

EAST (INNER) AREA COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, 5TH DECEMBER, 2007

PRESENT: Councillor B Selby in the Chair

Councillors A Hussain, R Brett,
R Harington, D Hollingsworth, G Hyde and
V Morgan

46 Late Items

In accordance with his powers under Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Chair admitted a late appendix to Item 10, Wellbeing (Capital) Budget – Project Approvals. The appendix was not available at the time of agenda despatch and was admitted to the agenda to prevent any further undue delay to funds being released.

47 Declaration of Interests

Councillors Hollingsworth and Hyde declared a personal interest in Item 12, East and South East Leeds (EASEL) Regeneration Scheme Update due to their respective positions on the East North East ALMO. Minute No. 43 refers.

48 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Pryke and Taylor.

49 Open Forum

The agenda made reference to the provision contained in the Area Committee Procedure rules for an Open Forum Session at each ordinary meeting of an Area Committee, for members of the public to ask questions or to make representations on matters within the terms of reference of the Area Committee. On this occasion, no matters were raised under this item by those members of the public who were in attendance.

50 Minutes

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 24 October 2007, be confirmed as a correct record.

51 Matters Arising from the Minutes

Minute No.41 – Community Voices Project Update – Radio Asian Fever

It was reported that Wellbeing Funds had now been released and authorisation had been given for the release of monies from the Safer and Stronger Communities Fund.

52 East Leeds FM

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods submitted a report which gave the Committee an update on East Leeds FM. East Leeds FM was a community engagement project led by Heads Together and was targeted at younger people across East Leeds. The project had previously received the Committee's support.

The Chair welcomed Adrian St Clair of Heads Together to the meeting. He was accompanied by several participants of the East Leeds FM project to give a presentation on their work.

It was reported that East Leeds FM had been operating since 2003 and usually provided 2 broadcasting periods a year. Over 2,950 people had been involved in broadcasting and following the last broadcast, there had been over 26,000 listeners. The project had received funding from a variety of sources and had also commenced podcasting. Members listened to an extract from a recent podcast.

Adrian St Clair invited some of the young people involved with East Leeds FM to share their experiences. Issues highlighted included opportunity for work experience, work in and with schools and visits to the ITV studios.

It was further reported that East Leeds FM had been used by a multi-cultural community and had involved people from the ages of 3 to 87 in its broadcasts. Members were informed that the Podcast service was continually available to use for promoting community issues.

Members of the Committee congratulated East Leeds FM on the success of their project.

RESOLVED – That the presentation and the potential for Heads Together to undertake further innovative work for the Committee in future engagement projects be noted.

53 East and South East Leeds (EASEL) Regeneration Scheme Update

The Head of the EASEL Project submitted a report which provided an update on various aspects of the EASEL regeneration initiative including phase 1 development, progress on the establishment of the Joint Venture Company, the Area Action Plan and work of the Members working groups on neighbourhood planning, consultation and blight issues.

The Chair welcomed Peter Beck, Head of the Easel Project and Maggie Gjessing, East Area Regeneration Manager to the meeting.

With regard to the Area Action Plan, it was reported that close work had been carried out with Planning Officers and a general agreement had been made with Government Office regarding the plans. Recent consultation had taken place with Ward Members, MPs and the public. An EASEL newsletter had been produced to inform the public of events.

It was anticipated that the Strategic Development Agreement would be signed with Bellways in the next few weeks and that work could start on site in Gipton and Seacroft in February or March 2008.

The Chair opened the meetings to allow local residents to make comments and ask questions. The following issues were raised:

- According to maps of the plans, fencing would be put up that will close off roads and prevent access to properties. It was reported that to close roads, a full legal agreement was needed. This would only happen when full vacant possession of any site was gained.
- Compulsory Purchase Orders on land and property.
- Tenants not being offered 'like for like' properties.
- People should not have to move.
- Could plans be changed to build around existing properties?

RESOLVED –

- (1) That progress against the EASEL initiative be noted.
- (2) That a further report be brought to a future meeting of the Area Committee in to address local residents concerns and questions.

54 North East Divisional Community Safety Partnership

The joint report of the Divisional Commander (North East Leeds Police Division) and Acting East Area Manager explained the role of the new North East Divisional Community Safety Partnership (DCSP) and how the role of Tasking Teams would be strengthened. Members were asked to nominate a representative to participate on the DCSP. The Committee was reminded of changes to Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPTs) which was reported at the October meeting.

The Chair welcomed Inspectors Jim Croft and Tony Reed to the meeting.

It was reported that the DCSP would work with Thematic Problem Solving Groups and Neighbourhood Management Tasking Teams which would cover the 8 NPT ward areas. Partnership tasking teams would deal with crime and grime issues.

In response to a question of whether the nomination to the DCSP had to be an Elected Member, it was reported that as the DCSP would consist of key stakeholders who held strategic responsibility within their respective organisations and had the power to influence and make decisions, it would be

appropriate to appoint an Elected Member. Members expressed concern that their should be public representation and it was reported that there would be involvement for non Councillor representatives. Local tasking meetings would also take account of issues raised and complaints.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the appointments made to Inspectors for each of the new ward based Neighbourhood Policing Teams be noted.
- (2) That the establishment and role of the DCSP for North East Leeds and the strengthening of the Tasking Team approach across the area be noted.
- (3) That Councillor Selby be nominated as the Area Committee's representative on the DCSP. This appointment to be confirmed at the Member Management Committee to be held on 15 January 2008.

