

EAST (OUTER) AREA COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, 10TH JULY, 2007

PRESENT: Councillor K Parker in the Chair

Councillors S Armitage, M Dobson,
P Grahame, A Harrison, W Hyde,
J Langdale, J Lewis, M Lyons, T Murray
and K Wakefield

1 Election of Chair 2007/08

The Chief Democratic Services Officer submitted a report explaining the arrangements for the annual election of the Chair for the East (Outer) Area Committee.

(NB Councillor Parker declared a personal interest at this point in the meeting as a nominee for the position of Chair.)

In accordance with Article 10 (paragraphs 10.7 and 10.8) of the Council's Constitution, it was reported that one nomination for the Chair had been received on behalf of Councillor Keith Parker.

Councillor Parker was elected Chair of the Area Committee for the 2007/08 municipal year and took the Chair.

2 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 report from the Head of the EASEL Project entitled '**EASEL Working Group**' (Minute No. 18 refers). The report had been unavailable at the time of the agenda despatch and needed to be considered urgently by the Committee.

A revised Outer East Area Committee Capital Budget 2007/08 report was also circulated late, which the Chair had agreed to accept, as it included an additional request for funding under paragraph 3.6 for a project to improve the **entrance to Ledston Luck village** and which needed considering by the Committee prior to the next meeting in order to meet other funding deadlines (Minute No. 14 refers).

Members referred to the fact that there was no report on the agenda on the recent **flooding** in Leeds, particularly as East Leeds had again been badly affected. Members were advised that two White Paper motions were being presented to the Council meeting in July and it was therefore agreed that it would be more appropriate for a report to be presented to the September meeting of the Area Committee.

RESOLVED – That a report on flooding issues for all four Wards of the East Outer Area be presented to the September meeting of the Area Committee and in particular to include the response of the Peace and Emergency Planning Unit and the lessons learnt.

3 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Parker had previously declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 1 (Minute No.1 refers).

Councillor Murray declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 15 (Minute No. 14 refers) – Outer East Area Committee Capital Budget 2007/08 - as Chair of Garforth Town FC which had applied for funding.

4 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Gruen and Wakefield and from Pat Toner of Education Leeds.

5 Open Forum

The Chair referred to the provision in the Area Committee Procedure Rules for an 'Open Forum' period at each ordinary meeting of an Area Committee, during which members of the public could ask questions or make representations on any matter within the terms of reference of the Area Committee.

There were three residents from **Woodside Grove** present who raised the issue of **children throwing stones** in the area. The residents explained that the problem had been going on for some time, people were being injured and property had been damaged. The children were using the ballast from the old railway cutting that had been converted into a cycle path and that ran along the rear of Woodside Grove. A petition from residents had been passed to local Councillors and complaints had been made to the Police, the Parish Council and Brigshaw High School, but the matter was unresolved. The residents requested that the ballast be removed from that section of the cycle path and be replaced by tarmac.

Members agreed to raise the matter with the police and to explore the possibility of replacing the ballast with tarmac.

RESOLVED – That Members would raise the matter of stone throwing by children in the area with the Police and would seek costings for the replacement of the ballast by tarmac on that section of the cycle path.

6 Minutes

RESOLVED – That, with the addition of Councillor Grahame to the apologies for the meeting, that the minutes of the East Outer Area Committee Meeting held on 22nd May 2007 be confirmed as a correct record.

Draft minutes to be approved at the meeting
to be held on Tuesday, 18th September, 2007

7 Matters Arising

Minute No. 94 – Open Forum – **Activities for local youths in Temple Newsam Ward**

The Area Management Officer advised that he had been in contact with youth workers in the Ward and would continue to request for additional activities in the area other than those already arranged in the summer programme.

Minute No. 98 – Regeneration in Outer East Leeds

The Chair reported that he had not yet been able to meet with the Chief Recreation Officer regarding the **Green Park at Thorpe Park**.

Members were also advised that there had been a meeting between Thorpe Park, the Leader of the Council and the Director of City Development to discuss transport issues at Thorpe Park, in particular a new railway station. The outcome of the meeting however was unknown.

8 Local Authority Appointments to Outside Bodies

The Chief Democratic Services Officer submitted a report and appendices outlining the procedures for Council appointments to outside bodies and requesting the Committee to agree appointments to those organisations falling into the remit of the East Outer Area Committee.

