

NORTH EAST (OUTER) AREA COMMITTEE

MONDAY, 22ND OCTOBER, 2007

PRESENT: Councillor G Wilkinson in the Chair
Councillors A Castle and R D Feldman and
A Castle

Apologies Councillor Mrs R Feldman, P Harrand,
J Procter, P Harrand,
R Procter and A Shelbrooke

29 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of Members' interests were made.

30 Open Forum

The agenda referred to the provision contained in the Area Committee Procedure Rules for an Open Forum session of up to 10 minutes at each ordinary meeting of an Area Committee, to allow members of the public to make representations or to ask questions on matters within the remit of the Area Committee. On this occasion, no members of the public were present.

31 Minutes - 17th September 2007

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 17th September 2007 be confirmed as a correct record.

32 Matters Arising from the Minutes

Conservation Area Reviews (Minute No 25 refers)

It was noted that an update report was scheduled to come back to the December meeting.

33 Leeds Strategic Plan 2008-2011

The Committee received a report and a presentation regarding recent changes to the Council's corporate planning framework, involving the merger of the Council's **Corporate Plan** and the **Local Area Agreement** to form a Leeds Strategic Plan, also bringing together the themes contained in the existing **Vision for Leeds and Regeneration Plan**.

The document set out the draft strategic outcomes and proposed improvement priorities for the period 2008-2011, and what the Council itself intended to do, and in partnership with others, to deliver the priorities. All Area Committees were being asked to contribute to the process in terms of commenting in broad terms on whether the outcomes and priorities reflected

the experience and needs of their local areas. There would be further opportunity to comment later in the process on targets and performance indicators, and to also consider how local priorities, delivered via the **Area Delivery Plans**, could contribute to achieving the overall strategic aims of the Council, but at this stage officers were seeking confirmation that the aspirations outlined in the Plan were the right ones.

Nicole Jackson, Assistant Chief Executive (Corporate Governance) and Dylan Griffiths and Martyn Long, Chief Executive's Department, attended the meeting and responded to Members' queries and comments. In brief summary, the main issues discussed were:-

- Proposals for the increase in **affordable and social housing** in the City, and the Government's targets as contained in its recent Green Paper;
- The view was expressed that there was too much concentration on services for the young, and not enough mention of **services for the elderly**, such as hospital services, home support and recreational facilities;
- The aspirational nature of the Strategic Plan made it difficult to comment meaningfully on the proposals - perhaps when targets and performance indicators were discussed, Members would be able to contribute more fully;
- The greater role and prominence of Area Committees and Area Delivery Plans, as a result of likely changes to **District Partnership working arrangements**, in terms of delivering real local change and regeneration, and how this would link into the Strategic Plan process and outcomes

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the report be noted;
- (b) That Members be encouraged to complete and return the electronic questionnaire circulated by the Chief Executive, setting out their individual comments on the Strategic Plan 2008-2011.

34 Leeds Joint Area Review - Services for Children and Young People

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report informing Members of the arrangements and timetable for the Joint Area Review (JAR) of services for children and young people in Leeds. Shaid Mahmood and Jackie Wilson, Children's Services Unit, presented the report and responded to Members' queries and comments.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the report be noted;
- (b) That an update report be submitted to the Committee once the final JAR report has been received and published.

35 North East District Partnership - Update

The North East Area Manager submitted a report updating Members on recent actions and achievements of the NE District Partnership. Further to Minute No 26 of the last meeting of the Area Committee on 17th September 2007, the report outlined the discussions which had taken place at the 28th September meeting of the District Partnership, when Stephen Boyle, Chief Regeneration Officer, and Steve Williamson, Chair of the 'Narrowing the Gap' Executive of the Leeds Initiative, had attended. They had outlined the current thinking on the strategic and fundamental review taking place regarding roles and the relationship between District Partnerships and Area Committees. It was clear that the future emphasis would be on a greater role for Area Committees and Area Delivery Plans, in terms of planning and co-ordinating resources and service delivery, monitoring performance and strengthening the existing partnership arrangements.

The Chair stated that he had reported Members views, expressed on 17th September, at the 28th September District Partnership meeting, and would do so again at the scheduled Area Committee Chairs' meeting with the Executive Member (Neighbourhoods and Housing) on 13th November.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

36 Community Safety - Update

The North East Area Manager submitted a report prepared jointly with the Police, updating the Committee on community safety matters in the area.

