

## **EAST (INNER) AREA COMMITTEE**

**THURSDAY, 4TH DECEMBER, 2008**

**PRESENT:** Councillor B Selby in the Chair

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

### **35 Late Items**

There were no late items as such, however the Chair agreed to take a verbal update from Rory Barke, East North East Area Manager on staffing arrangements within the Area Management team.

### **36 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Taylor.

### **37 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.

### **38 Minutes**

**RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the meeting held on 23 October 2008, be confirmed as a correct record.

### **39 Matters Arising from the Minutes**

Consultation on the Draft Vision for Leisure Centres in Leeds (Minute No 27 refers)

Members requested an update on the Draft Vision for Leisure Centres following the report to the Executive Board on 5 November 2008. It was requested that this update also be provided to Co-opted Members. It was agreed that a Working Group consisting of Councillors Harington, Pryke and Morgan along with Co-opted Member, Graham Moore be established to consider the Draft Vision for Leisure Centres.

### **40 Appointment of Co-optees**

The report of the East North East Area Manager outlined the procedures for appointing Co-opted Members to the Area Committee.

It was reported that a vacancy for a Co-opted Member had arisen following the resignation of the current Gipton Forum representative.

**RESOLVED** – That Michael Dean be appointed as the Gipton Forum representative on the East Inner Area Committee for the remainder of the 2008/09 Municipal Year.

#### **41 EASEL**

The report of the Head of the Easel Project summarised the outcome of the Executive Board meeting on 5 November 2008 when approval was given to allow the establishment of the Joint Venture Company (JVCo) with Bellway. The primary objective of the EASEL initiative and the JVCo was to secure the economic, social and environmental well-being of the EASEL area and its residents.

Members were informed of the equity loan scheme approved by Executive Board, subject to its approval by Plans Panel East, for the EASEL phase one sites. The scheme provides a method for delivering the 15% affordable housing provision on these sites to compliment and will be used in addition to the sale of some affordable units to a Registered Social Landlord.

In brief summary, the following issues were discussed:

- Options for community uses for sites within the EASEL area.
- Public engagement within the master planning process.
- It was anticipated that the master planning process would commence in spring 2009.

**RESOLVED** – That the outcome of the Executive Board report and proposed initial activity of the JVCo be noted.

#### **42 North East Divisional Community Safety Partnership – Progress and Performance Report**

The report of the East North East Area Manager summarised a number of local actions and activities delivered across the North East Police Division during the quarter covering 1<sup>st</sup> July 2008 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2008. Also included in the report was a performance matrix for the end of quarter 2 (2008/09) which gave information on what key indicators the partnership is committed to help improve and progress being made in doing so. It was noted that the information in the report was relevant to the whole North East Divisional Area and there was therefore some relation to events outside the East Inner Area Committee wards.

The Chair welcomed Beverley Yearwood, Area Community Safety Co-ordinator and Inspector Jim Croft, West Yorkshire Police to the meeting.

The Committee was informed of new working arrangements and ways of monitoring and measuring performance across the Neighbourhood Police Tasking Teams (NPTs). Reference was also made to a new initiative which allow the Area Committee to have an input into the distribution of monies recovered under the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA). It was reported that Councillors would be briefed on the use of funds from POCA and suggested that a Working Group be established.

In relation to figures detailed in the report it was reported that serious acquisitive crimes, domestic burglaries and theft of and from motor vehicles had risen across the division and these areas would be given immediate priority. Reductions had been seen in the amount of violent crime, assault and robbery across the division. The North East Police Division had also achieved the highest satisfaction levels across the West Yorkshire force. It was also reported that there was an emphasis on offender management. A team of officers would work closely with and support services would be provided to those who were felt to be most at risk of committing crime, particularly for those who had recently been released from prison.

In response to Members questions and comments, the following issues were discussed:

- Methodology used to assess community satisfaction – it was reported that this was gathered from sources including user satisfaction surveys and information from the Safer Leeds Partnership.
- Anti Social Behaviour
- Fear of Crime
- Concern regarding the number of criminals that lived within the North East Divisional Area
- Possible links between the current economic climate and rise in acquisitive crimes.

#### **RESOLVED –**

- (1) That the progress and relevant local actions contained in the highlight report for quarter 2 be noted.
- (2) That the performance information for the end of quarter 2 and corrective actions being put in place where appropriate be noted.
- (3) That the information provided at the meeting by the Police and Community Safety Co-ordinator on key issues being addressed in the current quarter for each ward be noted.

#### **43 The Children and Young People's Plan 2009-14 and the development of local priorities for action**

The report of the Director of Children's Services set out a proposed structure for the new Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) and described the first cut priorities after consultation and suggest how local relevancy could be

developed to inform the work of Children's Services in the committee area over the next 5 years.

The Chair welcomed Ken Morton, Locality Enabler to the meeting.

It was reported that the new CYPP was primarily based around the improvement priorities and targets set out in the Leeds Strategic Plan and a list of suggested priorities that had been identified city wide were detailed in the report.

The Committee was informed of the challenge to integrate local services across the statutory and voluntary sector to provide better outcomes for Children and Young People and the need to retain a focus within the context of the Leeds Strategic Plan. The role of extended services clusters was explained and an example of the Richmond Hill Cluster was detailed in the report. Further considerations included links with the Area Delivery Plan and democratic accountability through the involvement of Elected Members.