Members were advised that the two nominations for this Committee to consider were for annual appointments to Churches Together in Garforth and Swarcliffe Good Neighbours Scheme.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the contents of the report and appendices be noted.
- (b) That in respect of the Outside Bodies schedule, approval be given to the following appointments being made:-
 - Churches Together in Garforth** - **Councillor A Harrison**
 - Swarcliffe Good Neighbours Scheme** - **Councillor S Armitage**

9 Political Nominations to ALMO Area Panels

The Strategic Landlord submitted a report reminding Members of the ALMO review which had reduced the number of ALMOs across the city and of the Area Panels that had been created, in particular the Panel that would cover the Outer East Area. Members were requested to nominate two Elected Members to the Outer East Area Panel of the South/South East ALMO Board (recently renamed Aire Valley Homes) and also to nominate one Elected Member to the Inner East Area Panel of the East/North East ALMO Board that represented the Halton Moor Estate.

RESOLVED – That the following Elected Members be appointed to the ALMO Panels:

Outer East Area Panel of Aire Valley Homes – Councillors Parker and Dobson

Inner East Area Panel of the East/North East ALMO Board – Councillor Lyons

10 Forum Schedule and Election of Chairs 2007/08

The East Leeds Area Manager (Acting) submitted a report proposing a schedule of Community Forum dates for 2007/08 which had been revised as a result of issues raised by Members at the April meeting of the Area Committee. Members were also recommended to determine the Chair for each Forum.

The Area Management Officer presented the report and advised Members that the only Chair that needed to be determined was the one for Halton Forum. Members were also advised that, with regard to the Terms of Reference outlined in Appendix A, reference in clause 4.4 to Member interests needed to be changed from pecuniary and non-pecuniary to personal and personal and prejudicial.

Members debated the issues with regard to agreeing a **Chair for the Halton and Halton Moor & East Osmondthorpe Forums**. It was agreed that an additional Forum in the Ward was not required. A vote was taken and Councillor Lyons was elected Chair of Halton Forum. It was also agreed that Councillor Jackie Langdale would Chair Halton Moor & East Osmondthorpe Forum.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the schedule of dates detailed in section 2.7 of the report be noted.
- (b) That the Forum Terms of Reference as detailed in Appendix A to the report, with one amendment to clause 4.4 changing Member interests from pecuniary and non-pecuniary to personal or personal and prejudicial, be ratified by Members.
- (c) That the following Members as Chairs of the respective Forums be confirmed:
 - Kippax & Methley Forum – Councillor Keith Parker
 - Garforth & Swillington Forum – Councillor Andrea Hamilton
 - Cross Gates Forum – Councillor Pauleen Grahame
 - Swarcliffe Forum – Councillor Suzi Armitage
 - Whinmoor Forum – Councillor Peter Gruen
 - Halton Moor & East Osmondthorpe Forum – Councillor Jackie Langdale
- (d) That, in respect of the Halton Forum, that the boundaries remain as they were and that Councillor Lyons be elected as Chair.

11 Parks and Countryside Area Committee Update Presentation

The Chief Recreation Officer submitted a report informing Members of a presentation that would provide the Area Committee with an update on the

Parks and Countryside Service in general across the city and include area specific information on projects, plans and aspirations specifically for the Outer East area.

Kris Nenadic, Principal Parks Area Manager, Parks and Countryside, and Simon Frosdick, Recreation Manager, Parks and Countryside, both from City Development, attended the meeting and gave a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which had been included with the agenda (see appendix to report).

Members were informed that **loss of skills and lack of capital investment** were two main issues that needed to be addressed. Members were also advised that the **household survey** had provided officers with much useful information, as it was possible to interrogate the database for statistical information.

In brief summary the main issues discussed by Members were:

- The advantages of **on-site gardeners**.
- **Revenue expenditure for long-term maintenance**.
- Provision of **playground equipment** in the East Outer Area, particular at Manston Park.
- Area Committee funding for the **skate park at Garforth** needed to be mentioned in the presentation.
- The **playground at Lotherton Hall** had seen increased usage.
- The need to find a suitable site and funding for a **playground at Temple Newsam**.
- The need to improve the **playground at Glebelands** and to find funding for its long-term future.
- **St Aidans** – there was nearly £3m still available in Trust funds that needed to be spent. Noted that it was likely that the site would be opened to public access in 2008.

Officers were thanked by the Chair for their presentation.

RESOLVED – That the contents of the report and presentation be noted.

(Note: Councillor Armitage joined the meeting at 4.50pm during the consideration of this item.)

12 East Leeds Community Centres - Draft Pricing and Letting Policy

The East Area Manager (Acting) submitted a report providing Members with a revised Pricing and Lettings Policy and requesting Members endorse a three month community consultation period. The report also outlined the centres in the Outer East Area that would be affected by the implementation of the revised policy and provided examples of what the new terms and conditions would mean to various community organisations using the facilities.

The Area Management Officer presented the report. Members were informed that the suggested lettings policy would only impact on directly managed Leeds City Council facilities and not those leased to community organisations.

