

NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

WEST AREA COMMITTEE

MINUTES

of meeting held on **5 SEPTEMBER 2012** at

Loxley House from 5.33 pm to 7.22 pm

- ✓ Councillor Saghir (Chair)
- ✓ Councillor Watson (Vice-Chair)
- ✓ Councillor Chapman
- Councillor Cresswell
- ✓ Councillor Jenkins
- ✓ Councillor McCulloch
- Councillor Unczur
- ✓ Councillor Wood

Community Representatives

- Mrs J Smith - Aspley and Bells Lane Partnership
- Ms N Silvers - Aspley Community and Training Centre
- Mr B Mann - Beechdale Community Centre
- ✓ Ms G Bainbridge - Bells Lane and Aspley Tenants' and Residents' Association
- Mr W Grantham - Birchover Community Association
- Ms P Witton - Broxtowe Partnership Trust
- Ms T Griffiths - Cinderhill Community Association
- ✓ Ms W Smith - CONGA (City of Nottingham Governors' Association)
- ✓ Mr V Plant - Neighbourhood Watch Association
- ✓ Mrs C Willitts - Nottingham Tartanaires Marching Band
- Mr J Hose - St Martin's Association of Residents and Tenants
- Mr J Day - St Martin's Church

✓ indicates present at meeting

Citizens, Others and City Council Colleagues in attendance

- Ms S Campbell))
 - Ms J Christou))
 - Ms H May))
 - Ms D Wilson))
 - Mrs Z West - Constitutional Services))
 - Ms I Andrews I))
 - Ms K Ball))
 - Mr C Thorpe - Nottingham City Homes))
 - Mr T Hatton - Notts County FC, Football in the Community))
 - Ms K Follows - Crime and Drugs Partnership))
- Nottingham City Council

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

8 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Hose (St Martin's Association of Residents and Tenants), Mrs Thorpe (Nottingham City Homes Area 3 Panel), Ms Griffiths (Cinderhill Community Association), Mrs Smith (Aspley and Bells Lane Partnership) and Councillors Cresswell and Unczur.

9 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor McCulloch advised the Committee that she had an interest in agenda item 4 (Streamlining Investment to the Voluntary Community Sector) by reason of her involvement with voluntary community groups, which she considered insufficient to prevent her participating in the debate or voting on the decision(s) regarding the matter.

10 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 6 June 2012, copies of which had been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

11 NOTTS COUNTY FOOTBALL CLUB: FOOTBALL IN THE COMMUNITY

(Report of Business Development Manager, Notts County Football Club, Football in the Community)

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. They were 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 West Area:
 - Active Schools – FITC worked within schools to improve confidence and self-esteem;
 - Go 4 It – a weight management programme which aimed to reduce Body Mass Index (BMI) and improve fitness city wide. Siblings and parents could also attend to teach 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%. Motivate 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;
 - Extra Time – a “youth club” style club for those aged 55 and over. Targeted at older men who were more socially isolated. Activities included football, rugby, cricket and basketball. The activities helped to improve balance, fitness, strength and social isolation. FITC worked in partnership with Age UK to promote the groups;
 - 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;
- the main messages promoted by FITC were of positivity, potential 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 the discussion that followed the presentation, questions and comments were received from the Committee, and further information was provided:

- the Extra Time programme had been running for two years and was proving popular. FITC were looking to expand the programme with additional funding. There were two sessions per week, which were for men only, as older men had been identified as those particularly in need of social activities. A Media Officer had recently been appointed in order to reach out to more isolated older people. The Extra Time sessions cost £2 each, which helped to make the project sustainable;

- referrals were received from Change Makers through the Decade of Better Health programme. Services were also advertised through partners such as Age UK and the NHS. Information was shared with GP surgeries, but it was difficult to gauge whether this information reached patients or if the GPs suggested groups to those in need;
- around ¼ of the people who took part in FITC activities were from the West Area wards, with fifty children per day from the West Area wards attending School's Out days. There were around twenty West Area citizens on the register for Motivate, but FITC were always looking for more participants from all over the city;
- the main problem faced by FITC was lack of exposure. A suggestion was made for FITC to visit other older people's activities such as tea dances to advertise the Extra Time programme, and to work with Nottingham Forest to promote the football related activities to a wider audience;
- feedback from a committee member who had used the School's Out programme was extremely positive. It was felt that the booking system could be improved, but the activity day in general was fantastic.

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

12 STREAMLINING INVESTMENT TO THE VOLUNTARY COMMUNITY SECTOR (Director of Quality and Commissioning)

The Committee considered a report and received a presentation by Katy Ball and Irene Andrews from Children and Families at 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. 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 £293,000 in the West 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;
- 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 help to create fairer distribution of grant money between areas based on need.

