

EAST (OUTER) AREA COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, 24TH OCTOBER, 2006

PRESENT: Councillor T Murray in the Chair

Councillors S Armitage, P Grahame,
P Gruen, A Harrison, W Hyde, J Lewis,
M Lyons, M Phillips, D Schofield and
K Wakefield

In the absence of the Chair, Councillor Parker, it had previously been agreed that Councillor Murray would Chair the meeting.

35 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

36 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Parker and Stephen Boyle, the Area Manager.

37 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. As there were no members of the public present, no issues were raised.

38 Minutes

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the East Outer Area Committee Meeting held on 19th September 2006 be confirmed as a correct record.

39 Matters Arising from the Minutes

Minute No. 31 – Well-Being Budget Update – Small Grants

The Area Management Officer advised Members that they would be provided with information clarifying the criteria for allocating small grants and proposals to improve publicity within the community on the availability of the well-being fund.

Minute No. 32 – Update on the East and South East Leeds Regeneration Initiative – Area Action Plan Proposals

Members expressed their dissatisfaction that an officer from Development was unavailable to attend this meeting of the Area Committee to brief Members more fully on the Area Action Plan proposals. Members were advised that an officer would attend the next meeting.

Minute No. 33 – Community Forum Minutes – Community Service by Offenders

The Chair welcomed Margaret Ambler from the Probation Service to update Members on the pilot Community Service by offenders initiative being carried out in the area and the proposals to extend the scheme to the whole of Leeds.

Ms Ambler outlined the type of work the offenders carried out, risk assessment, skills training and the supervision measures in place. Members were advised that the Probation Service could accept direct referrals from Councillors and would seek advice from the local community, through multi-agency task groups, as to where the priorities were.

Members expressed their approval of the initiative and for the East Leeds pilot scheme to be supported through the WellBeing Budget.

(Note: Councillor Armitage joined the meeting at 4.05pm during discussions of the above item.)

40 Youth Service

The Chief Democratic Services Officer submitted a report which provided information on Youth Service work in the area, the outcomes and achievements in 2006/07 and issues and developments for influence by the Area Committee.

Pat Brooke, Senior Youth Officer within Learning and Leisure, presented the report and responded to Members' queries and comments.

In summary, reference was made to the following issues:

- The Signpost Project – this was welcomed, especially in the villages on the outskirts of Leeds.
- How successful outcomes of the service and achieving value for money were measured.
- The value of partnership working.
- That young people generally joined the activities on a voluntary basis however young people at risk were targeted.
- Publicity for the activities available.
- Concern regarding the allocation of funds to Wards and the need for a more equitable distribution.

In answer to a specific question on the use of football pitches by the Youth Service, Denise Preston, Chief Recreation Officer, who was also at the meeting, advised Members that the marked out pitches should not be used for training as they could be damaged and all football teams using Council

pitches were made aware of this. At Temple Newsam there was plenty of general green space to train on that was not marked out as pitches.

Specific reference was also made by Members to the successful summer programme based at the high school in Garforth. Members wished to personally thank the team who were responsible for running the programme.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the information on Youth Services work outcomes and achievements in the area be noted.
- (b) That continued Well Being financial support be considered by the Area Committee in its programme of spend for 2007/08 enabling a continuance of value added programme enhancement across the area.

41 Recent Flooding in East Leeds - August 2006

The Director of Development submitted a report, following concerns which were raised at the previous meeting of the Area Committee on 19th September 2006. The report detailed the Council's response to recent small-scale flooding in East Leeds in August 2006 in the context of the on-going implementation of improvements by the Water Asset Management Working Group (WAMWG).

The Chair welcomed Stuart Pedder, Group Engineer, Land Drainage from the Development Department, who presented the report and responded to Members' queries and comments.

Members sought reassurance from the officer that the water courses and drainage channels were in a fitter state since the previous floods that had affected the area.

The Group Engineer advised Members of works that had been carried out to remove obstructions and improve capacity. The difficulties of finding a solution to a particular problem culverted watercourse in Garforth, which had many individual riparian owners, were explained and that a partnership approach was being sought to remedy the situation there. Members would also be advised as to whether the planned repair work at Kennerleigh Avenue (referred to in para 3.6 of the report) had been carried out.

The Group Engineer informed Members that for one of the floods, it had been established through the rainfall figures, that this was a 10 year rather than a 100 year event and therefore Yorkshire Water could be asked to review the standard of the sewers that had proved inadequate to cope with the flood water.

Members were also advised that a full-time member of staff was now being employed by the Council to check that Council water courses were free from debris and that this officer also had the power to serve notices on riparian owners to maintain their stretches of the waterways.

RESOLVED – That the report and progress to address flooding in East Leeds, following questions and debate, be noted.

42 Revenue Implications of Capital Schemes

The Director of Corporate Services and the Director of Legal and Democratic Services submitted a joint report following concerns raised at the September meeting of the Area Committee regarding the operation of council procedures in respect of the revenue implications of capital schemes under the control of Area Committees.

Doug Meeson, Chief Officer (Financial Management), Department of Corporate Services and Denise Preston, Chief Recreation Officer, Learning and Leisure were in attendance to present the report and respond to Members' queries and comments.

Members expressed their concern at decisions taken at the Area Committee, only for the sponsoring department to respond that they do not have sufficient revenue to maintain and repair these capital projects.

