

**SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL**

**North East Community Assembly**

**Meeting held 30 January 2013**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Peter Price (Chair), Shelia Constance, Tony Damms, Jackie Drayton, Ibrar Hussain, Talib Hussain, Alan Law, Sioned-Mair Richards, Peter Rippon and Chris Weldon

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**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Leigh Bramall and Gill Furniss.

**2. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

2.1 No items were identified where resolutions may be made to exclude the public and press.

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

3.1 There were no declarations of interest.

**4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS**

**4.1 Petitions**

There were no petitions presented to the Assembly.

**4.2 Public Questions**

Responses were provided to public questions as follows:-

**Cold Calling**

Inspector Simon Leake, South Yorkshire Police, stated that the Police could assist in the setting up of cold calling zones in conjunction with the Council's Trading Standards Service. He asked the questioner to leave their contact details so that a Police Community Support Officer could contact them with a view to setting up such a zone in the Sandstone Avenue area.

**Litter in the Burngreave Ward**

Councillor Ibrar Hussain reported that the Ward Councillors had undertaken a walkabout of the area with representatives from Amey and had formed a task group to look at the issues raised in relation to street cleaning and litter. The thirteen week cycle of cleaning was being reviewed and a meeting was to take place the following day to consider how the situation in the Burngreave Ward could be improved. He would discuss this further with the questioner after the meeting. Councillor Jackie Drayton highlighted the need for changing people's attitudes and education in relation to dropping litter and referred to the

work being undertaken with schools. She encouraged people to ring up and report any issues and indicated that cameras could be used in known litter hotspots.

*Missed Refuse and Recycling Collections*

Councillor Ibrar Hussain stated that he would liaise with the Cabinet Member in respect of reports of missed refuse and recycling collections in the Assembly area, in his capacity as assistant to the Cabinet Member for Environment, Recycling and Streetscene.

*Community Assemblies*

The Chair, Councillor Peter Price, indicated that proposals were being considered to replace the Community Assemblies with a more Ward based structure, with a small amount of funding being available for each Ward and staff being centrally based. It was proposed that the Partner Panels would continue to have responsibility for cross Ward issues. He added that these measures were driven by the need to make budget savings but no firm decisions had yet been made as to how they would work in practice. It was also proposed that there would be some devolved highways budget and that schemes such as the 20mph Zones would still proceed. Any decisions on a restructure would have to be agreed by full Council. A further round of consultation was to be held and it was possible that structures may differ from area to area as different communities had different requirements. Councillor Jackie Drayton highlighted the need for the Council to fulfil its statutory duties, which were those imposed by legislation. In conclusion, the Chair added that Members would continue to work across Ward boundaries.

*Tipping and Litter on Wincobank Lane*

The Chair indicated that consideration would be given to the installation of a mobile camera to identify or deter those tipping or dropping litter at the identified location on Wincobank Lane.

**5. CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR IN NORTH EAST SHEFFIELD**

5.1 Inspector Simon Leake, South Yorkshire Police, reported on Police activity in the North East area, making particular reference to growth in staffing, the focus on new demands and the action taken upon priorities/issues raised. He further provided details of Police activity in each of the four Wards in the area and work which had taken place across the whole area.

5.2 Responses were provided to questions as follows:-

- Inspector Leake indicated that he would look into reports of an armed robbery having taken place in the Grimesthorpe area.
- Inspector Leake explained that he had spent half a day with the recently elected Police and Crime Commissioner and had used this to outline priority areas for action. Councillor Jackie Drayton added that the

Commissioner had attended the Community Day in Burngreave on the previous Saturday and Councillor Ibrar Hussain stated that the Commissioner was to attend the Fir Vale Partners and Communities Together meeting in March 2013.

- Inspector Leake stated that the Police would approach young people who were not in school during normal school hours and Councillor Jackie Drayton indicated that some excluded pupils may be being educated by an alternative provider who may not be providing the full required hours. She asked the questioner to leave their contact details with her so that she could follow this up. Lisa Casey, Safer Neighbourhood Officer, explained that she provided a link between the Police and Partner organisations and indicated that young people who were not at school were monitored in relation to anti-social behaviour and that all family aspects were taken account of.
- Police Community Support Officer, Shaun Davis, explained that each young person had an opportunity to attend a Crucial Crew event, the object of which was to increase their awareness of crime and anti-social behaviour and road safety and included contributions from the Fire and Rescue Service and other partners.