During discussion, the following comments were made:

- the current process for applying for grant funding was considered unfit for purpose. The new system would mean that VSOs had fewer contracts or service level agreements, and so they would be able to be enforced. It was felt it would be easier to manage expectations of what VSOs were expected to deliver with funding with a more centralised process;
- a small grants scheme would become part of the new overall funding scheme, and be administered by the same department;
- it was felt that since the removal of development workers, there was little practical non-financial support available to VSOs. Ongoing support for recruiting and retaining volunteers to ensure VSOs were properly supported and well staffed was also required. This feedback would be taken on board in the development of the new scheme;
- quarterly finance reports on VSO grants would go to area committees, which would enable them to keep track of spending more clearly;
- a support group had been established specifically to help VSOs group together to bid for funding and assist them with the process. This would also help smaller VSOs to feel less isolated from funding and help them to become more visible;
- the new scheme would not be asking VSOs to do more work to bid for funding than they currently do;
- similar schemes operated in localities with partnership organisations. They worked well, with better accountability;
- the scheme would evolve over the next few years to ensure that funding was distributed fairly across all areas;
- it was felt that population size and deprivation should be the main factors influencing distribution of funds between areas.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the new model for streamlining funding that 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 3 (appendix 1) be noted.**

13 ASPLEY WEEK OF ACTION
(Report of the Crime and Drugs Partnership)

The Committee considered a report presented by Katy Fellows, Implementation Officer at the Crime and Drugs Partnership, the main points of which were as follows:

- the process for the Weeks of Action had been reviewed slightly, and the objectives were now set by the North Locality Board. The priorities were set in line with the Aspley Ward Action Plan, Neighbourhood Policing Priorities, and the Aspley Domestic Violence Action Plan. The main theme for the week was Domestic Violence;
- the area was saturated with domestic violence information, such as the Man Enough campaign, and extensive work was undertaken to promote respectful relationships with young people;
- the Man Enough campaign was promoted at the Summer Fair and local Did You Know events. In total, 75 pledges were made by citizens and Aspley ward officers;
- enforcement action against cannabis use and information sessions were also held. Seven addresses were searched, five arrests were made, and two warnings were issued for possession. Voluntary and statutory youth services delivered surveys for young people on cannabis use, and 3000 leaflets were delivered warning of the penalties of cannabis cultivation;
- the Week of Action also saw the start of a month long campaign against dog fouling. Campaigns included education and enforcement, with the worst streets in the ward targeted, resulting in improvements both in those streets and across the ward. Litter picks also took place during the week;
- community engagement was also promoted, with approximately 70 citizens signing up to Neighbourhood Alerts. My Street was promoted throughout the week, and consultation on new ward priorities took place at the Ambleside Summer Fair;
- a tea dance was held for old and young citizens at the Aspley Community Training Centre;
- a service directory booklet was delivered to every home in the ward, and Did You Know sessions were held throughout the week. Advice was given on a range of services, particularly surrounding welfare reform;
- all front line officers in the ward now carried details of youth provision and could signpost young people if required;
- at the Ambleside Summer Fair the Decade of Better Health project promoted health pledges, Changemaker volunteer support services, and local health services;
- 34 health pledges were made and three local volunteers were recruited as Changemakers;
- the Love You, Love Aspley project promoted raising aspirations, and the City Council Aspiration Manager would continue to work with Aspley Ward Officers. Local schools ran a Love You, Love Aspley, Love School competition;

- the event held at Harvey Road indicated that there was a need for further domestic violence training for frontline Nottingham City Homes staff. Nottingham Domestic Violence Forum would attend staff briefing sessions;
- the Did You Know events highlighted a need for more information on Universal Credit for citizens and agencies. The fact sheet that was used had now been shared across the City;
- over 30 new young people had started attending youth activities since the Week of Action.

During discussion, the following comments were made:

- overall feedback on the event was positive, but leaflets delivered to the Bells Lane end of the ward arrived three weeks after the event. This was regrettable, but due to the exceedingly large number of leaflets to deliver;
- police were still acting on intelligence and conducting two to three cannabis raids per week, with people in Aspley feeling their concerns were being taken seriously;
- Nottingham City Homes would continue to work more closely with the police to tackle domestic violence;
- the police had a stand in the Co-Op with information on domestic violence;
- £700 of funding was received for a pamper day which would also provide information and advice on domestic violence, however the people presenting the domestic violence information and assistance did not turn up to the event. Lots of citizens turned up and made use of the pampering session offered, but the issues were not addressed;
- the Crime and Drugs Partnership agreed that high impact wards (such as Aspley) would have a week of action, with others having a day of action. Both types of event encouraged ongoing action afterwards;
- some members of the committee felt that Community Support Officers conducting the annual canvas was not the best use of their time and resources. It was felt that the priority should be continued policing work as a result of the weeks of action.

