

NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

BASFORD AND BESTWOOD ARE COMMITTEE

MINUTES

of meeting held on **19 SEPTEMBER 2012** at

Loxley House, Station Street, Nottingham from 4.32 pm to 6.22 pm

Present

- ✓ Councillor Ottewell (Chair)
- ✓ Councillor Grocock (Vice-Chair)
- ✓ Councillor Arnold (Minutes 11 to 15 inclusive)
- ✓ Councillor Norris
- ✓ Councillor Smith
- ✓ Councillor Wildgust

✓ indicates present at meeting

Community Representatives

- Mr R Glass - Leen Valley Community Association
- Mr M Nawrocki - Leen Valley Tenants and Residents Association
- Mr P England - Whitemoor Neighbourhood Watch Association

City Council colleagues, partners and others in attendance

- Mr S Peakes - Notts Police
- Mr T Hatton - Notts County Football Club
- Football in the Community
- Miss L Hoban - Nottingham City Homes
- Mr A Parkinson)
Mr G Smerdon-White) Ridewise
- Ms J Dean - Nottingham CVS
- Miss K Follows - Implementation Officer - Crime and Drugs Partnership
- Miss K Ball - Head of Early Intervention - Children and Families
- and Market Development
- Mr D Halstead - Head of City Services)
Ms H May - North Locality Area Manager)
Mr G Nijran - North Neighbourhood)
- Development Officer) Communities
- Mrs Z West - Constitutional Service Officer - Resources

Please note: except where otherwise indicated, all items discussed at the meeting were the subject of a report which had been circulated beforehand.

11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Maria Wright, Gary Cawthorne, Gerald Hall and Maria Hemphill.

12 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interests were made.

13 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 30 May 2012, copies of which had been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

14 STREAMLINING INVESTMENT TO THE VOLUNTARY COMMUNITY SECTOR

(Report of Director of Quality and Commissioning)

The Committee considered a report and received a presentation by Katy Ball, Children and Families, Nottingham City Council, the main points of which were as follows:

- previously, grants to Voluntary Sector Organisations (VSOs) had been complicated and inconsistent, with a range of funding streams being administered by different departments of the City Council, with different processes and timescales;
- based on feedback from VSOs, funding would become clearer and fairer, and Area Committees would have more influence over how VSOs were supported;
- a new model was agreed at Exec Board Commissioning Sub-Committee, with work ongoing to develop how the process would work and how Area Committees would influence funding;
- across the City, £31 million was given in grants to VSOs, this would continue with three levels of funding: Councillors individual budgets would be retained, local projects would be funded through area-based grants and a potential small grants system and larger projects would be funded through commissioned services let on a city-wide basis;
- £1.78 million of funding was distributed across the City on an area basis, with £163,559 in the Basford and Bestwood Area. With a clearer understanding of how funding was currently distributed, a fairer system could be developed with money shared more equally throughout the areas from departments;
- VSO representatives were also represented on the steering group and were heavily involved in the ongoing consultation. An e-bulletin was available for regular updates and latest developments could be found on the Nottingham Insight website. A workshop would be held in October for members of Area Committees to become more involved in the process;

- an overview of each area was being developed which would include populations, number of benefit claimants, levels of deprivation, schools, health and disability levels. This would help to determine both individual area priorities for spending and to create fairer distribution of grant money between areas based on need;
- panels would review applications at the end of February 2013, which would then be submitted for approval by Area Committees, with new contracts in place and projects being handed over to new organisations by July 1st 2013.