Sandra Fowler, NE Community Safety Officer and Inspector Marcus Griffiths, West Yorkshire Police, were present at the meeting and responded to Members' queries and comments. In brief summary, the main issues discussed were:-

- The incidence of **anti-social behaviour** in Boston Spa and the work of the local PCSO's in tackling the issue, which was hampered by staffing problems within the Youth Service locally. The Chair reported that Wetherby Town Council was very happy with the recent high profile, proactive manner in which this issue was being dealt with by the police in Wetherby;
- The problem of **under-age drinking**, and where were youths illegally obtaining their alcohol from? Reference was made to recent successful joint initiatives between the Police and Trading Standards to clamp down on the likelihood of supermarkets or off-licences selling alcohol to under-age youngsters, but unfortunately it was more difficult to deal with parents or older youngsters supplying alcohol to under-age drinkers. Where appropriate, evidence was forwarded to the Child Protection Unit;
- Smokers using the areas immediately outside the front of pubs in the centre of Wetherby and leaving a mess – landlords ought to be responsible for sweeping up the debris and disposing of it in their own bins. If smokers also took their drinks outside with them, then this was in breach of the Designated Public Places Order. Inspector Griffiths undertook to raise this at the next Wetherby Pubwatch meeting.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

37 Deepdale Community Facilities, Boston Spa

The North East Area Manager submitted a report regarding the future of the current community facilities situated at Deepdale in Boston Spa, including the existing Youth Club building. The report set out various options for the Committee to consider, ranging from do nothing, to improving the existing buildings or demolition and new build, and the estimated costs associated with each option.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That Option 1 be supported as the Committee's favoured option for the future of the site, renovation of the Youth Club building and improvements to the Deepdale Community Association buildings;
- (b) That the proposed contribution of £50,000 from the Area Committee's capital Well-Being Budget towards the costs of Option 1 be considered under Agenda Item 16, the Well-Being Budget report, and subject to approval of this sum, a full breakdown of costs be presented at a future Wetherby Ward Members meeting.

38 Community Engagement

The Committee considered a report submitted by the North East Area Manager regarding ideas for trying to improve public participation in the work of the Area Committee and attendance at Area Committee meetings.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the proposed community engagement events outlined at Paragraphs 4 – 12 of the report, one per Ward, be approved, the Alwoodley Ward event to be deferred until 2008/09 in view of similar events held in the recent past;
- (b) That discussions take place with Wetherby Town Council regarding arranging another joint community engagement event in Wetherby, also involving local organisations and groups.

39 Area Delivery Plan 2007/08 - Quarter 2 Progress Report

The North East Area Manager submitted a report informing members of progress in implementing actions contained in 2007/08 Area Delivery Plan.

- **Wetherby Horsefair Town and District Centre Scheme** – This was due to go before the Executive Board for a decision on 14th November 2007;
- **Wetherby Market Square Town and District Centre Scheme** – The Chair reported that the Leader of the Council, Councillor Andrew Carter, would be performing an official opening ceremony on 15th November 2007, at 10.00 am.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

40 Well-Being Fund 2007/08 - Update

The North East Area Manager submitted a report updating Members on the current revenue and capital balances in each Ward's Well-Being allocation, Small Grants made since the last meeting and projects in development, and setting out details of applications before the Committee for a decision at this evening's meeting.

Reference was made to a discrepancy in the table on Page 69 showing the capital balances (Carr Lane footpath should read £7,500, not £5,000) and similarly to the table on Page 70 showing Small Grants (Alwoodley Ward total £1,998, not £1,498).

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the report be noted, including the Small Grants made since the last meeting and the projects in development;
- (b) That £4,335 be transferred from the balance of the Harewood Ward Large Grant Revenue Account to the Small Grant Account, to replace the £4,335 utilised earlier in the year for skips associated with the flooding problems;
- (c) That the following decisions be made in respect of the applications for funding before the Committee tonight for determination:

Revenue

Consultation Fund - £900 – Approved (deferred Alwoodley Ward event to be funded from the 2008/09 budget);

Capital

- (i) Boston Spa Youth Club, Deepdale - £50,000 – Approved.
- (ii) Cranmer Bank CCTV - £3,500 – Approved, but subject to all seven local shopkeepers agreeing to contribute £250 each towards the project costs.

41 Area Committee Forums - Feedback

The Committee considered a report submitted by the North East Area Manager regarding the proceedings of the Harewood and Wetherby Town and Parish Council Forum meeting held on 13th September 2007.

With regard to the traffic chaos and other issues on the A58 Leeds/Wetherby road caused by traffic associated with the August **Leeds Carling Festival**, the Chair stated that he was arranging for these issues to be raised at the December meeting of the Licensing Committee, which would be reviewing this year's event.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

The meeting concluded at 9.20 pm.