

EAST (OUTER) AREA COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, 15TH APRIL, 2008

PRESENT: Councillor K Parker in the Chair

Councillors S Armitage, M Dobson,
P Grahame, P Gruen, J Langdale, J Lewis,
T Murray and K Wakefield

73 Declarations of Interest

The following personal declarations of interest were made:

Councillor Murray, Agenda Items 13 and 14 – Developing Children Trust Partnership Arrangements in Localities and Developing the Children and Young People Theme of the Area Delivery Plan – in his capacity as Chief Executive of Learning Partnerships (Minute Nos 83 and 84 refer).

Councillor Langdale, Agenda Item 8 – Response to Issues raised at Outer East Area Committee on 26th February 2008 on Leeds Primary Care Trust - as an employee of Leeds Primary Care Trust (Minute No. 77 refers).

(Councillor Murray also declared a personal interest later in the meeting – see Minute No. 78.)

74 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Hyde, Lyons and McKenna and also from Pat Toner of Education Leeds and Paul Morrin of Leeds Primary Care Trust.

75 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 no issues raised by members of the public, however as **Chief Inspector Rod Wark** was present, Members raised various concerns with the Inspector regarding in particular, **non-attendance by Police** and Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) at some Community Forums, despite having been invited and also the handover of **Methley** from the south to the NE Leeds Police Division, where it was considered vital that there be a continued police presence in the village.

The Chief Inspector advised that the non-attendance of PCSOs at some Community Forums could be explained to some extent by awkward shift patterns and it was hoped that proposed changes to the shift patterns would improve attendance. With regard to the move of Methley to the NE Leeds Police Division, Chief Inspector Wark also advised Members that the village would be covered by two PCSOs and possibly one Police Officer.

Members were also advised that **anti-social behaviour data** was now readily available on a monthly basis.

76 Minutes

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the East Outer Area Committee meeting held on 26th February 2008 be confirmed as a correct record.

77 Response to issues raised at Outer East Area Committee on 26th February 2008 on Leeds Primary Care Trust

The Leeds Primary Care Trust submitted a report responding to issues raised at the previous meeting East (Outer) Area Committee on 26th February 2008, specifically with regard to GP services in the Halton area, together with a copy of a report considered at the Health Proposals Working Group of the Scrutiny Board (Health and Adult Social Care) held on 13th March 2008 outlining the consultation carried out on proposals to change GP services in Leeds and key responses received.

The Chair welcomed to the meeting Dr Damian Riley, Director of Primary Care Leeds Primary Care Trust (PCT,) to present the report and respond to issues and comments raised by the Committee.

In summary, the following issues were discussed:

- Distances having to be travelled by patients to GP surgeries in **Halton** – Dr Riley advised the Committee that the current organisation of GP Services in Halton as outlined on page 11 of the agenda, was a temporary arrangement. Sites for a new building and long term solution for the Halton area were being sought.
- **Swillington Practice** – Members expressed their concern about not being consulted regarding plans for this practice. Dr Riley advised Members that the PCT had taken the decision that employing GPs was not their area of expertise and that a better service could be provided by securing an alternative provider through a procurement process. Dr Riley updated Members on the procurement exercise to establish better primary medical provision in Swillington and the consultation that had been carried out amongst the community.

The Chair thanked Dr Riley for attending the meeting.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the report be noted.

- (b) That Members' concerns regarding provision of GP services in the Halton and Swillington areas be noted.

78 Matters Arising

Minute No.65 - Matters Arising – Area Management Review

Ken Morton, Locality Enabler (East), Chief Executive's Department, confirmed that Members' comments regarding his services being spread too thinly across the city had been fed back to management, however due to Mr Morton reporting that he would be covering these extra duties for a little while longer, whilst options to reorganise the areas covered by Locality Enablers continued to be explored, Members requested that a **meeting be arranged between the Deputy Director, Children's Services and the Chair of the East Outer Area Committee.**

RESOLVED - That the Locality Enabler (East) arrange a meeting between the Deputy Director, Children's Services and the Chair of the East Outer Area Committee to discuss the area in Leeds currently being covered by the Locality Enabler (East).