#### **RESOLVED –**

- (1) That the report be noted.
- (2) That Councillor Morgan be elected to work with the Locality Enabler and the Area Manager on behalf of the Area Committee to develop the local context for the priorities and develop local actions for the Area Delivery Plan 2009/10.

#### **44 Revised Children's Services arrangements for more effective locality working with families**

The report of the Director of Children's Services detailed revised Children's Services arrangements for more effective locality working with families. The report referred to the Leadership Challenge, which had previously been considered by the Scrutiny Board (Children's Services) and the Leeds Children's Trust Arrangements.

It was reported that the revised arrangements would bring a commitment to closer working with Area Committees and Elected Members. Details for the Wedge Children's Partnerships were also explained along with other partnership arrangements. In particular, Members were told about ongoing work to ensure that some of the disciplines and local working arrangements that have made "crime and grime" tasking teams a success are learnt from to help better coordinate and target preventative work with families/households.

In response to Members questions and comments regarding the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) and revised Children's arrangements, the following issues were discussed:

- The role of parents and schools.
- How to measure success of the new arrangements and the CYPP.

- Information had been collected citywide and was still to be prioritised on a local level.
- Issues such as high teenage conception rates and child poverty, and how these are influenced by other influences such as employment and poor housing.
- Including young people in consultation.

## **RESOLVED –**

- (1) That the report be noted.
- (2) That Councillor Morgan be elected to
  - (a) work with the Locality Enabler and the Area Manager (on behalf of the Area Committee) to take developments forward, and
  - (b) represent the Area Committee on the Children Leeds East Partnership, subject to Member Management Committee Approval.

## **45 Community Engagement Framework**

The report of the East North East Area Manager reminded Members of the Executive Board approval for proposals to enhance the role of the Area Committees during 2008/09. Community engagement was included as a specific function with a requirement for the agreement of a local community engagement plan for each area.

It was reported that community engagement would have greater significance in the Council's inspection framework and corporate plan framework and links needed to be made to the Area Delivery Plan. Members' attention was drawn to the parts of the report that outlined current and proposed arrangements for community engagement in East Leeds.

It had become apparent that current community engagement arrangements had not been reaching a wide range of people and other techniques were being proposed to achieve this. Community engagement also needed to reflect the views of all groups who lived in the community and include young people, disabled people and BME groups.

The following issues were discussed:

- Alternative methods of informing the public about community engagement events and opportunities in an attempt to target as wider audience as possible.
- Poor attendance at forum meetings.
- The possibility of introducing task action cards as used in Inner North East Leeds. These gave members of the public an opportunity to raise issues that need attention at any time without the need to wait for a forum meeting.
- The role of those within the community who are already actively involved and how we can ensure we continue to provide opportunities to hear their voices.

- How to be more creative in the use of media feedback and publishing good news and achievements.

**RESOLVED** – That the community engagement framework for 2009/10 be approved.

#### **46 Area Delivery Plan 2008 -11 - Update**

The report of the East North East Area Manager provided the Committee with an update on events within Inner East Leeds since the last meeting of the Area Committee.

**RESOLVED** – That the report be noted.

#### **47 Area Delivery Plan – Wellbeing Revenue Update and Project Review**

The report of the East North East Area Manager presented an updated financial position of the Wellbeing (Revenue) budget for Inner East Leeds and requested the virement of £15,000 from the unfilled Community Facilities Development Officer post to be spent on community centres.

The report also looked at the Thriving Communities Leeds Strategic Plan theme and its translation into the Inner East Area Delivery Plan. It listed a number of Area Committee funded local actions and approaches and concentrated, in particular, on alleygating as a method of combating crime and anti-social behaviour.

The Chair welcomed Brent Brady, Alleygating Co-ordinator to the meeting. He informed the Board of the recently completed alleygating scheme in the Nowells area which had seen gates erected on 4 back streets. He explained the process to get the gating orders and planning approval and the various problems that can arise with such schemes. In response to Members questions and comments he discussed the various issues that led to alleygating schemes such as road safety issues and prevention of crime including burglary and drug issues.

**RESOLVED** –

- (1) That the virement of £15,000 from the Community Facilities Development Officer post to be spent on community centres as suggested in paragraph 9 of the report be approved.
- (2) That the Area Committee notes the success of alleygating through use of Wellbeing budget in 2008/09 and agree to its inclusion in the 2009-10 Area Delivery Plan as a viable method of helping reduce crime and improve the street environment.

#### **48 Wellbeing Capital Update and Scheme Proposals**

The report of the East North East Area Manager sought the Committee's approval for three schemes to be funded from the Wellbeing Capital budget.

These included alleygating schemes for Oakham Way and Back Cross Green Lane along with a request for funding for portable goalposts for Gipton Juniors FC.

**RESOLVED** – That the following be approved:

- (a) The contribution of £2,273 towards the installation of Oakham Way alleygates.
- (b) The contribution of £4,935 towards Back Cross Green Lane alleygates.
- (c) £2,100 for portable goal posts for Gipton Juniors FC.

**49 Area Management Staffing Update**

Rory Barke, East North East Area Manager gave the Committee an update on staffing issues in the East North East Area Management Team. The recruitment process and restructure had now being completed and all posts would be filled by February 2009. There was also a planned move for the Area Management Office to relocate from Leeds Media Centre to the Joint Services Centre on Chapeltown Road in 2010. Members were informed that planning permission for the Joint Services Centre was to be considered by the East Plans Panel on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December.

**50 Date and Time of Next Meeting**

Thursday, 5 February 2009 at 6.00 p.m. Meeting to be held at Harehills Primary School.