

NORTH WEST (INNER) AREA COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, 11TH APRIL, 2013

PRESENT: Councillor J Akhtar in the Chair

Councillors M Hamilton, J Walker,
N Walshaw, C Towler, G Harper, B Atha,
J Illingworth, L Yeadon, J Bentley,
S Bentley and J Chapman

In Attendance

Officers:

Steve Walker – Children’s Services
Jancis Andrew – Children’s Services
Heather Pinches – Customer Access and Performance
Lynne Hamshaw – West North West Homes
Jane Maxwell – West North West Area Leader
Stuart Byrne – West North West Area Support Team
John Grieve – Governance Services

Members of the Public

J Kemp – West Park Residents Association
D Kemp – West Park Residents Association
D Salinger – Hyde Park Resident
Scott Nicholson – Local Resident
Sue Buckle – (SHCA) (HPOL)
Gwynneth Harrup – Burley Lodge Centre
Ben Fisher – Leeds University Union
Howard Eaglestone – Hyde Park Resident
D Paley-Smith – Local Resident
Josie Green – NHPNA
Tony Green – NHPNA
Tony Davey-Smith – NHPNA
Martyn Moakes – Weetwood Residents Association
Amanda Jackson – Leeds University
John Griffiths – A660 Joint Council
Isobel Sidebottom – NHPNA
Chris Webb – NHPNA
Christopher Todd – Local Resident
Michele Todd – Local Resident
Marian Charlton – Interested party

72 Late Items

There were no late items

73 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest

74 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

75 Open Forum

- (i) Proposed Street Party Eberston Place, Leeds 6 – Members heard representations from Mr Howard Eaglestone, a Hyde Park resident who was concerned about proposals to hold a street party at Eberston Place, Leeds 6 which would result in noise/ nuisance to the detriment of local residents. Mr Eaglestone said that he had contacted the appropriate authorities; West Yorkshire Police and the Licensing Authority in order to make known his objections; but had been advised that because the event had not been held previously, there was no past history and therefore there were no grounds for objection. Mr Eaglestone suggested that such a situation was nonsense and made the Licensing regulations unfit for purpose.

In offering comment Councillor Hamilton said that if national legislation was at fault, the appropriate Minister should be made aware of the anomaly.

It was reported that the event organiser had submitted a road closure application to which 7 objections had already been received. Inquiries were also being made as to whether the event could be stopped on the grounds of public disorder.

Sue Buckle (SHCA) said she was aware that some dialogue had taken place with the event organiser.

In drawing the discussion to conclusion the Chair said it was important that all channels of communication be explored

RESOLVED –

- (a) To support Hyde Park residents in objecting to the proposed street party event
- (b) That the Chair be requested to write to the Minister responsible, requesting a review of the legislation dealing with Temporary Event Notices making it possible to receive objections to a TEN which had no previous history

(ii) New Generation Transport – Members heard representations from Mr Tony Green, Chair of the North Hyde Park Neighbourhood Association and the A660 Joint Council who expressed concerns about the proposed New Generation Transport scheme, in particular:

- Did the proposed scheme offer value for money
- A substantial amount of the costs would be paid by Leeds Council –Tax payers
- There were some environmental advantages but at a cost of degradation of an attractive townscape
- The new trolleybus system would not be up and running until 2020
- Congestion along A660 was seasonal and at a peak when students were in residence
- The student population was shifting from the Headingley area to other part of the city, the demand for such a system was now questionable
- How many Compulsory Purchase Orders would be required
- The North West (Outer) Area Committee had already rejected the scheme
- The Committee's views on NGT

Speaking in support of the scheme Mr David Salinger, Headingley resident said that the introduction of the trolleybus scheme would alleviate congestion, reduce journey times and bring substantial Government funding to the City.

Mr Bill McKinnon, Hyde Park resident, expressed concern about the demolition of shops at Hyde Park corner and the loss of mature trees along the route. It was a substantial amount of money to save ten minutes journey time, he suggested.

Members also joined in the discussion, some in favour of the proposal, others expressing doubts.

