

**AREA COMMITTEE: WEST LUTON**

**CHALLNEY, LEAGRAVE & LEWSEY WARDS**

**DATE: TUESDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2010**

**SUBJECT: AREA REPORT**

**REPORT BY: HEAD OF LOCAL DEMOCRACY**

**CONTACT OFFICER: GARY J. ROBERTS 01582 546985**

**IMPLICATIONS:**

**LEGAL**

**COMMUNITY SAFETY**

**EQUALITIES**

**ENVIRONMENT**

**FINANCIAL**

**CONSULTATIONS**

**STAFFING**

**OTHER**

**WARDS AFFECTED: CHALLNEY, LEAGRAVE & LEWSEY WARDS**

**PURPOSE**

1. To bring before the committee an update on the issues that were raised following the last Area Committee held on the 13<sup>th</sup> October 2009

**RECOMMENDATION (S)**

2. The West Luton Area Committee is recommended to note the report and make recommendations on further action where required.

**BACKGROUND**

3. This report encapsulates the progress of the area committee since the implementation of the initiative in October 2001. In addition it includes information on projects and activities supported by the committee and following liaison and mediation with both internal and external service areas, pursues the concerns raised by both the local community and Members of the council.

## **REPORT**

4. Members of the public who appear on the current database were informed of this meeting by post on the 5<sup>th</sup> January 2010 and publicity for this cycle of meetings appeared in the September edition of Lutonline, the Luton & Dunstable Gazette on the 23<sup>rd</sup> December and 6<sup>th</sup> January 2010 and the Luton News and Herald & Post during week commencing the 4<sup>th</sup> January 2010. Additionally, posters in keeping with the new style advert and corporate approach to area committees were also dispatched to every General Practitioner, Dental Practice, Chiropodists, Chiropractors, Educational establishment, Library, Sports Centre, Community & Youth Centre, Day Centre, Places of Worship and Sheltered Housing provision, across the borough. The information gave dates for every Area Committee and was then followed up with specific information about the Area Committee, relevant to that area.
5. The Area Committee web site is regularly updated and can be accessed on [www.luton.gov.uk/areacommittees](http://www.luton.gov.uk/areacommittees)

## **COMMUNICATION**

6. I would like to remind the area committee that the area committee web pages on [www.luton.gov.uk/areacommittees](http://www.luton.gov.uk/areacommittees) are regularly updated and members of the public can access all of the following on these pages:-
  - Information – What are area committees? What are ward forums?
  - Dates of all meetings
  - Dates and information of all area tours
  - Ward Forum issues/updates
  - Agendas
  - Minutes
  - Reports
  - Area project proposal form

## **AREA COMMITTEE ATTENDANCES**

7. The following are up to date attendances at the West Luton Area Committee for the period March 2008 to October 2009

Area Committee cycle	March 2008	May & June 2008	September & October 2008	January 2009	March 2009	July 2009	October
West Luton	59	72	64	57	65	92	70

## **AREA PROJECTS**

8. There are two applications for Members to consider at the meeting this evening.

<b>Project Number</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Cost of project</b>	<b>Amount requested</b>
LW 362  Previously before this area committee on the 13/10/09	<b><u>Black Writers Production</u></b> Performing Arts Project that will enable people both adults and young people to develop leadership within an organisational context, benefit black and African Caribbean people, giving them greater access to train in dance, drama education around African and Caribbean literature.	£7,000	£1,500
LW 374	<b><u>Lewsey Farm Learning Centre</u></b> The Trust need a temporary bid Writer urgently to work towards writing bids and application forms in order facilitate the Trust's objectives and also accomplish the additional demand among the unemployed for skills based courses in Lewsey area. The main duty of the bid Writer to find funding opportunities for training.  The key aims and objectives of the Trust are to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•support the further enhancement of skills levels amongst local people</li> <li>•provide employment opportunities for local people through training</li> <li>•raise educational standards and the quality of life for Lewsey</li> <li>•residents and surrounding areas</li> <li>•create a positive impact on the local economy</li> </ul>	£1,500	£1,500

## **BUDGET UPDATE**

9. The following table shows the budget for the West Luton Area Committee as at the 26<sup>th</sup> January 2010.

<b><u>West Luton</u></b>		
<b>Challney, Leagrave &amp; Lewsey Wards</b>		
<b>Balance as at 13<sup>th</sup> October 2009</b>		<b>£4,500.00</b>
<b>Previous applications</b>		
<b>Ref No</b>	<b>Name of Project</b>	<b>Amount awarded</b>
LW 361	Paradise Club for the Blind	£600.00
LW 368	Lewsey Community Centre Arts Club	£400.00
LE 369	Hockwell Ring Community Centre	£1,000.00
LW 370	Lewsey Outdoor Christmas Market/Festival	£800.00
<b>Balance B/F</b>		<b>£1,700.00</b>

## **AREA TOURS**

10. The Action Plans and issues that were raised during the course of past area tours can be viewed in the folder at the back of the hall. The new dates for the 2009/2010 Municipal Year have been set and have been circulated to Members and respective officers. These dates are also accessible on the area committee web pages.

## **PROPOSAL/OPTION**

11. It is proposed that Members of the West Luton Area Committee note the report.

In terms of the application under the Area Committee Projects Scheme

- ◆ Reference LW 362
- ◆ Reference LW 374

Members will note that the balance currently available to this area committee will not enable you to support both the applications. Therefore Members may wish to consider: -

- (i) Making an award to one of the applicants.
- (ii) Making a different contribution towards the applications e.g. granting a reduced amount to both
- (iii) Deferring the application for future consideration.
- (iv) Refer the project for it be considered by the West Luton Neighbourhood Governance pilot, within the remit of 'participatory budgeting'.
- (v) Refusing the application

12. However, should Members wish to proceed under 11 (ii) you will no doubt wish to be mindful of how the applicants will find the balance in order to bring their project to fruition.

## **EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

13. Much of the work conducted by the Area Committee will have an impact on Council services and will address issues such as accessibility, local participation and the general quality of life within the Borough.

## **COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

14. A large amount of the work being pursued and undertaken by service areas and other outside agencies will make a major contribution to community safety and need to be considered alongside other schemes that may be under consideration or being implemented.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

15. Any contribution made by the Area Committee will be met from existing budgets.

### **ENVIRONMENT IMPLICATIONS**

16. The implications of the work being undertaken will address and improve the environment, create safer communities and address the quality of life for local people.

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972, SECTION 100D**

None