

SOUTH (OUTER) AREA COMMITTEE

MONDAY, 2ND APRIL, 2007

PRESENT: Councillor R Finnigan in the Chair

Councillors C Beverley, J Dunn, J Elliott,
S Golton, T Leadley, S McArdle,
K Renshaw, S Smith and D Wilson

71 Chair's Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed all in attendance to the April meeting of the South (Outer) Area Committee.

72 Late Items

In accordance with his powers under Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Chair admitted to the agenda a presentation document entitled, 'Strengthening Links: Outer South Leeds Area Delivery Plan and Leeds Local Area Agreement', which related to agenda item 10, in addition to a set of performance related statistics concerning the recent Operation Cava, which related to agenda item 12 (Minute Nos. 80 and 82 refer respectively).

Both documents had been unavailable at the time of the agenda despatch and both needed to be considered by the Area Committee in conjunction with the corresponding reports which had been submitted to this meeting for consideration.

73 Declaration of Interests

The following declarations of interest were made at this point in the meeting:-

Agenda Item 9 – Town Centre Management – An Update – (Minute No. 79 refers)

Councillor McArdle declared a personal interest in relation to this item due his respective positions on the Area Committee's Community Centres Sub Committee, the Management Committee for the Morley Literature Festival, Morley Town Centre Partnership and Morley Entertainments Committee.

Councillor Elliott declared a personal interest in relation to this item due to her respective positions on the Management Committee of the Morley Literature Festival and Morley Town Centre Partnership.

Agenda Item 10 – Area Delivery Plan 2007/08 – (Minute No. 80 refers)

Councillor Smith declared a personal interest in relation to this item, due to his position as Executive Member with responsibility for City Services.

Agenda Item 12 – Area Manager's Report – Minute No. 82 refers)

Councillor McArdle declared a personal interest in relation to this item due to being a member of the Management Committee of the Morley Literature

Festival and due to his position on the Oakwell and Fairfaxe Neighbourhood Improvement Plan Working Group.

Councillor Elliott declared a personal interest in relation to this item due to being a member of the Management Committee of the Morley Literature Festival.

Further declarations of interest were made at later points in the meeting (Minute Nos. 77, 79 and 81 refer).

74 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors T Grayshon and L Mulherin.

75 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 26th February 2007 be approved as a correct record.

76 Matters Arising from the Minutes

(a) Matters Arising from the Minutes (Minute No. 63 refers)

Having noted that to date, further budgetary information requested from the Youth Service had not been received, Members expressed their displeasure at the Youth Service's apparent attempts to withhold such information.

(b) Open Forum – Drighlington Community Centre (Minute No. 64 refers)

The Committee was advised that a meeting involving representatives from Drighlington Parish Council and the Learning and Leisure Department was intended to be arranged, in order to discuss the role of Drighlington Parish Council in the future management of the Community Centre.

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

Possible Consideration of Co-options onto the Area Committee

A representative of Drighlington Parish Council enquired whether further consideration could be given to the potential appointment of co-optees onto the Area Committee. In response, it was stated that this issue would be revisited by the Area Committee in due course.

Drighlington Community Centre

Following enquiries into whether Drighlington Community Centre would be part of the second delegation of centres intended to be transferred to the Area Committee in July 2007, and if so, whether the centre would then be included within the work programme of the Area Committee's Community Centres Sub Committee, Members were advised that further to Minute No. 76(b), the management arrangements for Drighlington Community Centre would be pursued.

Small Grants Proposal – South Leeds and Morley District Scout Group

With regard to the Small Grants funding proposal received from South Leeds and Morley District Scout Group, which had been submitted to this meeting for consideration, the Committee noted that Drighlington Parish Council had previously provided funding to this group.

Drighlington Parish Council

A representative of Drighlington Parish Council welcomed the planned interaction between the Area Committee and the Parish Council as part of the Oakwell and Fairfaxe's Neighbourhood Improvement Plan Working Group.

Members then received a summary of several initiatives in the area which had been undertaken by the Parish Council, which included the contribution towards the funding of a Police Community Safety Officer (PCSO) and the development of a Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) in Drighlington. With regard to the latter, Drighlington Parish Council extended its thanks to Elected Members from the Morley North Ward for their continued co-operation on this matter.

In response, Members acknowledged the work undertaken and welcomed the continued collaboration between the Parish Council and the Area Committee.

Britannia Quarry

A representative of Morley Town Council raised concerns over the volume of traffic and the displacement of dust which had been experienced in the quarry's vicinity.

Having noted that this matter had previously been considered by Council and Executive Board, in addition to a request being made to the appropriate Scrutiny Board to consider the issue, Members invited the representative of Morley Town Council to submit his concerns relating to Britannia Quarry in writing to the Area Committee, so that the issue could then be taken up with the appropriate Scrutiny Board.

