

AREA COMMITTEE: WEST LUTON
CHALLNEY, LEAGRAVE & LEWSEY WARDS

DATE: WEDNESDAY 8TH OCTOBER 2008

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, LEAGARVE & 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 9th June 2008

RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. The West Luton Area Committee are 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 17th September 2008 and publicity for this cycle of meetings appeared in the Luton News and Herald & Post during week commencing 1st September 2008 and in the Luton on Sunday on the 7th 21st September and the 4th October 2008. The area committees also have a regular feature in Lutonline, which Members will be aware is circulated across the town. Additionally a full page advert was taken in Lutonline during July/August offering information on how people can get involved with the area committee process and giving the dates of all the area committees for 2008/2009.
5. 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.
6. The Area Committee web site is regularly updated and can be accessed on www.luton.gov.uk/areacommittees

INTERIM REPORT IN NEIGHBOURHOOD GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

7. Since my last report to the area committee on the subject of 'Neighbourhood Governance' a further meeting of the Area Committee Board took place on the 24th June 2008.
8. The Chief Executive presented a report on the recommendations of the Task and Finish Group on neighbourhood governance. The group had proposed a pilot scheme to develop neighbourhood governance. The group had recognised that such a pilot, if it were to be successful, would have resource implications for which there was no identified budget.
9. These proposals had been referred to the Labour and Liberal Democrat Council Groups for their comments. Although there had largely been consensus between the Groups on the proposals, there had been different suggestions for the length of the pilot, the area in which the pilot should be conducted and the speed with which budgets should be delegated.

10. The Chief Executive reported that officers would ideally like a timescale of 18 to 24 months. Officers did not have preconceived ideas what the structures should be and it was envisaged that appropriate structures would evolve with experience during the course of the pilot scheme.
11. The Chief Executive advised that it was envisaged that the Area Board should be the main reporting body for feedback for the pilot. He further advised that, although no detailed costing had been made, the likely cost of the pilot would be in the region of £50k.
12. The Chief Executive commented that the police already reported issues directly to the Area Committees. It might be possible for schools and the health services to report in a similar way. As an example, his experience in Hackney was that residents had appreciated direct feedback on the relative performance of local schools.

Resolved: (i) That the report (Ref: 8) be noted.

(ii) That Executive be requested to instruct officers to scope and assess the financial and human resource requirements for the implementation of a neighbourhood governance 'pilot' scheme.

(iii) That, subject to the Executive making the necessary resources available, a pilot scheme should be run in the area covered by the West Luton Area Committee and should run for at least 18 months so as to include a complete budget cycle.

(iv) That the existing wards should be the basic units for the pilot scheme.

(v) That the Board should receive a report on the pilot scheme in summer 2010.

LEAGRAVE RAILWAY STATION

13. The Area Committee Support Officer has been in discussion with the Traffic Engineering Manager regarding the parking situation at Leagrave Railway Station. It has been ascertained that the car parks situated in this area are managed by the 'First Group' on behalf of Network Rail, and therefore Luton Borough Council do not have any jurisdiction over these parking arrangements.
14. However, the Council are currently working in conjunction with the First Group, to make access improvements for pedestrians and people with disabilities on the Marsh Road side of the site.

15. In addition a letter was sent to the Rachael Borthwick, Group Corporate Communication Director, First Group plc on the 5th September 2008, inviting her or a representative to the meeting this evening but to date no communication to that invitation has been received.

COMMUNICATION

16. I would like to remind the area committee that the area committee web pages on 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

17. The following are up to date attendances at the West Luton Area Committee for the period September/October 2006 to May/June 2008

Area Committee cycle	September & October 2006	January 2007	March & April 2007	May & June 2007	September & October 2007	January 2008	March 2008	May & June 2008
West Luton	59	41	59	56	57	62	59	72

AREA PROJECT

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

Project Number	Project	Cost of project	Amount requested
LW 316	<u>Black Writers Production</u> Performance Art Project	£5,000	£5,000

Project Number	Project	Cost of project	Amount requested
LE 317	<u>Beechwood Primary School</u> To plan, develop and deliver two weeks playschemes programme for 5 – 10 year olds children taking place during the Easter Holidays. This will include a family orientated trip to the Natural History Museum.	£2,500	£1,500
LE 318	<u>106 – 126. Butely Road – Fencing Project</u> Anti-social behaviour and arson attacks near to their properties and burglaries (some attempted) on the properties itself. The problem has been exacerbated due to the expanse of land to the rear of these houses, which has been left after the Wimpey development was completed. This is not adopted highway and is being used as a shortcut from areas such as Coverdale and Gilderdale to access Butely Road, to do this one has to pass directly by numbers 106 to 126, although there is a purpose built adopted path that leads to the road. The short cut also acts as a means of a 'get-away' route when crime is committed. The residents have requested that this area be fenced off.	£1,154	£1,154

BUDGET UPDATE

19. The following table shows the budget for the West Luton Area Committee as at the 26th September 2008.

<u>West Luton</u>	
Challney, Leagrave & Lewsey Wards	
Allocation for 2008/2009	£12,000.00
Balance from 2007/2008 Financial Year	£ 2,840.00
Carry over agreed by the Council's Executive	
Grants awarded to date	£10,055.00
Balance brought forward :-	£ 4,785.00

AREA TOURS

20. 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 2008/2009 Municipal Year have been set and were circulated to Members and respective officers on the 2nd May 2008. These dates are also accessible on the area committee web pages.

PROPOSAL/OPTION

21. 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 316
- ◆ Reference LE 317

Members may consider the following: -

- (i) Granting the full application.
- (ii) Making a different contribution towards the scheme.
- (iii) Deferring the application for future consideration.
- (iv) Refusing the application

EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

22. 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

23. 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

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

ENVIRONMENT IMPLICATIONS

25. 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