During discussion, the following comments were made:

- the Committee noted that the examples of projects included within 'city-wide funding' would not necessarily benefit citizens of Basford or Bestwood, but were projects which would potentially benefit large sections of the city;
- clearer information on specific projects would be provided as the model progressed, the information shared with the Committee in the presentation was an example of the type of projects being funded currently;
- funding would operate on an Area level not on a ward level. Specific targets, such as problem neighbourhoods, could be identified in advertisements seeking bids from VSOs;
- the Committee noted that not all VSO funding streams were represented in the figures presented. For example, there were many VSOs within Basford and Bestwood providing services for the unemployed, yet the breakdown showed £0 funding for Economic Development. There were a number of community centres within Basford and Bestwood run using grants from the City Council, yet the amount of funding shown (£22,672) for this purpose was much too low. Other funding streams from various City Council departments would be brought into the new model over time as it was developed further;
- grants had been won from other organisations for specific sports and leisure projects within the Area. Further information on these specific grants would be available from October;
- it was felt that the new model would be a positive step for localism. There had not previously been a positive choice by Committees as to where funding was spent. The first year of the new scheme would potentially be difficult, but it was felt that the outcome of a fairer streamlined funding process would be worth any potential complications. It was also felt that there may be a struggle ahead in terms of ensuring Basford and Bestwood received a fair allocation of available funding;
- it was agreed that ongoing support for VSOs, particularly smaller groups, was vital;
- some of the committee asked what 'detached youth' meant, it was explained that detached youth did not typically access services available to them, and the City Council was attempting to work with them outside of traditional settings, i.e. engaging directly with young people who were congregating in local parks;

- the Commissioning Department would be responsible for accountability and monitoring VSOs. They would create and maintain contracts and liaise with lead organisations, who would also help to provide some of the monitoring information required to ensure funding was being used appropriately.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the new model for streamlining funding, which included Area Committees as a geographical basis for the dissemination of funding, be noted;**
- (2) that the current spend, as detailed in the Area Funding Schedule for Area 2 (appendix 1), be noted.**

15 NOTTS COUNTY FOOTBALL CLUB – FOOTBALL IN THE COMMUNITY PROGRAMME

The Committee received a presentation by Tim Hatton, Business Development Manager at Notts County FC Football in the Community, the main points of which were as follows:

- Football in the Community (FITC) was a charity whose funding was raised separately from Notts County Football Club. It was recently recognised as the Football League's Community Club of the Year for the Midlands;
- FITC had Investor In People status and a strong focus on Health and Wellbeing. They had 30 full time staff and hoped to use the enthusiasm for the recent Olympic and Paralympic Games in London to encourage people to become healthier;
- innovative health projects were used in conjunction with other clubs and community groups and targeted all sections of the community. The charity was originally founded in the 1980s to combat football violence in conjunction with a wide range of agencies;
- the four main areas of work were health, community cohesion, education and sports participation. They had a classroom for excluded children and post-16 education. Sport was used to promote social inclusion across the city and as a diversionary tactic;
- FITC had been established for 23 years, and potential barriers to participation, such as cost, accessibility and convenience, had been removed or greatly reduced. All sessions were free or low-cost, sessions often took place in disadvantaged areas, and took place in central accessible locations, such as health centres, schools and community centres;
- projects were designed to fit needs, and specific needs would have to be proved in order to receive funding;
- there were five specific projects in the Basford and Bestwood wards:
 - Active Schools – FITC worked within schools to improve confidence and self-esteem;

- Go 4 It – a weight management programme, the aim of which was to reduce Body Mass Index (BMI) and improve fitness city wide. Siblings and parents could also attend to be taught family nutrition and encourage family cohesion;
- Motivate – a weight management programme targeted at men who were at risk of cardiovascular disease, with a focus on nutrition, diet and physical activity. Motivate was a 12 week programme which resulted in an average reduction in body weight of 5% and was operated in partnership with Nottingham City Care Partnership. The sessions started with a six minute fitness test, and progress was monitored throughout. The project had a proven track record of success. The target for this year was 1,000 people, but there were over 30,000 men in Nottingham who would fit the criteria;
- School's Out – a programme which was designed to increase participation in sport and activities, particularly those sports that children may not have considered before, such as rowing. A launch event took place in Market Square to promote the programme and get people involved in skills workshops. The School's Out days cost £1 for 7 hours of activities, and were available for those with disabilities as well as the able-bodied;
- Goals for Life – a project operating in Bestwood funded by Children in Need. Boys with emotional, behavioural and mental health issues aged 10 to 14 would attend a football session, with a half-time team talk covering such issues as confidence, fitness, fun, friends, anger management, stress, feeling good, and positive behaviour. The project was proving to be successful, as it was fun and engaging, free, developed by the participants and run by ex Notts County managers. There had been a noticeable improvement in the behaviour of the boys who had attended sessions so far. As the boys grew older and left the programme, they could then go on to other programmes, volunteer with Notts County FC FITC, join a coaching programme, or start unemployment based projects;
- the main messages promoted by FITC were of positivity, potential, confidence and fun. The staff at FITC were role models to the young people involved;
- developing projects included work with children in care, older people (particularly those suffering from dementia), prisoners, people leaving prison, those affected by mental health issues, and football for the visually impaired.