RESOLVED – That the representative of Morley Town Council be invited to submit his concerns relating to Britannia Quarry in writing to the Area Committee, so that the issue could then be taken up with the appropriate Scrutiny Board.

(Councillor Smith declared a personal interest in relation to this item, due to his position as Executive Member with responsibility for City Services)

78 The Children and Young People's Plan Review 2007

The Committee received a report from the Director of Children's Services which sought Members' support for, and input into, the ongoing review of the Leeds Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP).

Having received a brief overview of the main issues detailed within the report from the Strategic Manager, Education Leeds, a discussion ensued. The main areas of debate were as follows:-

- Members emphasised the importance of the often overlooked role played by parents, in the development of children and young people;
- The need to ensure that there was sufficient formal and informal activities for young people to undertake in Outer South Leeds;
- The Committee sought clarification on the ways in which Members' 'local understanding' of issues affecting children, young people and families would be relayed to the Children's Services Unit for consideration;
- Members made reference to the wide range of issues and challenges currently faced by young people today, enquired whether certain groups would be prioritised when addressing these issues, and asked how such groups would be made aware of the services available to them;
- The need to ensure that alcohol, drugs and tobacco related problems were addressed as part of the review;
- Members highlighted the role which needed to be played by external agencies in addressing such issues, and discussed the ways in which the role of the agencies could be maximised.

RESOLVED –

- (a). That the report and information appended to the report, be noted;
- (b). That Members' comments relating to the Children and Young People's Plan Review 2007, be noted;
- (c). That the proposed schedule of ongoing engagement of children's services through the Locality Enabler, be agreed.

(Councillor Dunn joined the meeting at 4.25 p.m., during the consideration of this item)

79 Town Centre Management - An Update

A report was submitted by the Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing which provided the Committee with a summary of the work undertaken in respect of the Town Centre Management Project in Morley and Rothwell, since the appointment of the Town Centre Manager.

Having received a brief summary of the key issues detailed within the report, a question and answer session ensued. The main areas of debate were as follows:-

- Members requested that greater levels of consultation and engagement were undertaken with those residing throughout Outer South Leeds, particularly those within the Ardsley and Robin Hood Ward, when delivering initiatives as part of the Town Centre Management Project;
- The Committee welcomed the approach to widen the promotion and marketing of events, such as the Morley Literature Festival, throughout the Outer South area;
- Members welcomed the promotion of Morley's heritage and history, and sought clarification on the work being undertaken to improve the signage located in and around the gateways to the area;

- The importance of encouraging increased levels of investment into the area;
- Members discussed the issues arising from the proposal to charge for the policing of community events;
- The Committee welcomed the work which was being undertaken by the Town Centre Manager and emphasised the need to ensure that any improvements made as a result of the programme, especially those relating to street cleansing, were delivered throughout all of Outer South Leeds;
- Members discussed the levels of enforcement in the area, the funding arrangements in place to provide such enforcement and how Leeds compared in this field to neighbouring Local Authorities;
- The Committee discussed the funding arrangements which were in place for the provision of services such as street cleansing, and the ways in which additional funding for such services could be secured.

RESOLVED – That the contents of the report and information appended to the report, including the minutes of the previous Town Centre Management Board meetings and Action Plans for Morley and Rothwell, be approved.

(Councillor Beverley declared a personal interest in relation to this item, due to being an attendee at meetings of the Morley Town Centre Partnership)

80 Area Delivery Plan 2007/08

Further to Minute No. 65, 26th February 2007, Members received a report from the Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing which sought the Area Committee's approval of the draft Area Delivery Plan (ADP) and Action Plan for 2007/08, as appended to the report.

Members noted that the previously agreed main headings and key thematic priorities of the ADP, the closer alignment with Leeds' Local Area Agreement (LAA), in addition to comments previously made by Members, had all been incorporated into the final draft version of the 2007/08 ADP for Members' consideration.

Having received further information on the development of links between the Outer South ADP and Leeds' LAA, Members were advised that it was intended to invite Leeds' LAA Co-ordinator to a future meeting of the Area Committee in order to discuss such matters further.

Following discussions relating to the possible prioritisation of the ADP's key themes, Members agreed that all key themes should be pursued equally.

Members then proposed that a sub group of the Area Committee could be established, in order to consider the 'Cleaner Neighbourhoods' key theme. The Committee was then invited to nominate one representative from each Ward to sit on the sub group.

