget position (Table 1), be noted.
- c. That the Wellbeing/CIL ringfence proposals for consideration and approval (paragraph 20), be noted.
- d. That the Wellbeing/YAF/CIL proposals for consideration and approval (paragraph 21), be noted.
- e. That the details of the projects approved via Delegated Decision (paragraph 32), be noted.
- f. That the monitoring information of its funded projects (paragraph 33), be noted.
- g. That the details of the Youth Activities Fund position (Table 2), be noted.
- h. That the details of the Small Grants Budget (Table 3), be noted.
- i. That the details of the Community Skips Budget (Table 4), be noted.
- j. That the details of the Capital Budget (Table 5), be noted.
- k. That the details of the Community Infrastructure Levy Budget (Table 6), be noted.
- l. That funding proposals as detailed in the report for consideration, be determined as follows:

The following ringfences were agreed:

£10,000 (CIL) for the Hunslet Improvements ringfence.

£15,000 (CIL) towards the cost of improvements to Penny Pocket Park (Hunslet & Riverside)

Project Title	Ward	Amount	Decision
Cottingley Community Centre	Beeston & Holbeck	£7,000	Agreed
Live Well	Beeston & Holbeck and Hunslet & Riverside	£1,120 of the requested £4,000	Part agreed
Middleton Park Christmas Events	Middleton Park	£11,235.20	Agreed
Speed for Sport Sprint Competition for	Beeston & Holbeck, Hunslet &	£7,370 (Beeston & Holbeck): £5,159, Hunslet	Declined

Children	Riverside and Middleton Park	& Riverside: £1,695.10 and Middleton Park: £515.90)	
SCORE Development Centre – Community Engagement	Beeston & Holbeck and Hunslet & Riverside	£8,000 (Beeston & Holbeck: £3,280 - Wellbeing and Hunslet & Riverside: £4,720 – CIL)	Declined
From Bangladesh to Beeston – Our Story	Beeston & Holbeck and Hunslet & Riverside	£8,000 (Beeston & Holbeck: £3,280 - Wellbeing and Hunslet & Riverside: £4,720 – CIL)	Agreed
Brilliant Beeston Hill	Hunslet & Riverside	£4,020 of the originally applied for amount of £8,040	Part agreed, in principle
Cottingley MUGA Lighting	Beeston & Holbeck	£33,331.84	Agreed
Inner South CCTV Cameras	Beeston & Holbeck and Hunslet & Riverside	£6,000 (Beeston & Holbeck £4,000 and Hunslet & Riverside £2,000)	Agreed
Middleton Park Boulders	Middleton Park	£1,200	Agreed
Leeds Inner South Menopause and Midlife Health	Beeston & Holbeck, Hunslet & Riverside and	£4,500	Agreed

Support Pilot	Middleton Park		
Wesley Street Bench	Beeston & Holbeck	£1,750	Agreed
Royal Grove post and rail	Hunslet & Riverside	£1,200	Agreed
Fulham Street – Grass Verge	Hunslet & Riverside	£2,752.80	Agreed

39 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED – That the date and time of the next meeting as the 5th of March 2025 at 1:30pm, be noted.

40 Any Other Business

RESOLVED - That Councillor R Chesterfield be appointed as the Health, Wellbeing & Adult Social Care for the remainder of the 2024/25 municipal year.