

WEST (INNER) AREA COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, 17TH FEBRUARY, 2010

PRESENT: Councillor N Taggart in the Chair

Councillors D Atkinson, T Hanley, J Harper, A Lowe and
J McKenna

Co-Optees: Hazel Boutle - Armley Community Forum
Stephen Longley – Bramley and Stanningley Community Forum
Stephen McBarron – Bramley and Stanningley Community Forum
Morgan Pugh – Armley Community Forum

67 Late Items

In accordance with his powers under Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Chair admitted to the agenda, as late items of urgent business, the minutes of the Armley Community Forum meeting held on 19th January 2010 and the minutes of the Bramley and Stanningley Community Forum meeting held on 28th January 2010, neither of which had been available at the time of agenda despatch. It was regarded that these should be dealt with as late items of urgent business at this meeting, as the next meeting of the Area Committee was not until 14th April 2010 (Minute No. 71 refers).

68 Declaration of Interests

The following declarations of personal interest were made:-

Councillor Taggart – Agenda Item 13(Minute No. 76 refers) – West North West Homes Update Report – in his capacity as a member of the ALMO Inner West Area Panel.

Councillor J McKenna – Agenda Item 13(Minute No. 76 refers) – West North West Homes Update Report – in his capacity as a member of the ALMO Inner West Area Panel.

Mr S McBarron – Agenda Item 13(Minute No. 76 refers) – West North West Homes Update Report – in his capacity as a member of the ALMO Inner West Area Panel.

Mr M Pugh - Agenda Item 13(Minute No. 76 refers) – West North West Homes Update Report – in his capacity as a member of the ALMO Inner West Area Panel.

(NB: See also later Minute No. 72.)

69 Open Forum

The Chair gave notice that, in accordance with the Area Committee Procedure Rules, there was provision on the agenda for an Open Forum session of up to 10 minutes in order to allow members of the public an opportunity to ask questions or to make representations on any matter which fell within the remit of the Area Committee.

Two local residents spoke in favour of the traffic management proposals in respect of Aviary Road and Truro Road, Armley, as contained in the report under Agenda Item 9, Wellbeing Fund Update Report.

The Chair stated that these representations would be taken into account when the Committee came to Item 9 later in the meeting.

(NB: Councillor A Lowe joined the meeting at 17:17 during the consideration of this item.)

70 Minutes - 9th December 2009

RESOLVED – That, subject to the addition of Stephen McBarron to the list of people present at the meeting, the minutes of the meeting held on 9th December 2009 be confirmed as a correct record.

71 Minutes - Community Forum Meetings

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meetings of the Armley Community Forum held on 19th January 2010 and the Bramley and Stanningley Community Forum held on 28th January 2010 be received and noted.

72 Well-Being Fund 2009/10 - Update Report

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods submitted a report updating Members on the current balances on the Committee's revenue and capital Wellbeing budgets, and setting out details of applications for funding before the Committee today for consideration.

Representatives of the applicants were invited to speak in support of their applications.

The Chair made reference to concerns regarding likely reductions in the Wellbeing monies available to Area Committees in 2010/11 and also to the retrospective proposed 'claw-back' of 10% of the 2009/10 capital allocation to each Area Committee, regardless of whether or not those monies had already been allocated. The Council's budget meeting would be taking place on 24th February, and representations and alternative proposals would be made by the Labour Group.

RESOLVED –

Minutes approved as a correct record
at the meeting held on Wednesday, 14th April, 2010

- a) That the report be received and noted;
- b) That the following decisions be taken in respect of the applications before the Committee today for decision:-

Capital

- i) St. James Mews – gating – £1,668.25 – Approved;
- ii) Fairfield Community Centre – improvements - £850 – Approved;
- iii) CCTV – Broadleas roundabout – £23,130 – Agreed in principle, subject to clarification of the details at the next meeting on 14th April;
- iv) Armley traffic management scheme – Aviary Street/Truro Street – £22,000 – Approved;
- v) Bramley improvement scheme – £8,730.60 – Approved, subject to confirmation in writing of the future maintenance arrangements;
- vi) Armley – Designated Public Places Order signs – £1,200 – Approved;
- vii) Bramley shopping centre – security radios for shopkeepers – £3,660 – Approved, subject to the proviso that the radios should be funded for small, local retailers only, not national chains;
- viii) Fuelsavers – Aerial thermal survey overflight – £3,000 – Approved;
- ix) Armley Moor – improvements – £16,730 – Local Members to seek to use Ward Based Initiative funds to fund this scheme, with the full support of the Area Committee;

