

**NORTH WEST (INNER) AREA COMMITTEE
(SPECIAL MEETING)**

THURSDAY, 17TH JANUARY, 2008

PRESENT: Councillor J Monaghan in the Chair

Councillors B Atha, J Chapman,
M Hamilton, J Illingworth, B Jennings,
E Minkin, D Morton and L Rhodes-Clayton

OFFICERS: Jason Singh, North West Area Management
Dayle Lynch, North West Area Management
Martyn Stenton, Environment and Neighbourhoods
Department
Stuart Robinson, Chief Executive's Department

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Lucinda Yeadon, Labour Candidate, Kirkstall
Freda Matthews, Woodsley Road Management
Committee
Qurban Hussain, Woodsley Road Management
Committee
Mohammed Latif, Woodsley Road Management
Committee
Mohammed Muneer, Leeds Muslim Council
Mohammed Bostaw, Leeds Muslim Council

69 Chair's Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed everyone to the special January meeting of the North West (Inner) Area Committee held in the Civic Hall, Leeds.

The Chair stated that at the conclusion of the meeting, there would be a budget workshop for Members of the North West (Inner) Area Committee.

He also welcomed to the meeting representatives from the Woodsley Road Management Committee and the Leeds Muslim Council.

70 Exclusion of Public

RESOLVED – That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following part of the agenda designated exempt on the grounds that it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information so designated as follows:-

Appendix 1 to the report referred to in Minute 74 under the terms of Access to Information Procedure Rule 10.4(3) and on the grounds that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information by reason of the fact that by disclosing these

details, the reputation of the organisation could be detrimentally affected before they had attempted to satisfactorily resolve the matter.

71 Declarations of Interest

Councillor J Chapman declared a personal interest in her capacity as Lead Member (Neighbourhoods and Housing) and report author of 'Making a Bigger Difference in Localities' regarding Area Management in Leeds (Agenda Item 6) (Minute 73 refers).

72 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor S Bentley, Councillor P Ewens and Councillor K Hussain.

A number of other apologies received from members of the public were also read out at the meeting.

73 Area Management Review

Referring to Minute 64 of the meeting held on 13th December 2007, the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods submitted a report outlining the changes to Area Committee responsibilities and working arrangements previously agreed at the Council's Executive Board on 14th November 2007.

Martyn Stenton, Partnerships Manager, Environment and Neighbourhoods Department and Jason Singh, North West Area Management presented the report and responded to Members' queries and comments.

Detailed discussion ensued on the contents of the report and appendices.

In summary, specific reference was made to the following issues:-

- clarification as to whether other Area Committees would adopt different criteria under the new arrangements in relation to well-being applications and community centre lettings
(The Partnerships Manager responded and informed the meeting that if other Area Committees agreed to the 'free' usage of some community centres within their particular area, this would clearly have an impact on their resources)
- concerns expressed over the huge agenda facing Area Committees in relation to the Children and Young People 'theme'
(The Partnerships Manager responded and informed the meeting that Children's Plans were currently being drafted for Members' consideration)
- the need for assurances to be given by officers that matters would be dealt with quickly with the right level of support from service departments
- the need for all Area Committees to adopt a professional and consistent approach, on a city-wide basis, which would also provide new learning opportunities for Elected Members
- clarification of how street cleansing would work under the new proposals, given competing area priorities, with the need for more regular and up to date information in this area

(The Partnerships Manager responded and informed the meeting that under the new arrangements, there would be an obligation on services to work more directly with the Area Committee when addressing priorities and for them to be more accountable)

- the need for Area Committees to focus on regeneration and development and for Elected Members to be provided with the necessary support in relation to Local Design Reviews
- reference to the Adult Social Care and Healthier Communities ‘theme’, with clarification sought as to whether Area Committees would be directly responsible for legal issues in view of the proposed new delegated function

(The Partnerships Manager responded and informed the meeting that under the new arrangements this would be a ‘key’ area for Member involvement, but obviously legal issues and statutory duties needed to be dealt with in a proper and consistent way on a city-wide basis)

- the need for Area Committees to deliver services locally within the locality of the Area Committee
- the need for the Area Management Review to focus on those areas that were working well, with power and responsibility to go hand in hand
- the need for North West (Inner) Area Committee to meet at least ten times a year in view of the increased responsibilities and proposed new themes and to publicise venues well in advance
- the need for the review to address the role/membership of the Area Committee’s sub groups and to address whether a more ‘scrutiny role’ should be undertaken at Area Committee meetings
- the need for Area Committees to experiment in new areas of accountability and to give more notice when convening meetings of sub groups
- the need for public engagement to continue at North West (Inner) Area Committee meetings and for meetings to be structured to allow public debate on important local issues
- the need for the Area Committee to receive better information from service departments, with more up to date statistics to be provided, to ensure that Elected Members made the right decisions based on the evidence available at that particular time

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the contents of the report and appendices be noted.
- (b) That Members comments on the issues covered in the Executive Board report and on the proposed changes be fed into the ongoing consultation process for the Area Management Review by North West Area Management.
- (c) That this Committee seeks further reports at their next and subsequent cycle of meetings on Area Delivery Plan preparations, Local Children and Young People Plans, composition of Sub Groups and local partnership working arrangements.

74 Woodsley Road Multi-Cultural Community Centre

Referring to Minute 68 of the meeting held on 13th December 2007, the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods submitted a report providing the

meeting with an update on progress made at Woodsley Road Multi-Cultural Community Centre over the past 18 months as requested at a previous Area Committee meeting.

Jason Singh, North West Area Management presented the report and responded to Members' queries and comments.

At the request of the Chair, comments were also taken from representatives of the Woodsley Road Management Committee and the Leeds Muslim Council.

Detailed discussion ensued on the contents of the report.

In summary specific reference was made to the following issues:-

- clarification as to whether the £5,000 of Well-being funding was a one off request or a year on year requirement
- clarification of the daily usage of the multicultural centre and whether or not the centre encouraged users from a mix of faiths and cultures
- the need for a working group to be established to develop and produce an options appraisal as outlined in section 7.0 of the report
(*North West Area Management agreed to convene an early meeting in this regard*)
- clarification of the future visions of the centre

Following consideration of the appendix to the report designated as exempt under Access to Information Procedure Rule 10.4(3) which was considered in private at the conclusion of the meeting it was:-

RESOLVED –

- a) That the contents of the report and appendices be noted.
- b) That approval be given to the undertaking of an options appraisal regarding alternative management arrangements of Woodsley Road Multicultural Community Centre in accordance with the report now submitted.
- c) That the request received from the Woodsley Road Management Committee for the £5,000 of well-being funding, originally allocated to Voluntary Action Leeds, to be paid directly to them, as outlined in Section 5.2 of the report, be deferred, pending the outcome of the options appraisal as referred to in resolution b) above.
- d) That the request received from the Woodsley Road Management Committee for a contribution towards the implementation of their business plan, through payment of a percentage of the lettings income from the centre, as outlined in Section 5.3 of the report, be deferred, pending the outcome of the options appraisal as referred to in resolution b) above.

75 Date and Time of Next Meeting

Thursday 7th February 2008 at 7.00 pm at Milford Sports Club, Beecroft Street, Leeds 5

(The meeting concluded at 9.10 pm)