

**AREA COMMITTEE BOARD**

**22ND NOVEMBER, 2004 at 6.00 p.m.**

PRESENT: Councillor Simmons (Chair); Councillors P. Chapman, Johnston, Magill, McGarvie and Wates

**14 DEATH OF COUNCILLOR MICHAEL HAND**

The Chair referred to the death on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2004 of Councillor Michael Hand who served on the Council as a Councillor for the Lewsey Ward and the Board stood in silent tribute to his memory.

**15 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE (REF: 1)**

An apology for absence was received from the meeting from Councillor McGarvie.

**16 MINUTES (REF: 2.1)**

**Resolved:** That Minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2004 be taken as read, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**17 HEAD OF THE YOUTH SERVICE (REF: 7)**

The Principal Youth Services Manager submitted and presented a report informing the Board of the work that had been completed by the Youth Service. An Action Plan process had been developed to ensure the Youth Service was fit for purpose and delivered a high quality service to young people.

The Best Value Review had identified the strengths and weaknesses in the service as follows:

Strengths

- Committed staff
- Strong local knowledge and networks
- Good number of qualified staff
- Cross party political support
- Above average Council spend
- Good voluntary sector relations
- Good inter-agency work
- Area focused
- Improving youth centres

Weaknesses

- Difficulty in recruiting full time staff
- 60 sessional workers – support, management
- Under-resourced youth centres – staffing
- Under-resourced youth centres – buildings
- Under-developed detached work
- Strategic partnership work
- Management capacity
- Number of full time staff
- Poor inward investment record
- Publicity

The Principal Youth Services Manager explained that the Youth Service management structure had been changed and now included a Principal Youth Services Manager and three Senior Operational Managers, which addressed the management capacity weakness.

A Member of the Board expressed concern that area focused had been described as a strength and the Board felt that more focus on Area Committees with Youth Workers allocated to areas aligned with the Area Committees was required.

The budget for the Youth Service was outlined as £3.1m and the SFF was outlined as £1.78m but Officers were uncertain of the breakdown and it was suggested that the Head of Corporate Finance be requested to provide a breakdown for the Board.

The Board were informed that a needs analysis was being undertaken and was due to be completed by the end of December 2004. The Chair suggested that Area Committee Chairs be asked to allocate time and get young people involved to help establish the need.

**Resolved:** (i) That the report be noted.

(ii) That the Head of Corporate Finance be requested to report the breakdown of the budget allocated to the Youth Service to the next meeting.

(iii) That the Board commend the presentation of the Principal Youth Services Manager to CDMT.

(iv) That the Principal Youth Services Manager be requested to update the Board in 6 months time.

## **18 AREA COMMITTEE PROGRESS (REF: 8)**

The Area Committee Support Officer advised Members of the progress of Area Committees and how issues raised were being addressed and resolved.

He drew the Board's attention to the allocation of the budgets for each of the area committees for 2004/2005, which had been agreed by the Executive on Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> October 2004.

Members expressed concern that projects were starting to recur annually and that the money was not always evenly spent amongst the wards.

The Head of Local Democracy responded by suggesting that a criteria and scoring mechanism could be developed to help Members deal with applications for funding.

A Member of the Board made reference to Minute 9/04 and his disappointment that the itemised list of crimes committed across the town had not been received.

The Chair suggested that a letter be sent from the Board to Chief Superintendent Twydell reinforcing the request.

**Resolved:** (i) That the report be noted.

(ii) That a letter be sent from the Board to Chief Superintendent Ivor Twydell reinforcing the request that Members receive the itemised list of crimes committed across the town on a ward by ward basis.

(iii) That the Head of Local Democracy and Area Committee Support Officer be requested to meet to draft a criteria and scoring mechanism to help Members deal with applications for funding and report back to a future meeting of the Board.

(vi) That the Head of Local Democracy be requested to report further to the next Board meeting on the vision for Area Committees.

**(Note: The meeting concluded at 8.00 p.m.)**