During discussion, the following comments were made:

- FITC worked closely with youth clubs and community centres. The Committee also felt that greater links with local senior schools would be advantageous;
- it was felt that a discussion regarding promotion of FITC should be had with the Youth and Play Senior Coordinator at Nottingham City Council;
- there had been issues with local young people playing on vacant football pitches, and refusing to vacate them for those who had booked pitches. Some local school playing fields had also been broken into while the schools were closed. It was felt that FITC could link with these youths to provide diversionary sporting activities;

- FITC provided training for football coaches, which would not only be a positive diversionary activity for young people, but would also help with their future prospects by giving them a valuable skill and qualifications;
- a gang and youth violence project which was partly funded by the Premier League worked with young people in conjunction with Nottingham Forest Football Club 3 days per week. The project consisted of football sessions and workshops and had reduced crime in the area.

RESOLVED that Tim Hatton be thanked for his informative presentation, the contents of which were noted.

16 RIDEWISE

The Committee received a presentation by Gary Smerdon-White and Andy Parkinson from Ridewise, the main points of which were as follows:

- Ridewise provided bicycle maintenance training, cycle training, encouraged a reduction in the number of single occupancy cars, and promoted the Big Wheel initiative;
- Ridewise was grant funded by the City Council for a pilot programme to encourage public transport use. The grants aims were to improve the economy by improving access to learning and education via better transport links, and to reduce CO2 emissions;
- they had received awards for the successful Sportivate programme;
- the upcoming European Mobility Week would provide a valuable opportunity for feedback on transport issues;
- the public transport plan required input from local people. Surveys and engagement events were planned;
- Nottingham had a very good bus and tram network, and appreciation of the rail and cycle network had improved;
- the pilot scheme would last until 2015, and volunteers would need to be recruited to continue the positive work;
- there was a strong position to encourage people to consider public transport. Oil prices had increased greatly since 2008. 21% of those surveyed thought about changing their transport method and, of those, 75% had thought about changing to a more sustainable method of transport;
- the scheme was attempting to encourage people to think about alternatives, without coming across as too zealous;
- an issue affecting those on low incomes was that day tickets were very expensive, but they could not afford the upfront cost of the much more cost effective season tickets;

- a post was currently being advertised for a part time administrator to assist with the programme, which was targeted at those wards in the Northern locality;
- engagement events were planned which would help people with IT skills for increased home working, assist with linked journey planning, improve cycling and bike maintenance skills, and inform citizens of community bike rides and walking groups;
- there were six upcoming engagement events planned in each of the seven wards.

During discussion, the following comments were made:

- the Committee agreed that Ridewise was a very inventive organisation, and had helped with great improvements to the City's public transport network over the last few years;
- the Committee suggested that secure cycle parking at bus and tram stops would be advantageous. It was confirmed that the City Cycle Hire scheme was being extended and would include secure bike parking at bus depots and transport interchanges;
- some members of the Committee noted that there was only one main bus route in Bestwood, and that most bus routes radiated from the City centre, with very few connections between areas. It was also noted that no buses went past Southglade Leisure Centre, and that local people would make more use of the local public transport offer if these issues were addressed;
- it was noted that new bus services would not be offered unless they were commercially and financially viable, and that expectations would need to be managed to ensure citizens did not expect complete bus connectivity. The scheme was about small scale infrastructure improvements rather than a complete overhaul;
- Ridewise developed from a cycle training background, and currently delivered cycle training to primary school children in 20% of local schools. The aim was to extend this training to 100% of primary schools. Free adult cycle training was provided for city residents, but demand was not as high as desired;
- Ridewise also provided loan bikes. They were refurbished by Framework and offered for £30 for a second hand bike or £100 for a new bike. The hire scheme being rolled out was similar to the 'Boris Bike' scheme in London. Separate schemes would be introduced for commuter hire bikes and tourist hire bikes;
- the Committee suggested that local young people could be involved in the refurbishment of the bikes to learn a new skill, and possibly be rewarded with bikes. The representatives from Ridewise agreed that this was a good idea, and that they would need to find suitable community groups to work with;
- some members of the Committee noted that adults cycling on the pavement was a continued problem. The representatives confirmed that while this was illegal and people cycling on pavements could be prosecuted, some police officers had been known to give people cycling on the pavement leaflets about Ridewise cycle training programmes in order to help with their road cycling confidence;

RESOLVED that Mr Smerdon-White and Mr Parkinson be thanked for the presentation, the contents of which were noted.

17 AREA CAPITAL FUND – 2012/13 PROGRAMME

(Report of Director of Neighbourhood Services)

The Committee considered a report presented by Gursharan Singh Nijran, Neighbourhood Development Officer, Nottingham City Council. During discussion, the following comments were made:

- the Area Capital Fund was used for traffic, highway improvements, signal improvements and similar schemes;
- Appendix 1 showed the current spend in the Basford and Bestwood wards;
- whilst £7,174 had been spent on traffic improvements on Mildenhall Crescent, local residents had complained that the situation was worse than before. Parents parked illegally and dangerously to drop children off and pick them up from school. The Committee requested some enforcement visits;
- a weight restriction of 7.5 tonnes had been imposed on Bestwood Park Drive and new signage had been funded from the Area Capital Fund. Complaints were still being received from local residents, and enforcement visits from the Police were requested by the Committee.

RESOLVED that the monies available and the Area Capital programme of schemes in Basford and Bestwood Wards as outlined in Appendix 1 be noted and approved respectively.

18 DELEGATED AUTHORITY PROJECTS

(Report of Director of Neighbourhood Services)

The Committee considered a report presented by Gursharan Singh Nijran, Neighbourhood Development Officer, Nottingham City Council. During discussion, the following comments were made:

- individual wards budgets were used for local community groups and current expenditure was shown in Appendix A;
- the Bestwood wards individual ward budget was now at £29,000.

RESOLVED that the actions agreed by the Director of Neighbourhood Services in respect of projects and schemes with the Basford and Bestwood wards as outlined in Appendix A be noted.

19 WARD PERFORMANCE REPORT

(Report of Director of Neighbourhoods Services)

The Committee considered a dummy performance report presented by Heidi May, North Locality Manager, Nottingham City Council. During discussion, the following comments were made:

- an overall Ward Performance Report had been requested over a number of years to show a snapshot of performance within each ward;
- information would be collected from a wide number of organisations, and collated into an individual report by the Crime and Drugs Partnership in the style of the dummy report presented to the Committee;
- the Committee welcomed the report, and felt that currently information was not presented in a concise fashion. It was felt that it would be a very useful tool in future;
- the Committee raised the issue of how exclusions would be reported. As Area Committees are public meetings, there could potentially be privacy issues if individual schools were named in the report, and it might create tension between schools. The Committee felt that this information would be better presented by ward rather than naming individual schools;
- it was felt that the format was very clear and understandable, although it did use a lot of paper. It was noted that with the amount of information contained within the reports, it would not be possible to make text or tables any smaller to save paper;
- the Committee agreed that it would be useful to see the report quarterly;
- the Committee felt that the report would demonstrate the range of work done by the Council and the Area Committees, and what impact it had on local communities. It was felt that it could contribute to making Area Committees feel more meaningful, and elevate the standing of the Area Committees.

RESOLVED that the initial Area Committee Ward Performance Report as outlined in Appendix 1 be noted