

Thriving Communities Corporate Priorities Board

Minutes of the meeting held on 22 June 2006

Boardroom, 4th Floor, Merrion House

Chair Neil Evans (NE), (Chair) Neighbourhoods and Housing

Present Rory Barke (RB), Neighbourhoods and Housing
Steve Carey (SC), City Services
Rehana Minhas (RM), Education Leeds
Denise Preston (DP), Learning and Leisure
Dave Richmond (DR), Neighbourhoods and Housing
Steve Speak (SS), Development
Marilyn Summers (MS), Chief Executive's Department
Sue Wynne (SW), Neighbourhoods and Housing
Lelir Yeung (LY), Chief Executive's Department

Minutes David Kidston (DK), Neighbourhoods and Housing

Action

1.0 Apologies.

1.1 Apologies were received from Catherine Blanshard (CB), Dennis Holmes (DH), and Val Snowden (VS).

2.0 Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

2.1 Migrant Workers

LY reported on recent incidents involving gang masters allegedly intimidating Polish migrant workers in East Leeds. Within the next four weeks meetings with migrant workers will be organised through the Polish Church to advise them of their rights and responsibilities.

3.0 Neighbourhood Charters

3.1 DR presented a report on Neighbourhood Charters (NCs) to the Board. The report outlines the policy context for NCs, including reports on NCs produced by the former Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) and cross-cutting reports by other government departments on customer engagement and service delivery. The report outlines benefits to communities including increasing engagement and ensuring that provision is tailored to meet their needs. There are also potential benefits to organisations, including: greater transparency; a clear audit trail from engagement to delivery; targeting local need; and putting communities at the heart of service delivery. MS agreed to explore the CPA benefits associated with NCs.

MS

3.2 It was noted that Neighbourhood Charters would build on a range of

Action

existing work and initiatives including: work by the ALMOs linked to gaining 3-star status; Intensive Neighbourhood Management (INM); work in South Leeds on GCSE attainment; and work being conducted by District Partnerships and Area Committees such as Neighbourhood Improvement Plans and Local Area Management Plans.

3.3 Discussion followed and included :

- the opportunity to embed equality and diversity principles in NCs in addition to the 'narrowing the gap' aims
- the range of potential powers included in the illustration including byelaws, fixed penalty notices and ASBOs
- resourcing and capacity issues required to support NCs across the City
- implications for the management and delivery of services
- lower levels of community involvement and capacity for engagement within disadvantaged communities
- meeting residents' expectations in more affluent communities
- implications for governance

3.5 It was agreed that an issues paper be produced for CMT identifying the challenges and opportunities and exploring more fully the potential implications for service delivery and governance issues raised by the introduction of Neighbourhood Charters.

DR

4.0 Town and District Centres - verbal update

4.1 DR reported that the Marsh Street car park scheme is currently at the detailed design stage.

4.2 It was agreed that a detailed progress report be provided by RB and SS to all future meetings informed by project reports from F Riley. DP to copy the Renaissance Parks schedule to SW for information.

RB/SS

DP

5.0 Performance Management

5.1 Quarter 4 performance

The Board considered the Quarter 4 performance report to be submitted to CMT on 27 June 2006 and the Accountability meeting on 12 July 2006. The report identifies those PIs which are performing below target and may impact upon the Councils CPA score in December 2006. These include the PIs relating to housing re-let times and rent collection and arrears. The report also identifies areas of concern at Quarter 3 where improvements have been made, such as housing repairs and racial incident reporting. It also highlights areas of good performance including: Intensive Neighbourhood Management; community facilities; and support for groups at risk of becoming homeless.

		Action
5.2	SC commented that the changes to the Leeds Benefit Service outlined at 4.9 in the report would not significantly impact on performance on rent collection and arrears. SC to provide SW/DK with revised text for 4.9.	SC
5.3	MS suggested that performance against BV184 (housing decency) should be included in the report due to issues regarding the quality of the data supplied by the ALMOs.	MS
5.4	Council Plan 2006/7 – Thriving Communities draft	
5.5	MS presented the final draft of the Thriving Communities section of the Council Plan which was agreed at the recent Council meeting.	
5.6	It was agreed that the Corporate Plan indicator CP HM50– to improve the quality life of people living in the most disadvantaged areas of the City by narrowing the gap between them and the rest – did not need to be retained. There is currently no single measure. The gap is against the measured by the Leeds Regeneration Plan floor targets and the indicators in the Local Area Agreement. It was also noted that Overview and Scrutiny Committee has proposed to undertake work to identify measures relating to the quality of life experienced within different areas of the City.	
6.0	Future agenda items	
6.1	VS and Martin Green (MG) to report to the next meeting on action to reduce worklessness, including the strategic framework, delivery mechanisms and programmes.	
6.2	LY to provide an update on Community Cohesion as a standard agenda item. This update to include reporting against the Community Cohesion Action Plan.	
70	Date of next meeting	
71	The next meeting will take place at 14.00-16.00 on 31 July 2006 in the Boardroom, 4 th Floor West, Merrion House.	