REVENUE

- i) Town Centre Manager – extension of contract until March 2011 – £20,000 salary costs + £5,000 events budget = £25,000 – Approved;
- ii) ‘I Love West Leeds’ Festival 2010 – £25,000 – Approved;
- iii) Summer Bands in the Parks Concerts – £1,200 – Deferred to next meeting;
- iv) CCTV Broadleas roundabout – £3,568 – Agreed in principle, subject to clarification of the details at the next meeting;

- v) Community Centres – New post of Business Facilities Manager – £75,680.32 – Approved in principle, subject to the outcome of proposed urgent discussions with representatives of the New Wortley CC, further Member consultation and possible officer delegated decisions. The outcome to be reported back to the next meeting;
 - vi) West Yorkshire Police – Off-Road motorcycle scheme – £1,497 – Approved;
 - vii) 4 Families – Development Worker – Fairfields and Wyther estates – £65,000 – Deferred to next meeting;
 - viii) Inner West Holiday Sports Scheme etc – £6,000 – Approved;
 - ix) Small Grants/Community Skips Fund – Agreed in principle, subject to report back to the next meeting.
- (NB: 1) Nigel Conder, Town Centre Manager, declared a personal and prejudicial interest in respect of the item relating to the possible extension of his contract and left the meeting during the consideration of this particular issue.
- 2) Councillor A Lowe declared a personal interest in respect of Agenda Item 13(Min No. 76 refers) – West North West Homes Update Report – in her capacity as a Director of the ALMO).

73 Leeds Metropolitan University - Draft Community Engagement Statement

Sue Holmes, Director of Estates, Leeds Metropolitan University, presented a report regarding a draft Community Engagement Statement produced by the University which sought to establish the broad principles of its social responsibility and community engagement/partnership commitments.

In brief summary, the main points of discussion were:-

- a perceived need to expand the draft statement into a more detailed action plan for interaction with the local community;
- previous problems associated with rowdy behaviour on the part of students to the detriment of local residents, and how the University was attempting to tackle the issue;
- the need to open up more of the University's facilities to the local population;
- the possibility of 'open days' to enable the students to learn more about the local community, and vice versa, and to allow local residents to view the facilities which might be available to them.

RESOLVED – That, subject to the above comments and suggestions, the report be received and noted.

(NB: Councillor A Lowe left the meeting at 19:00, during the consideration of this item.)

74 Area Manager's Update Report

RESOLVED – That the report of the Acting Area Manager be received and noted.

75 West North West Community Engagement Programme - Update

RESOLVED – That the report of the Acting Area Manager be received and noted.

76 West North West Homes ALMO - Management Update Report

The Head of Tenancy Management and Customer Services, West North West Homes ALMO, submitted a report updating the Committee on a wide range of issues. Mick Parker, West North West Homes, attended the meeting and responded to Members' queries and comments. In brief summary, the main issues discussed were:-

- the 2008 decision of the ALMO Board not to bid for the Sheltered Housing Service contract for the area, and the fact that no other bids had been received either. The lack of certainty regarding the future of this service was a cause for concern in the area;

In response, Mick Parker stated that another review was currently being undertaken. In the absence of any other interested parties, it was the intention of West North West Homes to carry on providing this service itself;

- the imminent Audit Commission inspection and the hope that two star status might be achieved;
- the Council's decision to utilise ALMO reserves to off-set expenditure in other spending areas, the effects of this decision on ALMOs and the lack of consultation with local Members;
- whether or not current ALMO areas were too large.

RESOLVED – That, subject to the above comments, the report be received and noted.

77 Health & Environmental Action Service - Update Report

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods submitted a report updating Members on the activities of the Health and Environmental Action Service over Quarter 2 of 2009/10, broken down on a Ward by Ward basis. It was the intention to submit similar regular reports in the future.

RESOLVED – That the report be received and noted.

78 Neighbourhood Wardens Restructure - Update Report

The Chief Officers for Regeneration and Health and Environmental Action Services submitted a joint report updating Members on the latest situation regarding the restructuring of the former Neighbourhood Warden Service into a revised service utilising new posts of Community Environment Officers (CEOs) and Community Environment Support Officers (CESOs).