Councillor Hamilton suggested that many interested parties had received differing levels of information; some had seen substantial evidence, others not so much. Councillor Hamilton was of the opinion that there was a real possibility that the planning application for the scheme would be referred to a Public Inquiry where the application would be looked at in forensic detail and unanswered questions would be addressed.

In drawing the discussion to a conclusion the Chair said there was a need for further discussion about the scheme which should take place in the public arena.

(iii) New Planning Application - Former Leeds Girls High School field, sports hall and swimming pool site at Victoria Road/ Chestnut Avenue, Leeds 6 – Members heard representations from Sue Buckle (Hyde Park Olympic Legacy Action Group) (HPOL) who was seeking the support of the Committee in objecting to a new planning application for development on the former Leeds Girls High School site. It was reported that a similar application for the same site had recently been withdrawn following a large number of objections. Sue Buckle urged Members to become involved and oppose the new application.

In offering comment Councillor Illingworth suggested that the assistance of “Sport England” be obtained, with a view to exploring the possibility of Sport England purchasing the site.

(Councillors Hamilton and Walshaw did not participate in the discussion on this item as Members of City Plans Panel who may determine the application)

RESOLVED –

- (a) To support the Hyde Park Olympic Legacy Action Group in objecting to the Planning Application.
- (b) That Officers be requested to write to Sport England, on behalf of this Committee seeking their support in objecting to the proposed development and requesting they explore the possibility of purchasing the site.

76 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the previous meetings held on 21st February 2013 and 7th March 2013 were accepted as a true and correct record.

77 Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting

Members considered a report by the West North West Area Support Team which identified a number of issues which required further action following the last meeting of the Area Committee.

RESOLVED – To note the progress and outcomes of the issues identified in the submitted report.

78 Area Chairs Forum

The minutes of the Area Chair’s Forum held on 9th January 2013 were received and noted.

79 Children's Services Area Committee Update Report

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report which provided a six monthly update on the work of Children's Services in the North West (Inner) Area.

The report set out a summary of performance at Area Committee level with a broader summary of city level performance. The report built on previous reports with additional local context and tracking of local indicators. It was reported that the majority of education results were presented in the report, including tables of headline results for all Leeds schools and links to additional information.

The following appendices accompanied the report:

- Performance data for North West (Inner) Area
- Individual School Foundation Stage and Key Stage 2 Results 2012
- Individual School Key Stage 4 Results 2012
- Clusters – Member Leads: Cluster Chair's: Cluster Managers; LAPS

Steve Walker, Deputy Director of Children's Services and Jancis Andrew, Area Head of Targeted Services, Children's Services presented the report and responded to Members queries and comments.

Detailed discussion ensued on the contents of the report and appendices which included:

- Child Friendly Leeds
- New ways of working
- Delivery of service at local level (Cluster)
- Development of locality, targeted and early support services – Intensive family support
- Ofsted Inspections
- The increase in the number of children on Child Protection Plans

Referring to the Ofsted Inspections for Children's Homes and that recently one home had been rated as "outstanding" Councillor S Bentley suggested that this was wonderful achievement and that all staff involved should be congratulated.

RESOLVED –

- (i) That the contents of the report be noted and welcomed
- (ii) That the Chair, on behalf of the Committee be requested to write to the Director of Children's Services congratulating him and all those staff involved in a recent Ofsted inspection which resulted in a Children's Home achieving the rating of "Outstanding"

80 Development of Area Lead Role

The Assistant Chief Executive (Customer Access and Performance) submitted a report which sets out initial proposals for the implementation of an area lead role following the review of area working in 2012. It was reported that the role was seen as crucial in providing a local “lead” perspective on various issues and in driving democratic accountability by providing area committee based leadership on key issues.

The report to clarify the role of the area lead was submitted for Members input, shaping and feedback with a view to introducing the revised roles in the new Municipal year.

Heather Pinchers, Executive Officer, Performance Management, presented the report and responded to Members’ queries and comments.

