

NORTH EAST (INNER) AREA COMMITTEE

MONDAY, 16TH FEBRUARY, 2009

PRESENT: Councillor M Lobley in the Chair

Councillors J Dowson, R Harker, V Kendall,
B Lancaster, M Rafique and E Taylor

43 Apologies

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Harris and Wadsworth.

44 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.

45 Minutes

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 1 December, 2008 be confirmed as a correct record.

46 Vision for Leisure Centres - Investment Strategy for Scott Hall

The report of the Director of City Development updated the Area Committee of progress made on the Draft Vision for Leisure Centres following consultation and a report made to Executive Board on 3 December 2008. It also provided information on funding bids and a feasibility study being looked at for Scott Hall Leisure Centre, which was hoped would result in significant investment and improvement works during summer 2009.

The Chair welcomed Helen Evans, Sport Capital Programme Manager to the meeting.

It was reported that following consultation and the presentation of a report to the Executive Board, it had been recommended to further develop capital investment proposals for a number of sports centres including Scott Hall Leisure Centre. The bulk of the funding would be from Sport England and it was planned to create new changing facilities as well as install a new sound and light system and pool cover.

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

- Elected Members had been written to during the consultation period, however, Elected Members believed they had not received any consultation letter.
- The majority of funding available at the moment was for improvements to swimming provision.
- It was planned to extend the bodyline gym at Scott Hall. This would mean using a squash court.
- Problems with limited car parking at the centre.
- Use of other space in the centre and potential for community use.
- Public transport links.

The Chair thanked Helen Evans for her attendance.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the report be noted
- (2) That a further report be brought back to the Area Committee in March 2009 to give a progress update.

47 Flood Risk Management Report and Presentation

The report of the Head of Risk and Emergency Planning supported a presentation that had been prepared by the Council's Water Asset Management Working Group (WAMWG) on recent work undertaken to improve the management of flood risk both nationally and locally and the implications of this for the Inner North East Area.

The Chair welcomed David Sellers, Principal Engineer Development Department to make a presentation to the Committee.

The presentation highlighted the following issues:

- The Flood Risk Challenge in Leeds
- The Council's Flood Risk Management Building Blocks
- Achievements since 2005
- The Pitt Review into the 2007 floods and the Council's response
- Sources of flood risk in Inner North East and known flood risk locations.

In response to Member's comments and questions, the following issues were discussed:

- Responsibility for the running off of surface water – the Government was planning a new Floods/Water Bill to address this.
- Problems with blocked drains and culverts and getting these cleared.
- Vandalism to the valves at the lake in Gledhow Valley and the consequent flooding caused by this.
- The use of planning conditions to prevent flood problems.
- The role of Elected Members and the gathering of public knowledge in problem areas.

- The mapping of gullies across the City and identifying risk areas and planning maintenance as a preventative measure.

The Chair thanked David Sellers for his attendance.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

48 Relationship and Reporting Between Health & Environmental Action Service, Including Environmental Action Teams and Area Committees

The report of the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods provided an outline of how Health & Environmental Action Services operated, with a particular focus on Environmental Action Teams.

It was suggested that in line with other Area Committees, that Environmental Action Team Officers attend Ward Member meetings on a request basis. It was also suggested that the Area Committee should nominate an Environmental Champion who could liaise between the Environmental Action teams and the Area Committee.

Further issues discussed in relation to the report included the following:

- A desire to see proposals on how requests for environmental works are dealt with.
- The balance between reactive and proactive work.
- Setting of priority areas – Members studied the priority based system and summarised services requests as detailed in the report.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the report be noted.
- (2) That Councillor Lobley be appointed as the Environmental Champion for the North East Inner Area Committee
- (3) That Environmental Action Team Officers be requested to attend Ward Member meetings.
- (4) That the Head of Environmental Services be written to with questions raised by members in advance of the next meeting

(Councillors Dowson and Rafique joined the meeting during discussion of this item).

49 Relationship and Reporting Between Streetscene Services and Area Committees

The report of the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods outlined the Streetscene Services function schedule and proposed arrangements that would improve the working relationship between Area Committees, Area Management and Streetscene Services.

Further issues discussed in relation to the report included the following:

- Concern that more input was being put into methodology and administration than frontline services. It was highlighted that it was necessary to provide evidential information to meet national performance indicator requirements.
- How often the Area Committee should receive update reports on Streetscene Services.
- Priorities and resources and how the Area Committee had opportunity to shape mainstream spending in regards to this.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the report be noted and Members be provided with a summary report in relation to issues raised.
- (2) That Councillor Lobley be nominated as Environmental Champion for the North East Inner Area Committee
- (3) That the Head of Environmental Services be written to with questions raised by members in advance of the next meeting

50 Actions and Achievements Report

The report of the East North East Area Manager provided Members with an update on actions and achievements relating to priorities and work of the Area Committee.

Issues discussed in relation to the report included the following:

- The production of a DVD of the Volunteer Thank You Event and how to increase attendance at future events.
- The Moor Allerton Partnership and issues surrounding services previously provided at the Queenshill centre.
- Community work provided by the probation service and a suggestion that they could be involved with clearing paths during snowfalls.
- Work with the Leeds Initiative and the establishment of a Health and Well Being Partnership and appointment of a champion for Health from the Area Committee.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the report be noted.
- (2) That Councillor Lancaster be appointed as the North East Inner Area Committee Champion for Health and Wellbeing.
- (3) That the release of the following amounts from the Wellbeing Budget be released to support the Volunteer Thank You event:
 - (i) £95 for the production of 200 Volunteer Thank You Event DVDs to distribute to community and voluntary groups in the North East Inner Area.

- (ii) £50 for the purchase of a limited release copyright for the DVDs

51 Community Engagement: Ward Action Events Spring 2009

The report of the East North East Area Manger provided Members with a plan for the spring 2009 community engagement events as part of the agreed community engagement strategy. The report presented the format of the engagement events and asked the Area Committee to support the proposals.

The following issues were discussed:

- How to encourage attendance and what incentives could be offered.
- A suggestion that entrance to or use of Leeds City Council facilities could be used as attractions for attendance, possibly through the Leeds Card scheme.
- Preparation for Summer and Autumn events.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted and the proposals for the spring “take action” events in each ward be noted.

52 Well-Being Budget Report

The report of the East North East Area Manager proposed projects/activities to deliver local actions related to agreed themes and outcomes of the Area Delivery Plan. The projects had been discussed at a meeting of the Area Committee’s Member Well-Being Group and their recommendations had been included for noting/and or approval. The latest financial position of the Well-Being (revenue and capital) was also provided.

With respect to the release of funding for festive lights, it was agreed to defer this to the next meeting of the Well-Being Working Group as there was still some confusion over the number of lights and sources of funding.

Further issues discussed included the Burglary reduction project, Area Committee Flyers and Take Action cards.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the release of Wellbeing budget for a Festive Light Programme across the area be deferred until a further meeting of the Wellbeing Member Working Group.
- (2) To note that the Wellbeing Member Working Group will be monitoring the delivery of the Burglary Reduction Project approved at the previous meeting and that a report would be brought back to a future Area Committee to include an analysis of households engaged through the operation.

53 Date and Time of Next Meeting

Monday, 16 March 2009 at 4.00 p.m.