Minute No.67 – Outturn 2007/08 and Earmarking of 2008/09 Allocation

With regard to exploring alternative funding resources for a **Neighbourhood Warden for the Cross Gates area**, the Deputy Area Manager advised Members that he would be exploring the possibility of securing some PFI finance for the Area Office to manage on behalf of local Members, which could possibly be spent in this area. Confirmation had also been received from Aire Valley Homes that they would continue to jointly fund the Neighbourhood Warden post in Swarcliffe with Outer East Area Committee for a further six months, which would release funds for a warden elsewhere. John Smeaton Community College had also been approached to contribute towards the cost of a warden in their area.

Minute No.68 – Outer East Area Committee Capital Budget 2007/08

With regard to resolution (d), Members were advised that **Garforth Town FC** had replied to the enquiry and notified the Area Office that, subject to planning approval, work on extending the car park should start late May.

(Note: Councillor Murray declared a personal interest during the discussions on this item as Chair of Garforth Town Football Club.)

79 Dates, Times and Venues of Area Committee Meetings 2008/09

The Chief Democratic Services Officer submitted a report requesting Members to give consideration to agreeing the dates, times and venues of their meetings for the 2008/09 municipal year. Members had been particularly requested to consider meeting at locations within the Area Committee wedge.

RESOLVED – That the following dates be approved for meetings of the East (Outer) Area Committee in the 2008/09 municipal year, all to take place at 4.00pm on Tuesdays at the Civic Hall:

8th July 2008, 16th September 2008, 28th October 2008, 9th December 2008, 10th February 2009 and 24th March 2009.

80 Forum Schedule and Election of Chairs 2008-09

The East Leeds Area Manager submitted a report proposing a schedule of Community Forum dates for 2008/09 for Members' consideration and also requesting Members to ratify the Forum Terms of Reference.

The Area Management Officer presented the report.

Members discussed declining public participation at the forums and, although confirming their commitment to public engagement, were of the opinion that there needed to be a **review** of the most effective way to engage. This would include looking at alternatives to Community Forums.

RESOLVED – That consideration of the Community Forum Dates and Terms of Reference be deferred until the present arrangements could be reviewed and alternative options for consulting with the local community explored.

81 Well Being Budget 2007/08

The East Area Manager submitted a report reminding Members of the budget profile for 2007/08 and how funds had been spent against the agreed priorities for the year.

The Area Management Officer presented the report. Members were advised that the **Well Being Budget had been fully committed for 2007/08** and that the remainder of the additional £50,000 awarded in 2007/08 (£34,000) had been carried over into 2008/09 and was allocated by Ward as detailed in para 2.9 of the report.

Members were also requested to note in Appendix 1, **the breakdown of how the tasking budget** had been spent and which would also be fully committed for 2007/08 once a number of projects for which orders had not yet been raised (referred to in para. 3.3 of the report), were included on the list. Appendix 2 to the report detailed a breakdown of **small grants**.

RESOLVED -

- (a) That the report be noted.
- (b) That progress in delivering activities/actions against the agreed Wellbeing priority workstreams/allocations for 2007/08 be noted.

82 Outer East Area Committee Capital Budget 2007/08

The East Leeds Area Manager submitted a report updating Members on spend to date as outlined in Appendix 1 to the report and requesting support for one new project.

The Area Management Officer presented the report and drew attention to the request for the Area Committee to contribute towards the cost of **security fencing to Brooksbank Sheltered Housing Complex** in Halton, which was suffering from problems with nuisance and vandalism by youths. The exact amount was not yet known, but the Area Committee was being requested to provisionally set aside up to a maximum of £15,500. The exact amount would be confirmed at the next meeting of the East Outer Area Committee. The award of this funding was subject to Aire Valley Homes and Social Services consenting to provide some match funding, which they had agreed to do.