Discussion ensued on the contents of the report together with the circulated appendices which included:

- Defining the Area Lead Role
- Training and support
- Enable Partnership working
- Assist in Service delivery

In offering comment Councillor Walshaw suggested that the Area Lead Role was a big improvement on the previous Champions role.

Councillor Yeadon suggested that further alignment of the area lead was required in terms of Adult Social Care/ Public Health.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the role of the Area Lead be welcomed
- (ii) That the feedback provided by Members be used to shape the role of the Area Lead due for implementation in the new Municipal year

81 West North West Homes Leeds - Involvement with Area Committees

West North West Homes submitted a report which outlined their involvement in the Area Committee process and sought Members views in exploring ways of making their involvement as meaningful and productive as possible.

An Appendix providing details of Estate Grading accompanied the report.

Lynne Hamshaw, Neighbourhood Performance Manager, West North West Homes, presented the report and responded to Members’ queries and comments.

Discussion ensued on the contents of the report together with the circulated appendices which included:

- Partnership working
- Crime prevention partnership working
- Neighbourhood caretaking – Apprentices Scheme
- Estate inspections and grading's
- Community engagement

Commenting on Partnership Working, Councillor Illingworth suggested that litter removal was an ideal issue for Partnership Working. Referring to Community Groups, Councillor Illingworth put forward the idea of funding such groups to carry out work in the area but suggested that further thought would be required to measure the work done.

Councillor Chapman referring to Estate Inspections and Grading's said that Beevers Court on the Iverson's estate was the subject of numerous complaints suggesting that the grading of "Good" was not a true reflection.

In responding Mrs Hamshaw suggested that the inspection was carried out at a time when there were few complaints, had the inspection being undertaken at a different time the result of the grading may have been different.

RESOLVED –

- (i) That the contents of the report be noted
- (ii) That a further update report be brought back to this Committee in 6 months' time (Autumn 2013)

82 Wellbeing Fund 2012- 13 - Update Report

The Assistant Chief Executive (Customer Access and Performance) submitted a report which provided an update on the budget position for the Wellbeing Fund for 2012/13 and highlighted those projects agreed for support from the Wellbeing Fund for 2013/14.

The report also set out the current position of the Small Grants and Skip pots and those Small Grants and skips that had been approved since the last meeting.

Stuart Byrne, West North West Area Support Team, presented the report and responded to Members' queries and comments.

Discussion ensued on the contents of the report together with the circulated appendices which included:

- The rolling forward of the remaining Small Grants and Skips budget into the 2013/14 budget (Small Grants £314 and Skip Hire £419)

RESOLVED –

- (i) To note the current budget position for the Wellbeing Fund for 2012/13 as set out in Appendix 1 of the submitted report.
- (ii) To note those projects agreed for support from the Wellbeing Fund for 2013/14 as described in Appendix 2.
- (iii) To note the current position of the Small Grants and Skips pots and those Small Grants and skips that had been approved since the last meeting.
- (iv) That approval be given to the rolling forward of the remaining Small Grants and Skips budgets for 2012/13 into the Small Grants and Skips budgets for 2013/14.

83 Dates, Times and Venues of Area Committee Meetings 2013/14

The Chief Officer (Democratic and Central Services) submitted a report seeking the Area Committee's formal approval of the meeting schedule for the 2013/14 Municipal year.

The Area Committee were also requested to give consideration as to whether they wished to continue with the Committee's current meeting venue arrangements or whether they would seek to review such arrangements.

John Grieve, Governance Services, presented the report and responded to Members queries and comments.

In the discussion that ensued Members were of the opinion that meetings held in the Community encouraged greater public attendance.

RESOLVED – That the following dates be approved for meetings of the North West (Inner) Area Committee for the 2013/14 Municipal year (Start time 7.00pm) the venues for the meetings to be arranged by the Area Leader in consultation with Members:-

27th June 2013
19th September 2013
24th October 2013
12th December 2013
13th February 2014
27th March 2014

84 Date and Time of Next Meeting

RESOLVED – To note that the next meeting will take place on Thursday 16th May 2013 at 2.00pm in the Civic Hall, Leeds.