

SOUTH (OUTER) AREA COMMITTEE

3RD APRIL 2006

PRESENT: Councillor Finnigan in the Chair
Councillors Dunn, Elliott, Galdas,
Grayshon, Leadley, McArdle,
Renshaw, Smith and Wilson

82 Chair's Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed all in attendance to the April meeting of the South (Outer) Area Committee and invited all those Elected Members present to introduce themselves.

83 Declarations of Interest

The following declarations of interest were made, however further declarations of interest were also made throughout the meeting. (Minute Nos 86 and 88 refer).

A personal interest was declared by Councillor McArdle in respect of Agenda Item 11, 'Site Based Gardeners in Community Parks', due to being a Tree Warden with Leeds City Council Forestry Section. (Minute No 89 refers).

A personal interest was declared by Councillor Leadley in respect of several items on the agenda, due to being a board member of Morley Elderly Action.

84 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors Beevers and Mulherin.

At this point in the meeting, as it was their final Area Committee meeting prior to retiring as Elected Members, the Chair paid tribute to both Councillor Galdas and Councillor Beevers and thanked them both for all the effort and support they had given to the Area Committee in recent years.

85 Minutes of the Previous Meeting – 20th February 2006

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 20th February 2006 be approved as a correct record.

86 Open Forum

In accordance with Paragraphs 6.24 and 6.25 of the Area Committee Procedure Rules, the Chair allowed members of the public to make representations or to ask questions on matters within the terms of reference of the Area Committee.

Traffic Problems within the Rothwell area

The Committee received a brief presentation from a representative of the Leeds Road Residents Action Group (LRRAG) who raised the following concerns in relation to traffic problems within the Rothwell area:-

- Motorists who used roads in the Rothwell area regularly driving well in excess of speed limits, and the lack of measures in force to reduce such speeding;
- The geographical imbalance of speed cameras between the north and south of the city;
- Local roads commonly being used by Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs), the lack of restrictions on HGV traffic on certain roads in the area and the negative impact that such traffic was having on local residents' wellbeing;
- With regard to Royds High School, concerns were raised over the busy 'A' roads that pupils had to cross in order to access the school and the lack of pedestrian facilities present which would assist the pupils in crossing the roads safely;
- The negative impact that the implementation of the East Leeds Link Road and the Inner Ring Road link to the M621 would have on local residents' quality of life.

A discussion then ensued which related to the safety issues raised by the presentation and the actions which could be taken by the Area Committee to address the concerns of the Leeds Road Residents Action Group.

RESOLVED – That the Area Committee share some of the concerns the Leeds Road Residents Action Group and recommend that the concerns raised by the group be referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for full investigation.

Recreational Facilities in the Tingley and Ardsley areas

Concerns were raised by a local resident relating to the lack of community land in the Tingley and Ardsley areas which was available for recreational use and the resultant problems which had occurred due to the lack of such facilities. A map was then tabled by the resident which illustrated several examples in the Tingley and Ardsley areas where recreational facilities were no longer available.

Members acknowledged the concerns raised by the resident and stated that although efforts had been made on several occasions to provide or reinstate recreational facilities in the area, problems had been encountered at each attempt.

RESOLVED – That a report from the Learning and Leisure Department be submitted to a future meeting of the Area Committee to inform and advise Members of the ways in which the Area Committee could assist in ensuring that adequate recreational facilities were provided in Outer South Leeds.

(Councillor Leadley declared a personal interest in this item, due to being a governor of Hill Top Primary School)

87 Area Delivery Plan 2006/2007

The Committee received a report from the Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing which outlined and sought Members' approval of the final draft Area Delivery Plan and Action Plan for 2006/2007, as appended to the report.

Following a discussion which related to the prioritisation of the key themes within the Area Delivery Plan, Members agreed to pursue all of the key themes with equal vigour.

RESOLVED –

- (a). That the report and information appended to the report be noted;
- (b). That the final Outer South Area Delivery Plan and Action Plan, as appended to the report, be approved;
- (c). That the Area Committee agrees to pursue all key themes of the Area Delivery Plan equally.

88 Outer South Area Committee Wellbeing Budget Report and Wellbeing Schedule

A report was submitted by the Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing which updated Members on the current position of the Area Committee's budget, on the progress of both the revenue and capital projects which had previously been agreed by the Committee and which also detailed a schedule of proposed projects which could potentially be commissioned by the Area Committee during the next financial year.

A detailed discussion then ensued which related to both the positive and negative implications of providing a mobile youth facility in the area, the role which could potentially be played by the Area Committee in developing community centre facilities in Outer South Leeds and also in relation to the geographical provision of youth services in the area. Members then made a series of decisions relating to projects which could be commissioned by the Area Committee during the 2006/2007 municipal year.

RESOLVED –

- (a). That the current position of the South Outer Wellbeing budget, as detailed within the report, be noted;
- (b). That the list of revenue projects which have already been allocated funding by the Area Committee, as appended to the report, be approved;
- (c). That the list of capital projects which have already been allocated funding by the Area Committee, as appended to the report, be approved;
- (d). That the current position of the Area Committee's small grant budget, as detailed within the report, be noted;
- (e). That the proposed commissioning process for future projects to be funded by the Area Committee, as outlined within the report, be approved;

(f). That a representative from CAST be invited to a future meeting of the Area Committee in order to answer Members' questions;
(g). That the following decisions be made in relation to future projects which could be commissioned over the next financial year to address the Area Committee's Area Delivery Plan priorities:-