The Chief Officer (Financial Management) confirmed that in the current year there were no funds centrally for this purpose, but the Council for future years' budgets could decide to have a separate provision for this type of issue, but this proposal would need to be considered against all other pressures and priorities.

Regarding the specific issue of lighting in Manston Park, the Chief Recreation Officer advised Members that there was a national debate on whether it was the right thing to put lighting in Parks as it might mislead members of the public into thinking that this made the area safer to be in, when this was not the case. In Leeds it had not been the practice to encourage people to use Parks after dusk. Members were also advised that funding for parks and green spaces in Leeds was about a third of that received by other Core Cites. This put immense pressure on expenditure budgets and even greater pressure on ensuring that Parks earned enough income to balance its budget.

After much discussion on the wider implications for all Area Committees, it was agreed that the Chief Officer (Financial Management) would submit a report to the next meeting of the Area Committee outlining possible options to resolve this issue.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the report be noted.
- (b) That the Chief Officer (Financial Management) submit a report to the next meeting of the Area Committee as to how Wellbeing capital projects can be supported by Departments in cases where the lesser value revenue implications can not be met from base budgets.

(Note: Councillor J Lewis left the meeting during the consideration of this item.)

43 Outer East Capital Budget 2004-2007

The East Leeds Area Manager submitted a report which requested support from the capital budget 2004-2007 for several projects across the Outer East Management Area. The Appendix attached to the report outlined the capital expenditure by Ward.

The Area Management Officer presented the report and responded to Members' queries and comments.

Members considered the requests for funding in the light of the previous item.

With regard to the specific request for security fencing in Halton Moor/Osmondthorpe, Area Management confirmed that funding from other sources, in particular from the Safer Stronger Communities Fund, was unavailable as it had all been committed for the current financial year, however it could be considered for the next financial year.

Area Management also advised Members that the cost for lighting to Manston Park was likely to be in the region of £34,000.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That £3,334 towards the cost of resurfacing footpaths in Templegate Crescent be approved from the Area Committee Capital Budget.
- (b) That the request for £20,000 from the Area Committee Capital Budget for security fencing to Halton Moor/Osmondthorpe be deferred pending the report/recommendations from the Chief Officer (Financial Management) as referred to in Minute 42 (b) above.
- (c) That the request for financial support for lighting to Manston Park be deferred pending further information on revenue implications/solutions as per (b) above.
- (d) That up to a maximum of £15,000 be approved for the closure of the problem ginnel at Grafton Villas, subject to the results of the current public consultation process.
- (e) That the breakdown of capital expenditure by Ward referred to in appendix A be noted.

44 Well Being Budget 2006/07

The East Leeds Area Manager submitted a report which detailed existing and agreed commitments for 2006/07 and work commissioned against funding streams since the last meeting. Details of small grants received and funded to date were outlined in the appendix to the report.

The Area Management Officer presented the report and advised Members that the cost of the Garforth Arts Festival, as referred to in para 3.3 of the

report, had now increased to £75,000. A full report would be submitted to the December meeting of the Area Committee.

RESOLVED - That it be noted that a total of £135,000 had been committed from this year's budget leaving a balance of £72,000 to be spent through the approved workstream budgets.

45 The Neighbourhood Warden Service in Outer East Leeds

The Area Manager for East Leeds submitted a report which outlined the current Neighbourhood Warden Service in Outer East Leeds. Also included in the report were suggested improvements to the service which were to appoint a senior warden, re-organise the current geographical boundaries covered by some Wardens and a request for funding from the Area Committee to cover one half of one post in order to provide a Warden service in Garforth.

The Area Management Officer presented the report. Also in attendance was Sarn Warbis, Service Development Officer, Neighbourhoods and Housing.

Members raised the following concerns and issues with regard to the proposals, in particular:

- that there should be a minimum of one warden per Ward,
- that this should not be at the expense of reducing the warden service in other areas,
- the validity of the case for a senior warden,
- linking in with Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs),
- the possibility of seeking alternative sources of funding.

On account of these concerns, it was agreed that Officers would report back to the next meeting of the Area Committee with revised proposals on improving the Neighbourhood Warden Service in the Outer East Area.

RESOLVED – That the proposals to expand the Neighbourhood Warden Team in Outer East Leeds be deferred pending an investigation into alternative sources of funding and linkages with complementary resources such as PCSOs.

(Note: Councillor Harrison left the meeting at 5.50pm during the consideration of the above item.)

46 Town & District Centre Regeneration Programme Update

The East Leeds Area Manager submitted a report which updated Members on the current status of the five bids for town and district centre regeneration funding submitted from the Outer East Area.

The Area Management Officer presented the report and advised Members that the Area Management Office would know the following week whether the first three schemes had been approved.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

47 Community Forum Minutes 4th September 2006 - 6th October 2006

The East Leeds Area Manager submitted a report, together with the minutes of the Area Committee Community Forum meetings held between 4th September 2006 and 6th October 2006.

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

- Halton Moor/East Osmondthorpe – 5 September 2006
- Cross Gates – 6 September 2006
- Halton – 7 September 2006

48 Dates and Times of Future Meetings

12th December 2006, 20th February 2007 and 17th April 2007. All at 4.00pm in the Civic Hall, Leeds.

The meeting concluded at 6.05pm.