

WEST (INNER) AREA COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, 14TH APRIL, 2010

- PRESENT:** Councillor N Taggart in the Chair
Councillors D Atkinson, A Lowe and J McKenna
- Co-optees:** Hazel Boutle, Armley Forum
Stephen Longley, Bramley and Stanningley Forum
Morgan Pugh, Armley Forum
- Apologies:** Councillors T Hanley and J Harper

86 Exempt Information - Possible Exclusion of the Press and Public

The Chair drew attention to Agenda Item 17 (Min. No. 101 refers) – Leeds City Credit Union Branch Network. The report included an appendix which contained exempt information relating to the financial and business affairs of the Credit Union, and the Committee would have to decide whether or not to exclude the press and public when that information was considered later in the meeting.

87 Late Items

In accordance with his powers under Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Chair admitted to the agenda, as a late item of urgent business, the minutes of the meeting of the Bramley and Stanningley Community Forum held on 25th March 2010, which had not been available at the time of agenda despatch. It was regarded that these should be dealt with as a late item of urgent business at this meeting, as the next scheduled Area Committee meeting was not until 23rd June 2010 (Minute No.92 refers).

88 Declaration of Interests

The following declarations of personal interest were made:-

Agenda item 17 (Min. No. 101 refers) – Leeds City Credit Union Branch Network – Councillors D Atkinson, A Lowe and J McKenna in their capacity as Credit Union account holders.

Agenda Item 10 (Min. No. 95 refers) – Wellbeing Budget Applications – Application from Raynville Mosaic Arts Project – Councillor A Lowe, in her capacity as a Governor at Raynville Primary School – and application for the Refugee Week Exhibition – Councillor Lowe in her capacity as a member of Pafaras, one of the partner organisations.

Councillors A Lowe, J McKenna and N Taggart and Morgan Pugh also made a general declaration of personal interest in respect of any matters appertaining to West North West Homes ALMO, in their capacities as either an ALMO Director or members of the ALMO Inner West Area Panel.

89 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors T Hanley and J Harper.

90 Open Forum

Two local residents raised concerns regarding the condition of Rodley Park and The Cowie and lack of action by the Parks Department.

The Chair requested the Area Manager to arrange a meeting with the Parks Department, involving himself and the local residents, to discuss the situation and remedial action.

91 Minutes - 17th February 2010

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 17th February 2010 be confirmed as a correct record.

92 Minutes - Community Forum Meetings

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meetings of the Armley Community Forum held on 16th February and 16th March 2010 and the Bramley and Stanningley Community Forum held on 25th March 2010 be received and noted.

93 Children's Services - Area Committee Performance Report

Further to Minute No. 80, 17th February 2010, the Committee re-considered the report of the Director of Children's Services providing an overview of information relating to children and young people in the Committee's area, in a format which it was proposed should form a template for regular future update reports to the Area Committee.

In attendance at the meeting, and responding to Members' queries and comments, were:-

- Chris Edwards, Chief Executive, Education Leeds.
- Paul Bollom, Priority Outcome Commissioner, Children's Services.
- Amanda Jackson, Locality Enabler, Children's Services.

In brief summary, the main areas of discussion were:-

- The presently unsatisfactory nature of the statistical information currently available to the Committee via the Office of National Statistics and other sources on such matters as teenage pregnancies, which was out of date and based on previous Ward boundaries.

The officers outlined the steps which were being taken to improve the statistical information available to Members, and Members should notice an improvement in future reports. More up to date information on the NEET statistics (young people Not in Education, Employment or Training) would be sent separately to Members.

- Performance statistics and other matters in relation to the areas primary and secondary schools. The importance of whole community involvement with schools was emphasised, e.g. mentoring and volunteering from both the local and business communities – say, helping pupils to read and write. It was also agreed to extend an invitation for the head teachers of both local secondary schools to attend a future Area Committee meeting to discuss these matters. It was reported that the Council's Executive Board had recently agreed to commission a study regarding the potential demand for, and merits of, an all-girls high school in the centre of Leeds.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted and the officers thanked for their attendance and the manner in which they have responded to Members' queries and comments.