- (i). Mobile Youth Bus – £50,000.00 revenue – **Deferred** – To ascertain whether there are any buildings in the area which could be used as an alternative to a mobile youth bus, to obtain further information about the work of the Health Bus in the area and the geographical provision of all youth services in the area and to monitor the South (Inner) Area Committee's tendering process for a Mobile Youth Bus;
- (ii). Mini Breeze - £6,000.00 revenue – **Approved**;
- (iii). Anti-Social Behaviour in Morley/Rothwell Town Centres - £20,000.00 revenue – **Approved**, subject to the funding being utilised across the Outer South, including areas outside the Town Centres, to specifically address the key themes of the Area Committee's Area Delivery Plan;
- (iv). Proof of Age Scheme - £12,117.00 revenue - **Not Approved**;
- (v). CAST - £2,728.00 revenue – **Approved**;
- (vi). Water Bowsers for 'In Bloom' Groups – Capital cost to be determined – **Approved**.
- (vii). Recreate (Groundwork) - £11,000.00 revenue – **Approved**;
- (viii). Community Skips – £5,000.00 revenue – **Approved**;
- (ix). Site Based Gardeners – To be considered separately at a later point in the meeting;
- (x). Neighbourhood Workers - £35,000.00 – **Approved**;
- (xi). Small Grants - £10,000.00 revenue – **Approved**;
- (xii). Communications Budget - £10,000.00 revenue – **Approved**;
- (xiii). 'About Leeds' – £2,500.00 – To be considered separately at a later point in the meeting;
- (xiv). Community Centres - £10,000.00 revenue – **Approved**.

(Councillor Smith declared a personal interest in application (i), 'Mobile Youth Bus', due to being a Director of South Leeds Primary Care Trust)

(Councillors Elliott, Finnigan, Grayshon, Leadley and McArdle declared personal interests in application (vi), 'Water Bowsers for 'In Bloom' groups', due to being involved with their respective 'In Bloom' organisations)

(Councillor Wilson joined the meeting at 4.55 p.m. and Councillor Smith left the meeting at 5.30 p.m. during the consideration of this item)

89 Site Based Gardeners in Community Parks

The Committee received a report from the Chief Recreation Officer which outlined and sought Members' approval of an application for £106,800.00 worth of revenue funding to support the provision of site based gardeners in community parks within the Outer South area.

Members confirmed that they wished to offer their support in principle to the intention to increase the numbers of site based gardeners and stated that the provision of full-time gardeners would not only improve the appearance of the parks but would also ensure that wider benefits would be enjoyed by the parks' users.

The Committee then sought further information on both the prospect of the local Town and Parish Councils contributing towards the proposals and the possibility of full-time gardeners sharing their time between sites.

RESOLVED –

- (a). That the information contained within the report be noted;
- (b). That the application from the Chief Recreation Officer for the allocation of Wellbeing funding to be spent on the provision of site based gardeners in community parks within the Outer South area, be approved in principle, subject to further negotiations taking place with the Chief Recreation Officer regarding the extent of the financial contribution, and subject to investigations being undertaken into the possibility of Town and Parish Councils contributing towards the initiative.

90 About Leeds Newspaper

The Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing submitted a report which updated the Area Committee on several issues relating to the council newspaper and sought Members' approval of a contribution of £2,500.00 during 2006/2007 from the Area Committee in return for a half page feature in each of the four editions of the publication during the 2006/2007 municipal year.

A discussion then ensued which related to the effectiveness of the council newspaper in getting an accurate and informative message about the work of the Area Committee across to a wide section of people residing in the Outer South area.

RESOLVED –

- (a). That the report be noted;
- (b). That Members' views relating to the contributions of the South (Outer) Area Committee towards the council newspaper be noted;
- (c). That Members agree in principle to contribute £2,500.00 towards the council newspaper for the four editions which are to be published during the 2006/2007 municipal year;
- (d). That a further review into the Area Committee's contribution towards the funding of the council newspaper be undertaken in one year's time.

91 Youth Service Plans

The Committee received a report from the Head of Youth Service which outlined both the draft Youth Service Plan and Youth Service Ward Plans for the Outer South area.

In response to Members' queries relating to the 'reach' and 'accreditation' targets during 2005/2006, the Committee was advised that

whilst the service had far exceeded the 'reach' target, staff were currently being trained, which would ensure that they were better equipped to meet the 'accreditation' target in the future.

A discussion relating to the provision of facilities for young people and the role played by the Youth Work Networks in the Outer South area then followed.

RESOLVED –

- (a). That the report and information appended to the report be noted;
- (b). That the progress made by the Youth Service in its achievement of the 2005/2006 targets be noted;
- (c). That Members' comments relating to the draft South Area Plan and draft Ward Plans be noted;
- (d). That the draft South Area Plan and draft Ward Plans be endorsed by the Area Committee for implementation in the 2006/2007 municipal year;
- (e). That a representative from Connexions be invited to a future meeting of the Area Committee in order to answer Members' questions.

92 Dates, Times and Venues of Area Committee Meetings 2006/2007

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services submitted a report which invited Members to give consideration to agreeing the dates, times and venues of the South (Outer) Area Committee meetings for the 2006/2007 municipal year.

Members then discussed the possibility of arranging a meeting schedule which would encourage an increased level of public attendance at Area Committees and which would minimise the possibility of Area Committees coinciding with other meetings within the municipal calendar.

RESOLVED – That the following meeting dates and times be approved for the 2006/2007 municipal year (venues to be confirmed):

- Monday, 3rd July 2006 at 4.00 p.m.
- Monday, 25th September, 2006 at 4.00 p.m.
- Monday, 6th November, 2006 at 4.00 p.m.
- Monday, 18th December, 2006 at 4.00 p.m.
- Monday, 26th February, 2007 at 4.00 p.m.
- Monday, 2nd April, 2007 at 4.00 p.m.

(The meeting concluded at 6.25 p.m.)