The six community centres that would be affected in the East Outer Area were outlined in para. 4.1 to the report. Para 5.1 to the report detailed the current and proposed charges per hour for community facilities in the area.

Members were also advised that the East Outer Area Committee would be joining with the South Outer Management Team in the near future. Since the South Outer Area Committee had wanted to extend the consultation period with service users and the wider community, there was not now the urgency for the East Outer Area Committee to deal with the draft pricing and lettings policy as implied within the report. The implementation date was now likely to be extended from 1st October 2007 to the end of the year.

Members debated the issues and raised their **concerns about the proposed charges and the backlog of maintenance** that was required to be carried out in the Area's community centres. There was consensus that Members needed to be supplied with more information on the backlog of maintenance at each centre, before they could agree that the consultation period could start, as this would affect charges.

It was therefore agreed that a further report should be presented to a future meeting of the Area Committee which would include for instance, as well as information on the backlog of maintenance work required, information on who was currently using the centres, what these users were being charged, the budget that would come with the centres and how a discount policy would ensure that the Area Committee had discretion to offer free or discounted use by community groups. It was also agreed that the views of local Forums should be sought.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That consideration of this issue be deferred in order for further information to be supplied to the Committee.
- (b) That a further report be presented at a future meeting of the Area Committee in the municipal year for Members to consider, including in particular information on the backlog of maintenance work required at the community centres.
- (c) That the views of local Members be sought on what investment was needed for community centres in their Wards and to refer to local Forums for discussion on how centres might be better run in their area.

13 Well Being Budget 2007/08

The East Leeds Area Manager (Acting) submitted a report updating Members on how the Well Being budget had been profiled for 2007/08, illustrating how the budget had been targeted against key priorities in the Area Delivery Plan and outlining a number of commitments that had been inherited from previous approvals. The report also provided further information on an additional £50,000 that had been awarded to the Area Committee and guidance from Executive Board on where that additional funding should be targeted.

The Area Management Officer presented the report and responded to Members' queries and comments. Members were advised on issues that related to the funding of **Neighbourhood Warden posts** in the Area, in particular for Garforth, Osmondthorpe and Swarcliffe and also the rising costs of **CCTV** provision in East Leeds.

Regarding the allocation of the **additional £50,000 from General Fund Reserves** that had to be spent within the municipal year, Members were informed that the Area Office had been seeking clarification from Planning on the **conservation areas** in the East Outer Area and from Highways on **Residents' Only parking**. Highways had indicated that it would be difficult to spend the additional funding within the year on the suggested parking priorities. Members could consider the option of spending this funding on other projects.

In brief summary the main issues that were discussed were:

- The distribution of **Neighbourhood Warden** posts throughout the East Outer Area and the fact that the 50% of funding from the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) to support the Warden in Garforth and Osmondthorpe was no longer available.
- General future funding of Neighbourhood Warden posts.
- **Police Community Support Officers** (PCSOs) – reports required by Members on who they were and where they operated.
- Reports had also been requested by Members in the past on Warden activity.
- The good work of Wardens in the Temple Newsam Ward.
- Where the **Conservation Areas** were in the East Outer Area.
- Possible instances of **Residents' Only parking/extra parking provision** required in the Area.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That an additional £14,000 be found from the Well-Being Budget to secure one additional full-time Warden post.
- (b) To note the Acting Area Manager's intention to use the funds set aside for Tasking Teams to pay for Neighbourhood Warden cover as required and agreed with relevant Ward members.
- (c) That regular reports on PCSOs and Wardens be provided to Members of the Committee.
- (d) That the senior person in charge of Garforth Police Station be requested to report on police activity in the East Outer Area at the September meeting of the Committee, and to include detail on the five PCSOs per Ward funded by LCC.
- (e) To note that Aire Valley Homes had been asked to continue half funding the Swarcliffe Neighbourhood Warden post and that it was expected that a decision would be made before the next meeting of the Area Committee.
- (f) To note that the £10,000 provisionally set aside for CCTV revenue costs in 2007/08 was likely to increase.

- (g) To note that the Executive Board had recommended that the Area Committee consider spending the additional £50,000 allocated to this Area Committee from General Fund Reserves on:
 - (i) carrying out a 'Conservation Area Review' of conservation areas in their Area; and
 - (ii) an introduction of Residents' Only parking/extra parking provision, and that advice be sought by Area Management on Conservation Areas in the East Outer Area and that Members inform Area Management of extra parking provision in their Wards that they would wish to be considered for the funding.
- (h) That the breakdown of small grants expenditure in 2007/08 as detailed in Appendix C be noted.