94 Exclusion of the Press and Public

RESOLVED – That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the application for funding from Friends of Bramley Carnival 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 press and public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information, being information relating to a particular individual, or which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual, which is categorised as exempt information under Paragraph 10.4(1) and (2) of the Council's Access to Information Procedure Rules.

95 Inner West Area Committee Well-Being Fund Update

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods submitted a report updating the Committee regarding its available budget for 2010/11 and inviting the Committee to consider several applications for funding.

RESOLVED –

- a) That the report be received and noted, including the Committee's revenue and capital budget allocations for 2010/11;

- b) That approval be given to establishing a Small Grants Fund (£5,000) and Skips Fund (£1,000) for 2010/11.
- c) That the following decisions be taken in respect of the applications for funding before the Committee tonight for determination :-

CAPITAL

- i) CCTV – Broadleas Roundabout - £23,130 – Approved in principle;

REVENUE

- i) CCTV – Broadleas Roundabout – maintenance - £3,568 – Approved in principle for 5 years, but the Area Committee is strongly of the view that these maintenance costs should be picked up by West North West Homes. Matter to be referred to the ALMO Inner West Area Panel;
- ii) 4 Families Project - £65,000 – Refused;
- iii) Refugee Week Exhibition - £2,220.98 – Approved.

SMALL GRANTS

- i) Friends of Bramley Carnival - £500 – Refused;
- ii) Raynville Mosaic Arts Project - £500 – Approved;
- iii) Interplay – LS12 Film trip to London - £350 – Approved.

d) That the update regarding the Community Centres' Consortium be received and noted, and the £75, 680.32, agreed in principle at the last meeting (Min. No. 72, 17th February 2010), be approved.

- (NB: 1. Councillor D Atkinson left the meeting at 5.57 pm at the commencement of this item.
2. That in respect of the application on behalf of Friends of Bramley Carnival, Councillors A Lowe, J McKenna and N Taggart wished it to be recorded that they all voted in favour of refusing the application.)

96 Pricing and Lettings Policy for Community Centres

RESOLVED – That the proposed pricing and lettings policy for directly managed community centres in the area, as set out in the report of the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods, be approved, with an implementation date of 1st October 2010.

97 Inner West Area Delivery Plan 2008/09 - 2010/11

RESOLVED – That the draft Area Delivery Plan 2010/11 be approved, for submission to the Executive Board.

98 Dates, Times and Venues of Future Meetings

RESOLVED – That the following dates be agreed for meetings of the West Inner Area Committee in the 2010/11 municipal year, all normally to commence at 5.00 pm, venues to be confirmed at a later date:-

23rd June 2010
8th September 2010
20th October 2010
15th December 2010*
16th February 2011
6th April 2011.

*NB. Possibly an a.m. meeting.

99 Deployment of Community Environment Officers and Support Officers within the Committee's Area

RESOLVED – That, initially, the area's Community Environment Officer be deployed in the priority areas identified at Paragraph 3 of the report, the situation to be kept under review at least annually.

100 Exclusion of the Press and Public

RESOLVED – That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following parts of the agenda designated as containing exempt information 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 press and public were present there would be disclosure of to them of exempt information, as follows:-

Agenda item 17 – Leeds City Credit Union Branch Network - Access to Information Procedure Rules 10.4(3) – information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding the information).

101 Leeds City Credit Union Branch Network

The Committee considered a joint report submitted by the Director of City Development and the Chief Customer Services Officer regarding the current operation of the Leeds City Credit Union and its network of branch offices. The report included an appendix containing exempt information relating to the financial and business affairs of the Credit Union.

Members indicated that they were supportive of the Credit Union, and would be prepared to assist financially in order to keep the branch open at the Armley One Stop Centre.

Whilst welcoming the Committee's support, the officers clarified that, at this stage, there was no guarantee that any of the Credit Union branches would be able to be kept open.

RESOLVED – That the Area Committee agrees, in principle, to make a contribution of up to £10,000 to Leeds City Credit Union, specifically in order to maintain a branch at the Armley One Stop Centre.

102 Area Manager's Report

This item was deferred.

103 Inner West Area Delivery Plan 2009/10 - Progress Report: Quarters 3 and 4

This item was deferred.

The meeting concluded at 6:35 pm.