

**Area Chairs Forum
Monday 20 January 2014
Committee Room 1, Civic Hall**

Attendance:

Councillors: J Akhtar, K Bruce, C Gruen, P Gruen (CHAIR), S Hamilton, A Khan, A McKenna, P Wadsworth, G Wilkinson.

Officers: R Barke, S Mahmood, J Maxwell, J Rodgers.

Minutes: J Sharp

Attending for specific items: Phil Crabtree, Bridget Emery, Andy Hodson, James Nundy, Sally Wimsett

Item	Description	Action
1.0	Apologies	
1.1	Cllr Angela Gabriel, Cllr Josephine Jarosz, Kathy Kudelnitzky.	
2.0	Minutes and Matters Arising	
2.1	The minutes of the previous Area Chairs Forum meeting on 25 November 2013 were agreed as an accurate record.	
2.2	<u>2.2 of previous minutes - Highways</u> Cllr P Gruen mentioned conversations with Gary Bartlett, Chief Officer Highways & Transportation. Gary confirmed that he is happy to feedback to the Area Chairs either as a group or individually. Cllr C Gruen said she was meeting with Gary on Friday 24 January 2014.	
2.3	<u>5.3 of previous minutes – A New Approach to Locality Working</u> Cllr S Hamilton asked whether any decisions had been made, re the number of meetings of the 'Community Committees'. Cllr P Gruen said that a final decision would probably not take place until April / May 2014 but the proposal is to have four business meetings and any number of themed minutes.	
3.0	Protocol for Third Party Recording of Committee, Board and Panel Meetings	
3.1	The following papers were available at the meeting: 'Protocol for Third Party Recording of Committees, Board and Panels Meetings' (report to Area Committee Chairs 20 January 2014); Appendix 1.	
3.2	Amendments have recently been agreed to the Local Public Audit and Accountability Bill and the likelihood is that the Secretary of State will publish Regulations that will allow third party recording of committee, board and panel meetings in the very near future. Members were asked to consider the content of the above report and provide observations that they might wish General Purposes Committee to take into account.	
3.3	Cllr S Hamilton expressed some concerns about the public recording and manipulating images. She wondered whether it might be preferable for the council to do the recording and to distribute it. The public will still be allowed to record meetings even if the council does	

its own.

- 3.4 Cllr G Wilkinson expressed concerns about decisions being recorded. Andy explained that we can refuse the recording of any private / sensitive parts of meetings.
- 3.5 Cllr P Gruen asked if the phrase 'member training' could be re-worded in the report.

**Andy
Hodson**

4.0 Domestic Violence

- 4.1 The following papers were available at the meeting: 'Domestic Abuse' briefing note (Area Chairs Forum 20 January 2014); 'Domestic Abuse in Leeds Overview Report' (September 2013); 'Leeds Domestic Violence Strategy and Action Plan 2013-15' (version V9 17/12/2013).
- 4.2 Cllr Gruen introduced this item by explaining that burglary rates had been greatly reduced via similar intensive cross-partnership working.
- 4.3 Bridget summarised the contents of the report. She explained that the Safer Leeds Executive has identified domestic abuse as a key priority for the city and all the major partners in the city have agreed an approach around four key outcomes as a way of tackling this crime. Members' views on the partnership approach were sought.
- 4.4 Cllr J Akhtar said it is important to ensure that NHS / health professionals are culturally sensitive and not to contact social services or raise safe-guarding issues unnecessarily. Bridget was confident that the Safeguarding Hub could address these issues.
- 4.5 Cllr A Khan expressed concerns that East Leeds appears to have the highest percentage of reported domestic violence and enquired what plans were in the place to address this. Bridget said caution was required with some of the stats. There is a correlation between deprivation and domestic violence but only in the sense that more affluent communities are more likely to have the means to find alternatives to reporting to the Police, e.g. having the financial means to find alternative accommodation.
- 4.6 Bridget mentioned that drugs and alcohol services are currently being re-commissioned and domestic violence should be considered during the commissioning process.
- 4.7 Bridget added that a communication plan was required to raise awareness across the city. This would need to be tweaked to appropriately fit different parts of the city.
- 4.8 Cllr P Gruen suggested that a discussion paper went to each of the Area Committees. He also suggested that a list of key contacts is added to the paper.