RESOLVED that the report and its contents be noted.

14 WARD PERFORMANCE REPORT

(Report of Director of Neighbourhood Services)

The Committee considered a draft ward report presented by Julianne Christou, Neighbourhood Development Officer at Nottingham City Council. During discussion of the draft report format, the following comments were made:

- the report was an example of what would be brought to Area Committees in future, and did not contain specific performance information yet. Feedback was requested regarding the layout and level of detail. The report would be kept simple and user-friendly;

- the report would details ward priorities and community engagement activities, provide transparency on funding bids, and promote cohesion and empowerment of local citizens by providing them with clearer information;
- the information would be collated by analysts from the Crime and Drugs Partnership;
- whilst the committee agreed that transparency was a positive thing, concerns were raised over councillors becoming inundated with funding requests if councillor budgets were widely publicised. Of particular concern was the fact that some requests were not submitted satisfactorily, with little or no indication of other funding or outcomes, and this problem had the potential to increase with greater transparency over funding;
- the target audience for the reports would be the Area Committees, but as they would be publicly available the information could be shared with other groups. The section of the report entitled NAT Report was intended for colleagues but could be shared if the committee felt it would be useful;
- it was intended to present the reports to Area Committees on a quarterly basis;
- it was felt that the report was very clear and had an appropriate level of detail. The key information that the committee felt would be useful was how much of the available funding had been spent, and how much funding was left. The basic performance indicators included were also felt to be very helpful and clear.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the draft Area Committee Ward Performance report as outlined in the appendix be noted;**
- (2) that colleagues involved in producing and developing the report be thanked for their hard work.**

15 AREA CAPITAL FUND REPORT

(Report of Director of Neighbourhood Services)

The Committee considered a report presented by Julianne Christou, Neighbourhood Development Officer at Nottingham City Council. During discussion, the following comments were made:

- there were ongoing projects, mainly of an environmental nature, such as improvements to footpaths, parks, bins etc. A rolling programme of transport improvements was started in April 2011, funded by Transport. Funds for this project had to be spent by March 2013 so it was important to keep on track and continue to monitor the Area Capital Fund;
- the two new schemes for Aspley were the lining of a footpath of Allendale Avenue and the resurfacing of a footpath on Lime Tree Avenue;
- there was a change of use of funding, £35,000 was to be used for a BMX bike track in Broxtowe Country Park;

- the three new schemes in Bilborough were a new parking area on Huxley Close, resurfacing of a footpath on Bramhall Road, and the provision of additional street furniture throughout the ward with locations to be confirmed;
- £11,625 was to be decommitted as a result of underspend on a project to resurface a footpath on Glenbrook Crescent;
- £1,500 was to be decommitted as a result of a project to line a footpath at the Ring Road/Newland Close junction being cancelled;
- Leen Valley received a large amount of Section 106 funding, and councillors requested more information on future reports regarding how much Section 106 money remained. This information would be provided on the Ward Performance Report at future meetings.

RESOLVED

- (1) that the monies available to Aspley, Bilborough and Leen Valley as outlined in Appendix 1 be noted;**
- (2) that the Area Capital Programme of schemes for Aspley, Bilborough and Leen Valley as set out in Appendix 1 be approved.**

16 WARD COUNCILLOR ALLOCATIONS, DELEGATED AUTHORITIES (Report of Director of Neighbourhood Services)

The Committee considered a report presented by Julianne Christou, Neighbourhood Development Officer. During discussion, the following comments were made:

- the report contained information relating to allocations from May 2012 to August 2012. Future reports would be quarterly and provide information on new allocations. Only schemes that had been paid appeared on the report. Councillors felt it would be useful to have information on what amount had been committed, what amount had been spent, what amount was due to be spent on upcoming projects but had not yet been committed, and the total amount left;
- it was noted that amounts that had been approved or committed by councillors may not end up as actual spend, as groups may not have qualified for funding. Councillors expressed a desire for information on the whole financial year rather than just the latest quarter, and for information to be presented on individual budgets rather than grouping all area councillors funds together. It was suggested that this level of information may be too detailed for Area Committees, and that councillors would be able to receive this level of information at their meetings with Neighbourhood development Officers;
- the success of some events funded through Ward Councillor Allocations was praised, such as an event at Oakfield School which raised over £800 locally, and a fundraising event for the Nottingham Tartanaires held at Harvey Hadden with the help of £500 of Ward Councillor funding, which raised several thousand pounds for the group.

RESOLVED that the actions agreed by the Director of Neighbourhood Services in respect of projects/schemes within West Area as detailed in Appendix A be noted.