

AREA COMMITTEE: NORTH LUTON

**BRAMINGHAM, ICKNIELD, LIMBURY,
NORTHWELL & SUNDON PARK WARDS**

DATE: MONDAY 3RD MARCH 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: BRAMINGHAM, ICKNIELD, LIMBURY,
NORTHWELL & SUNDON PARK WARDS

PURPOSE

1. To bring before the committee an update on the issues that were raised following the last Area Committee held on the 8th January 2008

RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. The North 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 11th February 2008 and publicity for this cycle of meetings appeared in the Luton News and Herald & Post during week commencing 18th February 2008 and in the Luton on Sunday on the 24th February 2008 and 2nd and 23rd March 2008. The area committees also have a regular feature in Lutonline, which Members will be aware is circulated across the town.
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

COMMUNICATION

7. 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

8. The following are up to date attendances at the North Luton Area Committee for the period March 2006 to January 2008

Area Committee cycle	March & April 2006	May & June 2006	September & October 2006	January 2007	March & April 2007	May & June 2007	September & October 2007	January 2008
North Luton	54	39	61	51	45	57	60	45

AREA PROJECT

9. There are two applications for Members to consider at the meeting this evening. These two applications were originally put before South Luton Area Committee at their meeting on the 14th January 2008. It was the view of the South Luton Members that both these projects were a town wide resource and as such, if they were to be supported at all this should be considered equitably by all five of the committees and not just South Luton.
10. Members also felt that the Mary Seacole Project benefited from many funding streams and also held a number of assets. Overall the application to the area committee was ambitious to say the least.
11. After taking everything into consideration in addition to hearing from the applicants the South Luton Area Committee Members agreed a sum of £500.00 towards the Mary Seacole application and £400.00 towards the Starlight Project with the recommendation that a similar amount be sought from the other area committees.

Project Number	Project	Cost of project	Amount requested
DA 266	<u>Mary Seacole Housing Association</u> Service users and staff team building exercise. The team building exercise will last for a day in October at Whipsnade Zoo and will comprise of a number of activities. The objectives of this project are:- ♦ to take a total of 90 vulnerable, socially excluded, young people and staff out of the hostel environment ♦ trip to the Zoo accompanied by staff members	£6,815.00	£5,000.00

	who they trust ♦ provision of a round robin of events with a semi-competitive structure ♦ individual prizes and awards throughout the day		
SO 269	<u>Starlight Youth Club ' Past to Present Project</u> The project will seek to bring together different aspects of the black culture as it relates to black history from slavery to the modern day place in society. We will be using a process of drama, dance and storytelling in a showcase. The project will also allow young people from all backgrounds the opportunity to learn about a group that help to contribute to British society.	£2,500.00	£2,000.00

BUDGET UPDATE

12. The following table shows the budget for the North Luton Area Committee as at the 3rd March 2008.

<u>North Luton</u>			
Bramingham, Icknield, Limbury, Northwell & Sundon Park Wards			
Balance brought forward :-			£9,830.00
Project Number	Project	Cost of project	Amount granted
SP 237	<u>Sundon Park CCTV Project</u> NB: Budget being held within the North Luton Area Committee budget until such time that matched funding is found.	£3,000	£3,000
Balance brought forward :-			£6,830.00

AREA TOURS

13. 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 2007/2008 Municipal Year have been set and were circulated to Members and respective officers on the 24th May 2007. These dates are also accessible on the area committee web pages.

AREA COMMITTEE BOARD - OUTCOME FOLLOWING PILOT SCHEME

14. Members will recall that at the last meeting of North Luton Area Committee the Area Committee Support Officer reported on the proposed pilot scheme that was taking place in the East and West areas following a

report that was submitted to the Area Committee Board on the 6th December 2007. The two pilots embraced the resolutions as set out below –

15. **The Area Committee Board resolved:** (i) That the outcome of the review of Area Committees as set out in the Chief Executive's report (Ref: 8), be noted.

(ii) That the Chief Executive be instructed to reconvene the officer working group that will embrace the fundamental purpose of the recent White Paper, to particularly review the role of the Area Committee and how it could be developed to take on the role of monitoring the Neighbourhood Plans as they are developed.

(iii) That the Chief Executive submit an interim report on the findings of the officer working group referred to at (ii) above to the Area Committee Board on 9th April 2007.

(iv) That the implementation of two pilot schemes, one in West Luton and the second in East Luton to:

- (a) extend the ward forums so that they operate from 18:30 Hours to 20:00 Hours;
- (b) allocate the first part of the ward forum e.g. 18:30 hours to 18:50 hours (including the pilots) to receiving feedback from the Police on matters from the last meeting and for the Police to record any new issues and thereafter the Police Depart. This to also embrace issues of community safety which should be recorded by the forum facilitator; and
- (c) each of the pilots receiving any reports specific to the ward at the ward forum, be supported.

(v) That Chief Executive report the outcome of the pilots to the Area Committee Board meeting to be held on 29th January 2008.

(vi) That Area Committee agendas continue to receive information on presentations as a mechanism to advise constituents how to engage with a consultation process, but that this be restricted to a five minute overview and no power point presentations be permitted.

(vii) That Area Committee agendas contain a maximum of three or four discussion items only.

(viii) That no late applications under the area committee projects scheme will be considered.

16. On the 30th January 2008 the Area Committee Board considered the 'feedback' report of the Area Committee Support Officer and

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

(ii) That the Chief Executive be instructed to implement the new approach, as detailed in Area Committee Board Minute 6/07, across all of the area committees effective from March 2008.

(iii) That the Chief Executive be instructed to explore and to submit a report on possible options for the ward forums to be more formally clerked to the next meeting of the Board on 9th April 2008.

(iii) That the Area Committee Support Officer be instructed to liaise with the Police to secure the attendance of one officer to remain to the end of each ward forum and a senior officer until the end of the public question time at the area committee.

PROPOSAL/OPTION

17. It is proposed that Members of the North Luton Area Committee note the report.

In terms of the application under the Area Committee Projects Scheme

◆ Reference DA 266 and SO 269

It is recommended that Members consider a similar contribution to that made by the South Luton Area Committee.

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

18. 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

19. 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

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

ENVIRONMENT IMPLICATIONS

21. 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