**Bridget
Emery**

5.0 Community Committees branding / consultation

- 5.1 The following paper was available at the meeting: 'Community committee engagement activities'. Sally also distributed examples of the branding / publicity.

- 5.2 Sally explained that the aim of developing new branding is to indicate both internally and externally that the council is strengthening the way it engages with its residents, not just through area / community committees but across our whole spectrum of citizen engagement.

The branding is designed to create a link between Leeds City Council and local communities by providing an 'umbrella' identity for use on 'community committee' reports and any Citizens@Leeds events, activities or meetings.

To achieve this, the design team created a new identity signalling the new approach whilst clearly associating with the council through the use of the council crest and corporate colours of blue and gold.

The examples shown on the visuals include: flyers and posters (e.g. consultation event); committee report covers; newsletter; signage for the community hubs; social media accounts.

- 5.3 Audience groups to engage with include: citizens and residents; key partners (e.g. clinical groups; clusters; leadership team; Police; NHS; third sector).
- 5.4 Sally said that she also wished to consult with members via: Labour group meeting (10/02/14); other political group meetings; workshops for Area Committees.
- 5.5 Sally intends to present a pilot pack of branded committee papers (tailored to the design principles, which have gone to Exec Board) for comments. These will be tested with (amongst others): various services; Area Support; the six DMTs.
- 5.6 There needs to be a discussion about what will replace the former Area Committee names, e.g. Outer North West, etc.
- 5.7 Cllr P Gruen said it was important that the Area Chairs champion these changes.
- 5.8 There was a general discussion about making sure the local branding (e.g. Citizens @ Armley) does not obscure the one-council approach. There was some concern about confusion from the public differentiating between the council, Area Support and Area Chairs.
- 5.9 Cllr P Gruen suggested issuing press releases after meetings: the meetings should have something important to discuss.
- 5.10 There was a discussion about resources for updating any possible use of social media / websites / twitter accounts / etc. This might require additional resources.

6.0 Older Person's Event Week in Outer East

- 6.1 The following papers were available at the meeting: 'Older Person's Event Week in Outer East' (presentation to Area Chairs 20 Jan 2014); Appendix 1. James presented the above paper, which is a program intended to engage with older residents with an intergenerational aspect.

- 6.2 Cllr McKenna said she will be taking the presentation to the next Health & Wellbeing Lead Members meeting.
- 6.3 Cllr McKenna added that luncheon clubs are being investigated as a way to engage with older residents. 1,400 winter packs are being distributed to vulnerable older people in her ward.

7.0 Community Infrastructure Levy / Neighbourhood Planning

- 7.1 This was not discussed but Phil previously discussed this at the Area Leader's meeting (14 January 2014). Minutes of this are available.

8.0 Any Other Business

- 8.1 James noted that the initial budget proposals include a £200k reduction in the 2014/15 Well-being budget. James noted that a decision has not yet been taken on how this reduction would be applied to individual area committees, but commented that one way would be to simply retain the existing formula to distribute the revised gross budget (e.g. 50% population / 50% deprivation) as opposed to a direct £20k reduction for each area or a proportionate reduction against underspends. Those chairs present felt the formula approach was the fairest way of distributing the revised budget.

- 8.2 Jonathan Sharp has replaced Sarn Warbis as facilitator of future Area Chairs Forums.

9.0 Date of Next Meeting

- 9.1 The next planned meeting was originally 7 March 2014 but has been changed to Friday 28 February, 10am to 12pm, Committee Room 3, Civic Hall.