Members were also advised that, since the report had been written, the Area Management Office had received a request for a further contribution of £600 towards the £2,000 previously allocated at the Committee's 10th July 2007 meeting, for the provision of an **entrance feature to Ledston Luck**.

Members were requested to note that if these projects were approved, the full capital allocation to the East (Outer) Area Committee, as referred to in Appendix 1, would be almost fully committed.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That up to a maximum of £15,500 be provisionally approved for security fencing to Brooksbank Sheltered Housing complex, subject to Aire Valley Homes and Social Services providing some match funding.
- (b) That the sum of £600 be approved for the Ledston Luck feature in Kippax & Methley Ward, additional to the previous award of £2,000 which had been agreed at the 10th July 2007 meeting of the East (Outer) Area Committee.
- (c) That it be noted that the full capital allocation for the East (Outer) Area Committee for 2007/08 was almost fully committed as illustrated in Appendix 1 to the report.

83 Developing Children Trust Partnership Arrangements in Localities

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report appraising Members of work being undertaken to refresh and strengthen the development of local children trust partnership arrangements and to seek Members' views on how these arrangements could be connected with the Area Committee to fulfil requirements of the Leeds Strategic Plan and to improve democratic accountability.

The Chair welcomed to the meeting Ken Morton, Locality Enabler (East), Children's Services, to present the report and respond to Members' queries and comments.

Members discussed ways in particular that Children's Services could better **engage** with Ward Members, perhaps at Forum rather than at Area Committee level. The effectiveness of the **Working Group** referred to in section 4 of the report was also discussed, as was the possibility of an Elected Member attending the **Wedge level Partnership meetings**.

The Area Manager advised Members of how the South Area Committees were considering moving towards a different approach of community engagement, with proposals to hold two part Area Committee meetings, with the first part consisting of a presentation on a particular issue. Ward based events were also proposed, where a debate would be held on a local major issue.

RESOLVED - That the current position with regard to developing local children trust partnership arrangements be noted.

84 Developing the Children and Young People Theme of the Area Delivery Plan

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report advising Members on progress to develop the children and young people theme within the new Area Delivery Plan component of the Leeds Strategic Plan.

Ken Morton, Locality Enabler (East), Children's Services, presented the report and responded to Members' queries and comments. He was accompanied by Gerry Hudson, Integrated Youth Support Service Manager, Children's Services and Neil Bowden, Senior Youth Officer for the East area, Youth Services.

The youth officers introduced themselves and updated Members on the current **progress of commissioning youth services**; Members were informed that the commissioning process would present an opportunity to review services. Members were also advised of the **key priorities** within the Youth Service for the forthcoming year. The Senior Youth Officer for East stated that meetings would be organised with Ward Councillors to share specific programme details and to consult on the local issues and priorities.

Members welcomed in particular the intention to form partnerships with the voluntary sector and the commitment to involve Elected Members.

RESOLVED -

- (a) That progress in developing priorities and key actions with regard to the children and young people theme of the Area Delivery Plan be noted.
- (b) That further reports be received by the Area Committee outlining partnerships actions at 'wedge level' and at 'cluster level'.
- (c) That a further report be received by the Area Committee identifying which key performance management information would be available routinely at reporting levels below 'city' wide analysis (Area Committee, Ward, 'wedge', 'cluster') to support all stakeholders.

(NB: Councillors Dobson, Murray, Lewis and Wakefield left the meeting at 5.30pm during the consideration of this item, thereby rendering the meeting inquorate.)

85 Outer East Community Forum Minutes from 26th January to 20th March 2008

The East Area Manager submitted a report, together with the minutes of the Area Committee Community Forum meetings held between 26th January and 20th March 2008.

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

Swarcliffe – 30th January 2008

Cross Gates – 13th February 2008

Halton Moor & East Osmondthorpe – 19th February 2008

Halton – 28th February 2008

Kippax & Methley – 5th March 2008

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and the meeting concluded at 5.45pm.