

SOUTH (INNER) AREA COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, 15TH MAY, 2013

PRESENT: Councillor A Gabriel in the Chair

Councillors J Blake, D Congreve, P Davey,
K Groves, M Iqbal, E Nash, A Ogilvie and
P Truswell

72 Appeals Against Refusal of Inspection of Documents

There were no appeals against the refusal of inspection of documents.

73 Exempt Information - Possible Exclusion of the Press and Public

There were no resolutions to exclude the public.

74 Late Items

There were no late items submitted to the agenda.

75 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary and Other Interests'

There were no declarations made.

76 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

77 Minutes - 20th March 2013

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 20th March 2013 be approved as a correct record.

78 Open Forum

In accordance with Paragraphs 6.24 and 6.25 of the Area Committee Procedure Rules, the Chair allowed a period of up to 10 minutes for members of the public to make representations or ask questions on matters within the terms of reference of the Area Committee.

A member of the public asked about progress in saving Middleton Park Golf Course from closure. Members confirmed that work was on going to develop a business plan to keep the course open which included the introduction of refreshment facilities. It was confirmed that there will be a meeting in the next week to discuss the business plan. Members stressed the importance that more people use the course in order for it to become viable. Furthermore it was considered that other councillors should be included in discussions as although this is in Middleton Park it is a facility for all of South Leeds.

A member of the public enquired about progress on the housing PFI scheme within South Inner Leeds. Members confirmed there was no further news with regards to this.

79 Election of Area Committee Chair for the 2013/2014 Municipal Year

The Chief Officer (Democratic and Central Services) submitted a report on the election of Area Committee Chair for the 2013/14 municipal year.

Appended to the report was a copy of Paragraph 5 of the Area Committee Procedure Rules which dealt with the process by which Chairs for Area Committees were elected (Appendix 1 refers).

It was reported that one nomination had been received for Area Committee Chair on behalf of Councillor A Gabriel.

RESOLVED-

- (a) That the contents of the report and appendices be noted; and
- (b) That Councillor Angela Gabriel be elected as Chair for the 2013/2014 Municipal Year.

80 South Leeds Green Infrastructure Update

The Parks and Countryside service submitted a report providing an update to the Committee on the important green spaces in Inner South Leeds.

Glen Gorner - Natural Environment Manager (City Development) was in attendance to answer Members' questions and present the submitted report.

Members commented on the need for priority to be given to the South Inner area specifically in relation to estates with little or no trees.

Also considered was the funding streams to help continue the work on the green infrastructure and the partnerships that contribute to improvements made. It was viewed important by Members that deprived areas be targeted first.

Members discussed the career opportunities which exist in horticulture and asked that work be continued to get children interested in this field of work.

At this point Members were informed about the management of the woodland and how income is generated from companies wishing to collect firewood. In exchange these companies also undertake improvement to woodland under the direction of the Parks and Countryside Service.

Discussion moved to the need for the right trees to be planted in the right places and that often this is not achieved with cheaper inappropriate species planted. Members considered that improved co-operation between Parks and Countryside and Planning Services was required to get this aspect of tree planting correct.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the Committee note the contents of the report; and
- (b) That the Area Support Team contact Martin Farrington (Director of City Development) to highlight the Committee's concern that the appropriate trees are planted in the right places when developments are proposed in Leeds.

81 A Summary Of Key Work

The Area Leader submitted a report which provided brief details of the range of activities with which the Area Support Team are engaged based on the Area Committee Business Plan priorities, that are not addressed in greater detail elsewhere on this agenda. It provided opportunities for further questioning or the opportunity to request a more detailed report on a particular issue.

The Committee were provided with updates from the following Sub Group Chairs:

Children's and Young People Sub Group

The Committee were informed that the Sub Group would be meeting on the 10th June 2013.

Inner South Environmental Sub Group

The Committee were informed that the green corridor had been discussed as had street cleaning and the local environment. Members were informed that the timetable and the development of the SLA3 had been fully discussed. Further, it was highlighted that the re-configuration of services should also result in extra resources.

Crime and Grime Partnership

The Group has begun looking at child exploitation. In terms of burglary, an action plan is being constructed which will be available in time for the next meeting of the Area Committee.

South East Health and Wellbeing Partnership

It was highlighted that there are high levels of smokers in Belle Isle and that in response, a new smoking cessation clinic was opened on May 3rd at Belle Isle Family Centre. The work on understanding and tackling obesity was mentioned to the Committee as an important area. The Committee were informed that the partnership is aiming to become more focused in its work by targeting specific issues.

Members discussed the International Day for Older Persons and the possibility of the Committee supporting this event. Members also considered funding an event to coincide with the 2013 celebrations.

The Committee received an update on the use of Public Health funding to support communities around Welfare Reform. Specifically, a Financial Fitness scheme and an IT Hub at Cottingley Towers were planned. The Committee heard from two officers representing West Yorkshire Trading Standards who highlighted the range of issues covered by the Financial Fitness scheme and the type of frauds which are prevalent at the moment and the workshops they provide to help people understand types of frauds and the rights they have as consumers. The programme also seeks to address wider money management issues. A detailed programme of workshops would be shared with Councillors before implementation. The Committee's support for the work undertaken was requested.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the contents of the submitted report be noted;
- (b) That in principal the Committee support the ring fencing of £1,500 for an event to coincide with the International Day for Older Persons; and
- (c) That the Committee support the programme to be delivered by West Yorkshire Trading Standards in South Inner area and looks forward to receiving details of proposed workshops.

82 Wellbeing Report May 2013

The Area Officer presented a report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Customer Access and Performance). The report sought to provide:

1. Confirmation of the 2012/13 carry forward figure and 2013/14 revenue allocation.
2. An update on both the revenue and capital elements of the Wellbeing budget.
3. Details of revenue funding for consideration and approval
4. Details of revenue projects agreed to date (as shown at Table 1)
5. Members are also asked to note the current position of the Small Grants Budget.

Member requested that the money granted for Children's Services be brought back to the Committee for review on a regular basis. Further that the activities funding to be delegated to the Area Committee for young people should be should be considered by the Committee at its next meeting on 19th June 2013.

Members also commented that a greater focus should be made to target the sections of the community not receiving any money at all.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the contents of the submitted report be noted;
- (b) That the position of the Wellbeing Budget, as set out at paragraph 3.0 of the submitted report, be noted;
- (c) That the ring fencing arrangements, as proposed within paragraph 3.1.5 of the submitted report, be approved;
- (d) That the Wellbeing revenue projects already agreed as listed in Table 1 attached to the report be noted;

- (e) That the Small Grants Position detailed in paragraph 6.0 of the report be noted; and
- (f) That the money delegated for Children's Services be brought to the Committee for consideration at its meeting on 19th June 2013.

83 Date, Time and Venue of the Next Meeting

6pm Wednesday 19th June 2013. St Mathews Community Centre , St Mathews Street, Leeds, LS11 9NR.