5.3 The Assembly thanked Inspector Simon Leake for his contribution to the meeting and noted the information reported and officer responses.

## **6. WELFARE REFORMS**

6.1 Chris Walker, Pitsmoor Citizens' Advice Bureau gave a presentation on the changes to the Welfare Benefits System introduced by the Welfare Reform Act 2012 and issues surrounding this. The presentation referred to the case for change, identified who was affected and provided a time line of the early changes. Information was also provided on the benefit cap, bedroom tax, Council tax support and the Social Fund "Local Assistance Scheme". The presentation also included the main changes to Means-Tested Benefits, which came under the new heading of Universal Credit, and the Disability Living Allowance, which would be known as the Personal Independence Payment. Those who might be worse off under this new system were also identified. In conclusion, details of the Advice Sheffield Assessment Line were provided for anyone having any queries on the new system.

6.2 Responses were provided to questions as follows:-

- There did not appear to be any provision for an interim payment to take account of the fact that monthly payments were to be paid in arrears.
- A document summarising the main changes was available at the meeting.
- In relation to claims having to be made online, attempts were being made locally to arrange the provision of computers and support, but it was not known whether the Government would put anything in place.

- The amount available for the equivalent of Crisis Loans was cash limited and could run out towards the end of the year.
- It was felt that the imposition of a bedroom tax could have an effect on community stability.
- Telephone calls on the Advice Sheffield Assessment Line cost only slightly more than a landline and could ultimately be a good investment.
- The State Earnings Related Pension Scheme would not continue under the new regime, but those entitled to receive payments from it would continue to do so.
- The single person's Council tax reduction of 25% would continue.

6.3 The Assembly thanked Chris Walker for his presentation and noted the information and responses provided.

## **EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS DECISION**

### **7. DISCRETIONARY BUDGET 2012/13**

7.1 The Community Assembly Manager submitted a report containing proposals to reallocate the under spend from various projects into an Assembly wide Rapid Response pot.

7.2 **RESOLVED:** That the North East Community Assembly:-

- (a) delegates authority to the North East Community Assembly Manager, in consultation with the Chair, to agree the utilisation of any under spend from the agreed allocations shown in the report, in line with the priorities set out in the North East Assembly Community Plan; and
- (b) confirms the authority of the Director of Community Services, in consultation with the Director of Legal Services, to agree the terms on which all funding referred to in the report is made available and to enter into such funding agreements with recipients of the funding and any other related agreements or arrangements, and on such terms, that she considers appropriate.

### **7.3 Reasons for Decision**

Granting delegated authority to the Assembly Manager, in consultation with the Chair of the Community Assembly, to allocate unspent funding from the Assembly's Discretionary Budget will help ensure that the maximum use is made of the available funding in fulfilment of the priorities set out in the North East Assembly Community Plan, which have been identified through

consultation with local residents, groups and partners.

#### **7.4 Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

Keeping Discretionary Budget allocations split by Ward and theme was considered, but it was anticipated that this could restrict the Assembly from funding a worthwhile project before year-end while funding was still available under a different theme or Ward.

### **8. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

- 8.1 The minutes of the meeting of the Assembly held on 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2012 were approved as a correct record.

### **9. COMMUNITY ASSEMBLY TEAM**

- 9.1 The Chair, Councillor Peter Price, wished to place on record the Assembly's thanks and appreciation to Alison Rayner, Community Assembly Manager, Hannah Isherwood, Assembly Officer and Jenny Willert, Team Support Officer for all their work and dedication in supporting the Assembly and the local communities, often beyond the call of duty. He added that the Assembly owed them a huge debt of gratitude and wished them well for the future.

### **10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

- 10.1 The Assembly noted that its next meeting would be held on Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2013 at 6.00 p.m. at the Shirecliffe Community Centre.

(Note: The minutes are subject to approval at a future meeting)