

NORTH WEST (INNER) AREA COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, 25TH OCTOBER, 2012

PRESENT: Councillor J Akhtar in the Chair

Councillors M Hamilton, N Walshaw,
C Towler, G Harper, B Atha, J Illingworth,
J Bentley and S Bentley

OFFICERS: Chris Dickinson, West North West Area Support
Stuart Byrne, West North West Area Support
Zahid Butt – Environment and Neighbourhoods
Lynne Hamshaw – West North West Homes
Insp Simon Brooksbank – West Yorkshire Police
John Grieve, Governance Services

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:

Ben Fisher, Leeds University Union
Mia Tamarin, Leeds Met Students Union
Rachel Barker, Leeds University Union
Sue Buckle, South Headingley Community
Association

29 Declarations of Disposal Pecuniary and Other Interests

Councillor S Bentley declared an interest in Agenda Item No. 10 West North West Homes Leeds Involvement in Area Committees as a Members of the West North West Homes Management Board (Minute No.35 refers).

30 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J Chapman, Councillor L Yeadon and Councillor J Walker.

31 Open Forum

Decline in Student Numbers – Ben Fisher, Leeds University Students Union spoke about the reduction in student numbers following the introduction of tuition fees. It was estimated that nationally student numbers were down by 30%, contributing to a dramatic rise in youth unemployment. Locally, student numbers were likely to be down by around 2,500 and there could be a loss of up to £30M to the Leeds economy. A national demonstration was planned for 21st November 2012 when students and the trade unions would travel to London to lobby MP's. A Deputation to Council was also planned for 14th November 2012.

The Area Committee is requested to support Leeds University Student Union in expressing concern in the decline of Student numbers.

RESOLVED – To support Leeds University Students Union in expressing concern at the decline in Student numbers and the impact this could have locally.

Woodhouse Moor – Sue Buckle (SHCA) spoke of behalf of John Davison, a local football coach who had asked if the Woodhouse Moor bonfire could be relocated further away from the football pitches. Recent rain had turned the pitch into a “quagmire” and recovery time could be reduced if bonfire spectators could be kept off the pitch.

RESOLVED - That officers in Parks and Countryside be made aware of Mr Davison’s concerns.

Noise Nuisance on Ash Grove - Sue Buckle (SHCA) spoke of the arrival of new students to the area and the accompanying late night partying. There was a great deal of anti-social behaviour leading to sleep deprivation for neighbouring residents. Council Officers had intervened with limited success.

Councillor Illingworth suggested that in such instances arrests could be made under breach of the peace legislation.

In responding Inspector Brooksbanks suggested that noise nuisance powers may prove more effective.

The Area Community Safety Coordinator said that in consultation with the Police, further investigations would be made.

32 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 20th September 2012 be accepted as a true and correct record

33 Matters Arising from the Minutes

Members considered a report by the West North West Area Support Team which identified a number of issues which required further action following the last meeting of the Area Committee

RESOLVED – To note the progress and outcomes of the issues identified in the Matters Arising report.

34 Annual Community safety Report

The Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing submitted the Annual Community Safety Report covering the period September 2011 to August 2012. The report provided details of community safety activity undertaken during the last 12 months together with details of crime data, making comparisons with previous years.

Appended to the report was an analysis of crime figure for the North West (Inner) Area.

Zahid Butt, Area Community Safety Coordinator, Neighbourhoods and Environment presented the report and responded to Members queries and comments.

Detailed discussion ensued on the contents of the report and appendices:

- Multi Agency Tasking
- Burglary
- Community Payback
- Anti Social Behaviour
- Robbery

Commenting on a spate of burglaries in the Hyde Park Area, Zahid Butt, reported that action had since been taken to create a more visible presence in the area through the deployment of more uniformed officers.

Referring to Community Payback Councillor J Bentley asked if more opportunities could be created for offenders?

In responding Inspector Brooksbank, West Yorkshire Police confirmed that this was an area that could be further explored.

Commenting on the instances of anti social behaviour in the Kirkstall area (66) Councillor Atha suggested that this was a significant statistic and could Ward Members be supplied with further details.

Zahid Butt confirm the requested information would be provided.

Referring to Appendix 3 of the submitted report, the Chair referred to instances of robbery for the Hyde Park Woodhouse area, 184 instances for the period 2011/12. The Chair asked if there were any particular “hotspots” and if so, could details be provided.

In responding Inspector Brooksbank said the Police figures were entirely different with a figure of 53 for the same period.