55 Wellbeing (Revenue) Budget Monitoring Report

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods submitted a report which updated the Area Committee on how the Wellbeing (Revenue) Budget was being spent in accordance with approved activities, schemes and themes.

Main issues highlighted included funding for Neighbourhood Wardens, the CROW Officer and funding for sports projects. Members were also reminded of the extra £50,000 that each Area Committee had received from General Funds.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That it be noted that:
 - a) that spend against each of the approved Wellbeing (revenue) budget strands is on target
 - b) the equity of spend between wards is as agreed
 - c) the range of local activities being delivered and supported through the Small Grants, Neighbourhood Management and Young People strands/schemes.
- (2) In relation to the additional £50k allocated by Executive Board, the commissioning of projects/activities in each ward to meet the priorities outlined in section 3.7 be approved.
- (3) That subject to availability, funding be continued to fund an additional 3.5 Neighbourhood Wardens (including 1 Senior post) in 2008/09.
- (4) That the fixed term CROW Officer post to 31st March 2008 should not be renewed/extended; due to improved local working arrangements and resources to problem solve issues in neighbourhoods.

56 Wellbeing (Capital) Budget - Project Approvals

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods submitted a report which detailed a proposed scheme to improve an open public space off Farm Road and sought Members approval to fund the work through the Wellbeing (Capital) Scheme. A late appendix to the report was also submitted which provided details of a scheme to carry out improvements to Lincoln Green Shopping Centre and to seek approval for a contribution to provide match funding.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That it be agreed to release £6,014 from the Killingbeck and Seacroft share of the Wellbeing (Capital) budget to fund the fencing of an area off Farm Road to provide a safe, informal play space for local children.
- (2) That it be agreed to release a maximum of £16,000 from the Burmantofts and Richmond Hill share of the Wellbeing (Capital) budget to provide match funds for Phase 2 of the Lincoln Green Shopping Centre improvements.

57 Community Forums

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods submitted a report which provided the minutes from the autumn cycle of the Committee's five Community Consultative Forums.

It was noted that the Richmond Hill Forum had been well attended and Members discussed ways of increasing attendance at Forums. It was suggested that Co-optees promote awareness of Area Committee matters at their respective forums and it was suggested that they met with Area Management staff to discuss this.

RESOLVED - That the report and minutes from each forum be noted.

58 Leeds LEGI Programme Update

The Leeds LEGI Programme Manager submitted a report which provided the Committee with an update on the progress of the Leeds Local Enterprise Growth Initiative (LEGI) Programme.

The Chair welcomed Simon Brereton, LEGI Programme Manager to the meeting.

It was reported that the purpose of the LEGI Programme was to develop enterprise and business to tackle regeneration issues. The programme was focussed on Super Output Areas (SOAs) and it was aimed 75% of the programme's outputs from these areas. The LEGI programme aimed to

engage with individuals to create self employment and businesses; to work with existing business and to engage investors and promote the area.

Issues discussed included the following:

- Catalyst Centres – There were 2 in East Leeds, Harehills and East Leeds Family Learning Centre
- The WykeBECC Centre which had links to David Young Academy
- Now schemes were up and running, a network was beginning to develop.
- Involvement of the ALMOs and Housing Associations
- Focus on those who were in receipt of incapacity benefits
- Education ambassadors to stimulate changes to the curriculum.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the report be noted.
- (2) That a further report be brought to the Area Committee in six months.

59 Intensive Neighbourhood Management Progress Report

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods submitted a report which provided the Area Committee with an update on how the Intensive Neighbourhood Management (INM) programme was progressing. The report detailed the INM Clusters across the East Inner Area and the activities carried out in those areas.

Members attention was brought to the success of clean ups in the area, demonstrated by independent 'grime' surveys taken in the INM neighbourhoods.

RESOLVED -

- (1) That the report and the successful impact that Intensive Neighbourhood Management (INM) is beginning to have through co-ordination by local Neighbourhood Managers be noted.
- (2) That the intention to bring the spending programmes for INM clusters for Area Committee endorsement in 2008/09 be noted.

60 Area Management Review

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods submitted a report which detailed proposals agreed by the Executive Board to make amendments to Area Committee responsibilities.

It was reported that the review gave an opportunity to re-focus Area Management and the report detailed proposed structural changes. There

would be no impact on Members in terms of resources and reference was made to the report prepared by Councillor Chapman for the Executive Board.

Members attention was brought to enhanced responsibilities which were linked to key themes in the draft Leeds Strategic Plan and to local partnership working arrangements.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the recommended changes to Area Committee responsibilities and working arrangements and the proposed timetable be agreed.
- (2) That the recommended way forward for local partnership working arrangements be agreed.

61 Date and Time of Next Meeting

Wednesday, 30 January 2008 at 6.00 p.m.