RESOLVED –

(a). That the report and information appended to the report be noted;

Draft minutes to be approved at the meeting
to be held on Monday, 2nd July, 2007

- (b). That the proposed final Area Delivery Plan for 2007/08, which includes the proposed Action Plan, be approved;
- (c). That the Area Committee agrees to pursue all the key themes of the 2007/08 Area Delivery Plan equally;
- (d). That a sub group of the Area Committee be established to consider the actions which could be taken to help address the Area Delivery Plan's 'Cleaner Neighbourhoods' key theme, and that Members submit to the Area Management Team one representative from each Ward to sit on the sub group.

81 Outer South Area Committee Wellbeing Budget Report

The Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing submitted a report updating Members on the current position of both the capital and revenue elements of the Area Committee's Wellbeing budget, which included a projected revenue balance for 2007/08, gave a progress report on the revenue and capital projects commissioned to date, summarised the Small Grant proposals received since the last meeting and invited Members to consider the Small Grant proposals which had been submitted to today's meeting for determination.

Members' views were also sought on a schedule of suggested projects which could be commissioned by the Area Committee during 2007/08, a summary of which had been appended to the report for consideration. Having noted that it was intended to submit further details on the schedule to the next meeting of the Area Committee, Members voiced their support for the summer programme of events for children and young people and sought clarification on the Police involvement in the Morley and District Community Safety Panel.

Further to discussions relating to the wide range of proposals which had been commissioned by the Area Committee and their alignment to the ADP's key themes, Members suggested that a mechanism could be established which would ensure that all prospective recipients of Wellbeing funding pursued all of the funding streams available to them. The Committee then considered alternative ways in which capacity building for local community organisations could be maximised.

Having discussed in detail the two proposals for Small Grant funding which had been submitted to the meeting, Members considered whether representatives of organisations submitting funding proposals to a meeting should be invited to attend such meetings, so that any questions arising from the proposals could be answered.

RESOLVED –

- (a). That the report and information appended to the report, which includes the current position statement of the Area Committee's Wellbeing budget, a progress report on the Small Grants budget, details of both the revenue and capital projects agreed to date and a schedule of suggested projects to be commissioned by the Area Committee in 2007/08, be noted;
- (b). That the following decisions be made in relation to the Small Grants proposals which have been submitted for determination to this meeting:-

- (i). 'Yorkshire Centenary Camp' – South Leeds & Morley District Scout Council - £715.80 – **Approved**;
- (ii). 'Blackpool Tournament' – Glen Juniors A.F.C. - £1,000.00 – **Approved**;
- (c). That the commissioning process for projects to be funded by the Area Committee, as detailed within the report, be approved;
- (d). That the schedule of proposed projects to be commissioned during the 2007/08 Municipal Year be developed further, with details being submitted to the next meeting of the Area Committee.

(Councillor Finnigan declared a personal interest in relation to this item, due to being Chair of the Morley and District Community Safety Panel)

82 Area Manager's Report

Members received a report from the Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing which provided the Committee with details of the range of activities currently taking place within the Outer South area of Leeds.

The Committee welcomed the increased collaboration between Area Management and Environmental Health Services and congratulated City Services for being placed in the final ten Local Authorities within the city category of the National Cleaner Britain Awards. A discussion relating to Leeds' application for the National Cleaner Britain Awards then ensued.

Members noted the success of the latest Operation Champion which had recently been undertaken in the John O'Gaunts estate and requested that details of the next operation were submitted to Members in due course.

In relation to the work being undertaken by the District Partnership's Health and Wellbeing Sub Group, Members views were sought on the possibility of the Area Committee requiring organisations in receipt of Wellbeing funding to use an approved logo to promote a smoking cessation message.

Clarification was then sought on the issues surrounding the submission of a report to the Area Committee from the Parks and Countryside Service.

RESOLVED –

- (a). That the information detailed within the report be noted;
- (b). That having noted Members' comments on the proposal, the Area Committee agrees in principle to encourage all organisations who are in receipt of Area Committee funding to promote where practicable, a smoking cessation message as part of a wider programme;
- (c). That a comprehensive presentation on the issue of affordable home ownership be submitted to a future meeting of the Area Committee, with relevant officers being invited to attend.

83 Dates, Times and Venues of Area Committee Meetings 2007/08

The Chief Democratic Services Officer 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 2007/2008 Municipal Year.

Having briefly discussed potential venues for future meetings, it was

RESOLVED –

That the following meeting dates and times be approved for the 2007/2008 Municipal Year (venues to be confirmed):-

- Monday, 2nd July 2007 at 4.00 p.m.
- Monday, 10th September 2007 at 4.00 p.m.
- Monday, 5th November 2007 at 4.00 p.m.
- Monday, 17th December 2007 at 4.00 p.m.
- Monday, 25th February 2008 at 4.00 p.m.
- Monday, 14th April 2008 at 4.00 p.m.

(The meeting concluded at 5.35 p.m.)