

# Outer North West Area Committee

## Environment & Streetscene Sub Group



Minutes of meeting  
20<sup>th</sup> June 2011  
12.30pm Civic Hall Councillor Anderson's Office

### Present

Cllr Anderson (Chair) – Adel & Wharfedale Member  
Cllr Campbell – Otley & Yeadon Ward Member  
Cllr Cleasby – Horsforth Ward Member  
Cllr Collins – Horsforth Ward Member  
Cllr G Latty – Guiseley & Rawdon Ward Member  
Cllr Wadsworth – Guiseley & Rawdon Ward Member  
Helen Freeman – Head of Environmental Action  
Jason Singh – Locality Manager Environment & Neighbourhoods  
Guy Smithson – Parks & Countryside  
Gerry Burnham – WNW Area Management

### Apologies:

#### 1.0 Introductions

1.1 Cllr Anderson thanked everyone for attending the meeting and introductions were made.

#### 2.0 Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising

2.1 Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as an accurate record.

2.2 From 4.1 – Walkabouts are being arranged between Members and Streetscene Officers.

2.3 From 4.2 – GB has asked Tom Smith to provide a response regarding performance related pay.

#### 3.0 Streetscene Delegation

3.1 Helen Freeman and Jason Singh attended for this item. Cllr Anderson explained that the sub group had asked them to attend the meeting to discuss the strategic direction the new executive wants to go in.

3.2 HF informed of the following:

- It has always been the intention for Area Committees to have delegated responsibility for Environmental Services and there has been significant buy-in.
- The draft SLA has been drawn up with Member involvement. This is not a 'client' process and everyone has a say in how localities are made cleaner.
- Cllr Gruen has been very influential in the process and views this as a 'strategic partnership' between Members and officers. He is keen for Environmental Services to share as much information as possible with Members.

- Cllr Dobson is the new Executive Member for Environment & Licensing and will have a more prominent role moving forward.

3.3 Members raised the following questions / concerns and received the following response (R:)

- Is Outer North West the only area raising concerns or are these citywide?

*R: There have been issues raised in other areas however it was acknowledged that Outer North West is particularly sceptical.*

- Cllr Cleasby questioned the statement that the SLA had been 'drawn up with Member involvement'.

*R: Information had been provided to Area Chairs in advance of the March workshops.*

- Cllr Wadsworth felt that Members have not been informed of what they were getting now.

*R: HF confirmed that details of the WNW budget only came through last week. These are currently being looked at and may require some adjustment however no information is being withheld.*

3.4 JS advised the sub group that Environmental Services are:

- currently looking at resources and what is being delivered on the ground. Due to a lack of historical data this is proving difficult but the service will be in a position to advise what can be delivered from September.
- Cleansing cycles are currently being reviewed and will be adjusted from 7 to 8 day cycles. This will create additional capacity to deal with events, problem hotspots and urgent referrals.
- It was acknowledged that in the past the correct level of supervision has not been there, this has been addressed through the current re structure.
- By 1<sup>st</sup> September the service are confident of presenting what can be delivered and be in a position to commit to a guaranteed level of service.

3.5 There were also discussions around:

- sanctions/penalties if the SLA is not met and whether in the future there will be the option to privatise part or all of the service. HF advised that this was not the current direction. The delegation is not intended as a client / contract relationship but as a delegated responsibility to execute an Executive Board decision.
- how much flexibility there will be in accessing and deploying services and who will decide priorities.
- it is felt the current service is reactive rather than pro-active.
- although changes have been made to the draft SLA none of the suggestions from Outer North West have been taken up.

3.6 The sub group felt that the service should consider a further period of reflection and consider introducing the SLA Sept 2012 rather than 2011. The next Member workshop is in July and the most up to date position will be presented then.

#### **4.0 Ginnels**

4.1 Andy Beattie has issued an email asking Members to provide a 'priority ginnel to be cleansed in their area'. The sub group felt that all ginnels were a priority as they had been neglected in the past due to there only being one ginnel team offering a reactive service.

4.2 HF acknowledged that there was an issue with ginnels across the city and the service was trying to address this. HF encouraged Members to provide a response and emphasised that the request was a starting point and should not be viewed in isolation. The service wants to reach a position of identifying where all ginnels are and understanding the cleansing demands.

4.3 A discussion took place on landownership issues and budget constraints. It was suggested that the service contact Richard Holdsworth as he has a map of ginnels and which identifies land ownership.

#### **5.0 Any Other Business**

5.1 There was no other business.

#### **6.0 Date & Time of Next Meeting**

6.1 Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September 12.30pm, to be confirmed.