In passing comment Zahid Butt suggested that recent engagement with the community may have encouraged more people to come forward and report crime.

Zahid Butt confirm the requested information would be provided

RESOLVED –

- (i) That the contents of the report be noted

- (ii) To note the Area Committees role in reducing burglary and other crime

35 West North West Homes Leeds Involvement in Area Committees

Members considered a report from West North West Homes which outlined their involvement in the Area Committee process. The report requested Members support in exploring opportunities of making their involvement as meaningful and productive as possible.

Lynne Hamshaw, Area Performance Manager, West North West Homes presented the report and responded to Members queries and comments.

Detailed discussion ensued on the contents of the report:

- Partnership Working
- New – Out of Hours Tenancy Team
- Neighbourhood Caretaking
- Apprentice Caretaker Scheme

In passing comment on the Apprentice Caretaker Scheme Councillor J Bentley suggested that this was a welcome initiative.

In providing further details, Lynne Hamshaw, said four Apprentice Caretakers were currently taking part in the scheme. The scheme would run for a 12 month period with possible opportunities for full time employment at the end of this period.

RESOLVED –

- (iii) That the contents of the report be noted
- (iv) That a further update be provided in six months time

36 Wellbeing Commissioning 2013 -14 and Update Report

The Assistant Chief Executive (Customer Access & Performance) submitted a report which provided an update on the budget position for the Wellbeing Fund for 2012/13 and identified additional revenue funding available for allocation. The report also requested approval to the Wellbeing Funding Priorities for 2013/14 and explained the process and timescales for commissioning wellbeing projects for the 2013/14 financial year.

Appended to the report were copies of the following documents for the information /comment of the meeting.

- Wellbeing Budget Statement 2012/13 (Appendix 1)
- Area Committee Wellbeing Fund – Large Projects Guidance Notes (Appendix 2)

Stuart Byrne, West North West Area Support Team presented the report and responded to Members queries and comments.

Detailed discussion ensued on the contents of the report and appendices:

- Decommissioning of the Community Payback Project
- Revenue available for spend
- Wellbeing Funding Priorities for 2013/ 14
- Timetable for the Wellbeing commissioning process 2013/14

Referring to the revenue available for spend, Councillor Walshaw suggested funding Festive Lights in the Headingley and Hyde Parks areas. Councillor Atha put forward a proposal to add further funds to the to the Small Grants budget.

RESOLVED –

- (i) To note the current budget position for the Wellbeing Fund for 2012/13, as set out in Appendix 1 of the submitted report, including the available balances within Small Grants and Skips allocation
- (ii) To approve the decommissioning of the Community Payback Project
- (iii) To note the additional £4,918 revenue available for allocation
- (iv) To approve that £500 (from the £4,918 revenue available) be transferred to the Small Grants budget, the remainder (£4,418) to used to fund Festive Lights in the Headingley and Woodsley Road areas (In addition to those already funded in Weetwood)
- (v) To note the available balance within the Kirkstall Revenue Pot
- (vi) To approve the Wellbeing funding priorities for 2013/14
- (vii) To approve the process and timescales for Wellbeing commissioning for 2013/14, as set out in Section 3.13 of the submitted report
- (viii) To approve that an additional Area Committee meeting be arranged for Thursday 7th March 2013, to determine the 2013/14 Wellbeing Funding Allocation

37 North West (Inner) Area Committee Business Plan Update Report

The Assistant Chief Executive (Customer Access & Performance) submitted a report which provided an update on the work to date to deliver the actions within the North West (Inner) Area Committee Business Plan 2011-15. The report also requested approval to undertake a review of the business plan to ensure that it continued to be fit for purpose and reflect the current city wide priority plans.

Appended to the report was a copy of the North West (Inner) Business Plan (Priorities for Action) 2011-13

Stuart Byrne, West North West Area Support Team presented the report and responded to Members queries and comments.

Detailed discussion ensued on the contents of the report and appendices:

- Business Plan (Priorities for Action) 2011-13

RESOLVED –

- (i) To note the progress made against the Business Plan actions as described in Appendix 1 of the submitted report
- (ii) That approval be given for the Area Support Team to undertake a review of the Business Plan for 2013/14
- (iii) To receive a refreshed Business Plan at the meeting scheduled for April 2013

38 Date and Time of Next Meeting

RESOLVED – To note that the next meeting will take place on Thursday 13th December 2012 at 7.00pm in St Chad's Parish Centre, St Chad's Vicarage, Otley Road, Leeds, LS16 5JT