(Note: Councillor J Lewis left the meeting at 5.25pm during the consideration of this item and Councillors Harrison and Murray left the meeting at 5.45pm at the conclusion of this item.)

14 Outer East Area Committee Capital Budget 2007/08

The East Leeds Area Manager (Acting) submitted a revised report requesting support from Members from this budget for several new projects across the area and updating Members on the CCTV project in Halton Village and shops and community facilities security project in Temple Newsam and Cross Gates & Whinmoor. The revised report included a request for funding for a feature to the entrance to Ledston Luck village.

The Area Management Officer presented the report and responded to Members' queries and comments. Members were advised that just over £24,000 of the capital funding budget for 2004-2007 had been uncommitted and would be rolled over and added to the £113,270 capital budget for 2007/08. Members were also informed that the funds were now allocated on an annual basis rather than every three years.

Members considered the **new requests for funding**; for additional street lighting in Garforth & Swillington, increased lighting to a footpath at Norwood Gardens in Colton, improvements to car parking at Garforth Town FC and for a project to improve the entrance to Ledston Luck village.

A previous request for a **Neighbourhood Warden van** where costs had risen but would deliver a much improved specification, was noted and Members agreed to the preferred Option 3.

The previous request for **security fencing to properties to the rear of Halton Moor Avenue**, where further information on future maintenance of the fence had been required, was also discussed. It was noted that CCTV was now in place in the area and it was therefore decided to defer a decision on allocating funding for the fencing pending an assessment of the effectiveness of the CCTV cameras.

RESOLVED –

Draft minutes to be approved at the meeting
to be held on Tuesday, 18th September, 2007

- (a) That the following projects be approved for funding from the capital budget:
- Neighbourhood Warden Van - £13,100
 - Additional lights to ginnels in Garforth and Swillington - £2,000
 - Additional lighting to pathway in Colton - £5,000
 - Car parking enhancement to Garforth Town FC - £18,000
 - Ledston Luck feature to village entrance - £2,000
- (b) That the request for £20,000 for security fencing in Halton Moor be deferred in order to assess the effectiveness of CCTV cameras installed in the area.
- (c) That the breakdown of capital spend to date this financial year by Ward as detailed in Appendix C be noted and in particular for Temple Newsam Ward which showed an overspend of almost £5,000 but which should be returned to credit once the final cost for CCTV in Halton Village had been confirmed.

15 Area Functions Schedule 2007/08

The East Area Manager (Acting) submitted a report presenting the updated Area Function Schedules for 2007/08, based on the functions delegated to the Area Committees at the present time. The functions currently delegated were detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

The Area Management Officer presented the report and advised Members that it was anticipated that a number of additional functions would be delegated to Area Committees in the near future.

RESOLVED – That the updated Area Function Schedules for 2007/08 be noted.

16 Outer East Community Forum Minutes 19th March - 22nd June 2007

The East Area Manager (Acting) submitted a report, together with the minutes of the Area Committee Community Forum meetings held between 19th March and 22nd June 2007.

The 'late running Councillors' referred to in the minutes of the **Cross Gates Forum** held on 23rd May 2007, advised Members that they had arrived at the meeting at the usual time only to find that the time of the meeting had been changed.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the following Community Forums be received and noted:

- Kippax & Methley – 19th April
- North Whinmoor – 19th April
- Garforth & Swillington – 23rd April
- Swarcliffe – 16th May
- Cross Gates – 23rd May
- Halton Moor & Osmondthorpe – 5th June
- Halton – 7th June

Draft minutes to be approved at the meeting
to be held on Tuesday, 18th September, 2007

17 Dates and Times of Future Meetings

Noted as 18th September 2007, 6th November 2007, 18th December 2007, 26th February 2008 and 15th April 2008 – all at 4.00pm. The **venues** for future meetings were discussed by Members.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the 18th September 2007 meeting be held at the Civic Hall.
- (b) That the venues of future meetings be agreed at the September meeting of the Area Committee.

18 Late Item - EASEL Working Group

The Head of the EASEL Project submitted a late report seeking support from Members of the Committee for the establishment of a working group for issues relating to the East and South East Leeds regeneration project (EASEL) and to nominate the initial representative from the East (Outer) Area Committee.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the proposal to establish a working group for the EASEL initiative be supported.
- (b) That **Councillor Langdale** be nominated to the working group.

19 Other Business

Members had been informed that Karl Curry, Area Management Officer for the Outer East Area, was taking voluntary early retirement. Nick Clarkson, his temporary replacement, was welcomed by Members.

RESOLVED – That a letter of thanks be sent from Members to Karl Curry, in appreciation of his excellent work at the Area Management Office.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and the meeting concluded at 6.10pm.