

SOUTH (INNER) AREA COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, 4TH SEPTEMBER, 2013

PRESENT: Councillor A Gabriel in the Chair

Councillors J Blake, D Congreve, P Davey,
K Groves, A Ogilvie and P Truswell

15 Appeals Against Refusal of Inspection of Documents

There were no appeals against the refusal of inspection of documents.

16 Exempt Information - Possible Exclusion of the Press and Public

There were no resolutions to exclude the public.

17 Late Items

There were no late items submitted to the agenda for consideration.

18 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary and Other Interests'

No declarations were made.

19 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor E Nash and Councillor M Iqbal.

20 Minutes - 19th June 2013

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 19th June 2013 be approved as a correct record subject to an amendment to Minute No. 6 'Appointment of Area Lead Members, Cluster representatives and Corporate Carers' to replace Councillor J Blake with Councillor A Gabriel as the Area Lead Member for Children's Services.

21 Matters Arising

Minute No.4 Open forum

In response to a question regarding the re-use of maisonettes and housing on Beeston Road and Hillside, The Chief Executive of Aire Valley Homes commented that 88 units are being brought back into use as part of a two year programme of work, all of these will be re-let on completion.

With regards to the PFI project in Holbeck Councillor Congreve reported that the project would be happening and wished to record his thanks to residents in Holbeck for all their time and patience.

Minute No.6 Appointment of Area Lead Members, Cluster Representatives and Corporate Carers

It was requested that the minute be amended to reflect that Councillor A Gabriel is the Area Lead Member for Children's Services.

22 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 10 minutes for members of the public to make representations or ask questions on matters within the terms of reference of the Area Committee.

The following issues were discussed:

- A local resident raised the issue of children getting in under the fencing at Stank Hall Barn. This has been reported to the Police and was highlighted further to Police Officers present at the meeting;
- A local resident asked for news on Middleton Park Golf Course. Councillor Truswell reported that a working group was in place and that a report was being prepared for the next meeting of the Executive Board. It was also reported that there will be a public consultation and that the issue will come to the Area Committee; and
- Police Officers present informed the Area Committee of the latest crime issues in the area and encouraged residents to report crimes using the 101 number.

23 A Summary of Key Work

The report of the Area Leader – South East Leeds detailed a range of activities taking place within the Inner South Leeds Area.

The Chair welcomed Glen Gorner (Natural Environment Manager) to update Members and answer any questions on the South Leeds Green Infrastructure Corridor, following the response from Parks and countryside to a letter sent by the Chair on 13th June 2013. Members were keen to ensure the right trees were planted in the right places and that opportunities should be identified to increase tree cover in the area. Glen Gorner was requested to communicate plans for engaging Elected Members.

Members agreed the Area Business Plan attached at Appendix 3 to the report.

Members gave updates on their theme areas including the following:

- Children and Young People Sub Group;
- Health and Well Being;
- Employment and Skills Board; and
- Environmental Sub Group.

Councillor Truswell informed the meeting of a piece of work looking at an audit of Public Health resources in the area. Members requested a discussion at a future Area Committee meeting.

The Chair welcomed Louise Megson from SLATE (South Leeds Alternative Trading Enterprise) who updated the Members on the success of the organisation since it received funding from the Area Committee. The aim of this project was to contribute to the costs of employing a part-time Volunteer Development Worker to support volunteers with learning difficulties, including assessing talents and skills of individuals and putting them into appropriate teams, supervising volunteers and recruiting volunteers.

The Chair also welcomed Jason Slack from the Hunslet Club. The aim of this project was to offer vocational training in plumbing, joinery, bricklaying, plastering, car mechanics, bike mechanics, hairdressing and beauty therapy after school hours to 48 students in inner South Leeds between years 10 and 12. The course was to operate one day a week for two hours after school and run for an academic year.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the contents of the report be noted; and
- (b) That the refreshed Inner South Area Committee Business Plan be approved.
- (c) That the mini breeze events in each of the three areas be approved.

24 Wellbeing Report

The report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Customers and Communities) provided Members with the following:

1. Confirmation of the 2013/14 revenue allocation and the 2012/13 carry forward figure;
2. An update on the revenue element of the Wellbeing budget;
3. Details of revenue projects agreed to date;
4. Details of Activities Fund Delegation 2013/14;
5. Details of revenue funding for consideration and approval; and
6. Members are also asked to note the current position of the Small Grants Budget.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the contents of the report be noted;
- (b) That the position of the Wellbeing budget be noted;
- (c) That the Wellbeing revenue projects already agreed be noted
- (d) That the proposals as detailed within paragraphs 3.3 be agreed
- (e) That the following be agreed in respect of Wellbeing funding allocations, as detailed within paragraph 4.0 of the submitted report:

Name of Project	Name of Delivery Organisation	Decision
Marlborough Green roof Projects – Phase 2	The Leeds Groundwork Trust	£5,875 Revenue (City and Hunslet) APPROVED
Beeston Hill Waste and Recycling Junior Wardens Scheme	The Leeds Groundwork Trust	£3,500 Revenue (City & Hunslet) APPROVED
Christmas Lights - Beeston & Holbeck	Leeds Lights/Area Support Team	£2,500 (Revenue) Beeston & Holbeck APPROVED
South Leeds Academy- Litter	South and Outer East Locality Team	£162 Revenue (Middleton Park) APPROVED

- (f) That the small grant position detailed within paragraph 5.0 of the submitted report be noted.

25 Update on Welfare Benefit changes

The Chief Officer (Welfare and Benefits) submitted a report providing an update of the impact of the welfare reforms at both a city-wide and ward-level basis and also provided information on arrangements that have been put in place to support tenants.

The report detailed some of the preparations that are underway for Universal Credit with a focus on locality-based support that can be provided. A key element of the preparations for Universal Credit and a response to the welfare reforms is a programme of work aimed at tackling the issue of payday and high cost lending in the city. The report provided information about this programme and sought input from the Area Committee on how the programme of activity can work at a locality level.

Dave Roberts (Financial Inclusion Strategy Manager) and Simon Costigan (Chief Executive Aire Valley Homes) were in attendance to present the report and answer any Member's questions.

Members were informed about the procedures which surround Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP) and that where DHP payments are applicable to a claim against rent arrears action is suspended.

Members discussed the problems of high street banks not lending to people which has contributed to the rise of pay day loan companies. It was also noted that there had been a loss of high street bank branches which had shut in the area.

Members considered the impact on children and were pleased to report that Leeds has kept all Children's Centres open. Members raised concern that the take up of free school meals was low and that families should be encouraged to take up them up wherever applicable.

At this point in the meeting a representative of West Yorkshire Trading Standards informed the Area Committee about the financial workshops and open to members of the public.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the information about the impact of the welfare reforms be noted
- (b) That the information about the campaign against high cost lenders be noted; and
- (c) That the ongoing work in the locality in response to welfare changes be noted.

26 Date and time of Next Meeting

6pm Wednesday 6th November 2013.

Beeston Village Community Centre, St Anthony's Drive, Beeston, Leeds, LS11 8AB.