

Inner West Area Committee General Purposes Sub Group Monday 15th October – 9.30am – Committee Room 3 Civic Hall

Chair: Cllr McKenna

Present: Cllr Gruen, Cllr Taggart

Officers: Jason Singh (WNW Locality Team), Chris Dickinson, Kate Sibson (WNW Area Support Team)

1 **Welcome and apologies**

1.1 Cllr McKenna welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Cllr Lowe, Cllr Harper and Cllr Hanley

2 **West North West Environmental Locality Team**

2.1 Jason Singh reported on the current work programme of the WNWLT and new initiatives. The main areas of focus currently are New Wortley, leaf clearance and engaging with local residents.

2.2 JS explained that closer working with West North West Homes could be the key to improved cleanliness in priority neighbourhoods. He highlighted a day in Broadleas when Continental landscapes, WNW Estate Caretakers, Parks and Countryside and the WNWLT were all in the area at the same time with similar vehicles and work programmes. JS believes there should be a way of using these joint resources more effectively.

2.3 Conversations are taking place with senior management at WNW about identifying roles and responsibilities of the estate caretaking team and the WNW Locality Team's litter pickers, litter bin emptying vehicles and enforcement officers. There is some confusion by WNW neighbourhood management officers about who delivers what services and this should be addressed. JS would like to engage more with both managers and frontline staff to identify the priority streets in each neighbourhood and look at ways of working more efficiently by using ALMO and Council teams as a combined resource. For example, the litter bin team could litter pick around shopping parades, WNW officers could do a waste in gardens letter to a private household, and the estate caretakers could cut back an overgrown ginnel.

2.4 Members welcomed this move towards more integrated services, and proposed having a more formal pilot area where this could be explored. JS is happy to take this forward, but emphasised he would need help to co-ordinate such a project as he has a small management resource with little capacity for anything outside normal service delivery.

2.5 CD agreed to organise a meeting with JS, Parks & Countryside, West North West Homes and the grounds maintenance contract manager to look at organising a pilot scheme to share resources and co-ordinate work programmes in one neighbourhood. Members agreed that Broadleas should be put forward as the pilot area. CD

2.6 Everyone agreed residents should be more involved in targeting resources to hotspot areas, and robust processes should be in place to ensure referrals are acted on quickly. Cllr Gruen highlighted the importance of regular and uniform monitoring.

2.7 JS outlined the efforts his team is making to engage more with local residents, and results so far are positive after several meetings and walkabouts across the inner West.

2.8 A major leaf clearing programme is underway, and the service is using the Continental's

grounds maintenance staff rather than hiring agency workers as before. Mechanical sweeping has been put on hold for leaf clearance, and Members are asked to pass on any referrals from the public, although only locations that are considered dangerous will get priority action. These include schools, GP surgeries and streets with a high footfall.

- 2.9 Cllr McKenna reported he was very happy with the WNWLT service in particular the way referrals are dealt with quickly.

3 **Purpose of the Sub Group**

- 3.1 CD outlined the two main purposes of the sub group:

- 1) To allow Members to have more time to oversee current and future delegated services
- 2) To allow Members to focus on key local priorities with the relevant service managers outside of Area Committee meetings.

- 3.2 The AST will arrange a year's meetings in advance and it is suggested they should be held every two months between Committee meetings. Members are asked to suggest future agenda items. KS

4 **Well-being commissioning**

- 4.1 KS presented a discussion paper asking Members to agree the process of allocating next year's Well-being budget. The following points were agreed:

- To have an open application round from December to February where past recipients and local organisations would be informed of how to apply for Well-being grants
- That Members are encouraged to identify priority themes around which projects could be developed.
- Match funding and added value will be important considerations for projects to demonstrate
- Area Support Team officers will be asked to appraise all projects (possibly against a scoring matrix)
- That the budget is likely to be split between wards, but projects covering more than one ward should be encouraged
- Most projects will not receive more than £10,000

- 4.2 Further discussion is required about how the March Members' Well-being workshop will be organised. There will be an opportunity for Members to meet in ward groups beforehand, but all projects will be considered at a joint meeting, the date of which will be agreed in the next few weeks.

5 **Neighbourhoods Improvement Programme**

- 5.1 CD updated Members on the progress of the programme and the outcome of the first Neighbourhoods Improvement Board meeting. It is expected that 'place' issues like community safety and the environment will be dealt with through existing structures like Tasking, but that the 'people' agenda of worklessness, health and education will require a more strategic focus. These issues require a long term commitment, and Members expressed concern that outcomes may only become clear in several years time. CD highlighted that further work was needed to clarify how performance will be monitored.

- 5.2 The role of residents on the Board was discussed. Members were concerned that some residents could be put off by the strategic nature of discussions at the Board. CD explained that he wants to support residents to get involved, and that some may feel more comfortable at the Neighbourhood Partnerships where usual residents' priorities like grounds maintenance or anti-social behaviour could be addressed.

6 **Future agenda items**

- 6.1 Members asked that First Bus Group, Metro and Cllr J Lewis be invited to the meeting to discuss public transport, in particular cuts to bus services, ticketing and rail services.

6.2 Members also asked that an officer from Highways attend to discuss gritting and winter maintenance.

7 Date and time of next meeting

7.1 Monday 10th December, Labour Group Office meeting room, Civic Hall
Area Committee Co-Opted members will be invited to attend.

8 Proposed future meeting dates

8.1 Monday 4th February – Sub Group and presentations from key Well-being applicants
Monday 25th February – Well-being workshop
Monday 15th April
Monday 10th June