Graham Wilson, Head of Environmental Action and Parking, attended the meeting and responded to Members' queries and comments. In brief summary, the main issues discussed were:-

- the demise of the former Neighbourhood Wardens, brought about principally by the withdrawal by the Government of Neighbourhood Renewal Funding and the subsuming of many of the duties of the former Neighbourhood Wardens by Police Community Support Officers;
- the new revised service would be a reactive one, with CEOs and CESOs responding to issues and 'hot spots' as and when they occurred, rather than patrolling a particular 'patch';
- the proposed deployment of the one CEO currently allocated to cover the Committee's area, and whether one post was sufficient;
- the need for close liaison between the CEO and the Neighbourhood Policing Team, to share intelligence and to ensure the best use of the CEO's time and efforts.

RESOLVED –

- a) That the report be received and noted;
- b) That a further report be submitted to a future meeting regarding the proposed deployment of the new Community Environment Officer.

79 Children's Services - Safeguarding and Integrated Working

RESOLVED – That the report of the Director of Children's Services be received and noted.

80 Children's Services - Developing Local Arrangements for Children's Services Performance Management Reporting

Minutes approved as a correct record
at the meeting held on Wednesday, 14th April, 2010

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report providing an outline of the proposed Children's Services performance management reporting arrangements for Area Committees.

Amanda Jackson, Locality Enabler, Children's Services, attended the meeting and responded to Members' queries and comments. In brief summary, the main areas of discussion were:-

- Amanda Jackson reported that in the first instance, she was liaising with Councillor Alison Lowe, the Committee's Children's champion, regarding the issues highlighted in the report;
- Members expressed dismay at the implications of some of the raw data contained in the report relating to children in the Committee's area, and the need to drill down to get to the causes of the difficulties in order to be able to tackle them. The report should be re-submitted to the next meeting, as an early agenda item, and sufficient time allocated for a discussion;
- In particular, Members expressed concern regarding some of the statistical information in relation to the education service and instructed that Chris Edwards, Chief Executive of Education Leeds, should be invited to attend the next meeting to explore these matters in greater depth.

RESOLVED –

- a) That the report be received and noted, and re-submitted to the next meeting for further discussion.
- b) That Chris Edwards, Chief Executive of Education Leeds, also be invited to attend the next meeting on 14th April 2010.

(NB: Councillors D Atkinson and T Hanley and Mrs S McBarron left the meeting at 20:00, towards the end of the discussion on this item).

81 Town Centre Manager Update

RESOLVED – That the report of the Town Centre Manager be received and noted.

82 Community Safety Partnership - Update Report

RESOLVED – That the report be received and noted.

83 Leeds/Bradford Corridor - Update Report

The Leeds/Bradford Corridor Programme Manager submitted a report informing the Committee of work done to date in relation to setting up and

delivering a programme of work designed to improve and enhance the prospects and appearance of the area. This was the first of what was intended to be regular update reports.

Fergus Mitchell, the Leeds/Bradford Corridor Programme Manager, attended the meeting and responded to Members' queries and comments, as follows:-

- West Leeds Gateway – Councillor J Harper had been informed of the Council's intention to wind-up the West Leeds Gateway project. If this was the case, it made it even more imperative that the West Inner Area Committee had Member-level representation on the Leeds/Bradford Corridor Programme Board, and this should not be, as had been suggested, at the expense of Councillor R Lewis stepping down.
- The potential importance of a rail halt, perhaps at Kirkstall Brewery, in terms of enhancing the employment opportunities and prospects of residents in the area.

RESOLVED –

- a) That, subject to the above comments, the report be received and noted.
- b) That further update reports be submitted periodically.

84 Proposed Expansion of Primary Schools

The Chief Executive, Education Leeds, submitted a report regarding proposals to expand certain primary schools in West Leeds.

Viv Buckland, Head of Service, Admissions and Transport, Education Leeds, attended the meeting and responded to Members' queries and comments. In brief summary, the main points of discussion were:-

- concerns regarding the possible effect and longer term implications for children in the Rodley area of the proposed expansion of primary school provision in Horsforth.
- the reasons behind the proposals – an increase in the birth rate, plus migration and immigration into Leeds;
- the need for individual consultation with Inner West Members regarding the proposals relating to the proposed relocation of the West Leeds SILC.
- the demand and need in Leeds for an all-girls school, and potential sites for such an establishment – perhaps the former City of Leeds Girls High School site.

RESOLVED – That, subject to the above comments and requests for further individual local Member consultation, the report be received and noted.

(NB: Councillor J Harper left the meeting at 20:30, during the consideration of this item, thereby rendering the meeting inquorate.)

85 Date and Time of Next Meeting

Wednesday, 14th April 2010 at 17:00 hours, venue to be confirmed.

The meeting concluded at 20:35.