

NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

BULWELL AND BULWELL FOREST AREA COMMITTEE

MINUTES of meeting held at Bulwell Riverside on **22 MAY 2013** from 5.30 pm to 7.30 pm.

✓ indicates present at meeting

- ✓ Councillor Jackie Morris (Chair)
- ✓ Councillor Ginny Klein (Joint Vice-Chair)
- ✓ Councillor Nick McDonald (Joint Vice-Chair)
- ✓ Councillor Eunice Campbell
- ✓ Councillor Alan Clark
- ✓ Councillor John Hartshorne

Community Representatives and Citizens

- Doreen Carruthers - Forest Park Neighbourhood Watch
- David Norman - My Sight Nottinghamshire
- Gillian Slack - Ravensworth Road Methodist Church
- Paul Bakajsa - Rise Park Action Group
- John Millington - Rise Park Community Association
- Paul Jackson - Royal British Legion Bulwell Branch
- Sally Wilson - Snapewood Community Centre

City Council Colleagues, Partners, and Others in attendance

- Reverend Andy Morris - Bestwood and Bulwell Food Bank
- Linda Abbott) Bulwell Education Action Zone
- Anna Robinson)
- Shannon Pole-Johnson)

- Martin Bills) Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service
- Robyn Ellis)
- Inspector Andrew Goodall - Nottinghamshire Police
- Celia Knight) Neighbourhood Development) Communities
- Emma Eckhardt) Officers)
- Malcolm Swift - Quality and Commissioning
- Louise Graham - Voluntary & Community Sector - Children and Families
- Catherine Ziane-Pryor - Grants Team
- Constitutional Services - Resources

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

1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Jackie Morris as Chair for the 2013-14 municipal year.

2 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRS

RESOLVED to appoint Councillors Ginny Klein and Nick McDonald as Joint Vice-Chairs for the municipal year 2013-14.

3 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Nick McDonald (on other Council Business)
Reg Knowles - Bradford Street Allotments
Sheila Loades - Bulwell Hall Tenants' and Residents' Association
Roz Yousof - Nottingham Elders Forum
Heidi May -North Locality Manager

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None.

5 MINUTES

The Committee confirmed the minutes of the meeting held on 20 February 2013 as a correct record and they were signed by the Chair.

6 POLICE UPDATE

Inspector Andrew Goodall delivered a brief update on the area Policing priorities which were identified following consideration of reported crime, issues raised through the on-line consultation system, the Local Action Groups and Tenant and Resident meetings. The revised priorities will focus neighbourhood policing for a three month period from 1 May to the end of July 2013. During this period, further consultation and monitoring will take place and revised priorities will be set for the next three month period.

Policing priorities for May, June and July will address:

Bulwell Ward - Anti-social Behaviour associated with open spaces, mainly in the area of Ravensworth Road, including Merchant Street, where football is being played in the street, music played loud, and associated behaviour.

Bulwell Forest Ward - Anti-social Behaviour including drugs related crime and shoplifting, centring on the Deptford Crescent area.

While there was a local Police target to reduce crime figures by 8% for the year 2012/13, a 14% reduction has been achieved. This year there is to be a 10% crime reduction target which is expected to be a challenge.

Inspector Goodall explained that there have been some changes to the organisation of the Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) with an increase from 7 to 12 PCSOs for the Area, but some established officers have moved to different districts so there are several officers who are new to the area. It would be a steep learning curve for all. The new PCSOs are working well and it is expected that it will take time to build community relationships.

RESOLVED to note

- (i) **the Committee's congratulations to the local Police force regarding the reduction in crime;**
- (ii) **the thanks of the Committee to Inspector Goodall for his attendance.**

7 THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Paul Jackson of the Bulwell Branch of the Royal British Legion, gave a verbal presentation which informed the Committee of the work type of work done locally by the Bulwell British Legion and made the following points:

- (a) During the last 'Poppy Appeal' the Bulwell Branch raised £17,000, while Nottinghamshire as a whole raised approximately £600,000, of which £550,000 was directed to ex-service men and women welfare services.
- (b) Nationally, every week 165,000 telephone calls from ex-service personnel seeking advice or help are responded to. Across the country £1.7 million is spent on welfare issues per week. Where individuals request substantial assistance with welfare issues, representatives from the regional base at Derby visit people in their home to assess the application and provide advice.
- (c) The Bulwell Branch supports and assists the local cadet group, including helping with fund raising, providing equipment to help them function, and escorting them on the trip to Menin Gate in Belgium where the Cadets paraded the Bulwell British Legion Flag at the service commemorating the end of WWI.
- (d) The Legion meets on a monthly basis and anyone can attend. In addition to supporting individuals with projects like 'the red wellie' scheme which helps ex-service people maintain their gardens, membership offers a variety of social and educational events.
- (e) In his book, the author David Nun examines how the staff and pupils at schools in the Nottingham Area were affected by WWI and highlighted the story of a Nottingham teacher who joined the Royal Flying Corps in 1916 and was killed in combat in 1917.
- (f) Next year will see the centenary of the start of WWI with commemorative events taking place between 2014 and 2018. Each year during the centenary of the war there will be recognition of a different battle and the last 100 days of the war will be remembered, and football matches played on 24 and 25 December in memory of the cease-fire football match which took place between the allies and enemy at Christmas.
- (g) Central Government has allocated £50 million to finance commemorative events, especially in schools. The British Legion are willing to assist schools with events and, where possible, will visit all local schools on the build up to the next 'Poppy Appeal', to explain what it's all about and prepare for the competition for which school could raise the most amount of money.
- (h) There will be an exhibition 'Trent to Trenches' at Nottingham Castle between July and November on the local men who went to war. Citizens are encouraged to come forward with their local WWI stories which could be incorporated into the exhibition.

- (i) 322 Bulwell Parish soldiers were killed during WWI. Their names are recorded on the Wheel Cross War Memorial in Bulwell.
- (j) For 'Armed Forces Day' on 29 June 2013, the Bulwell British Legion will be in Belgium at the Menin Gate. Citizens are encouraged to attend celebration events in Nottingham.

Paul Jackson responded to the Committee's comments and questions as follows:

- (k) It is not clear if the exhibitions commemorating WWI will include reference to conscientious objectors or to the nursing staff who played an important role at the memorial hospital, but the comment will be forwarded to the organisers.
- (l) It is interesting that there is a place in Bulwell Forest called 'Soldier's Hill' which was where the WWI recruiting base was sited for the Bulwell area;
- (m) Legion volunteers have offered to speak to local school children about WWI and the relevance to the local area, but it is for each school to respond with an invitation if they are interested in a session.

The Committee applauded the work of the Royal British Legion in assisting local ex-service personnel.

RESOLVED

- (1) to record the Committee's thanks to Mr Jackson for his presentation, along with an acknowledgement of the valuable work done by the Royal British Legion;**
- (2) to submit the list of 322 names of Bulwell area men who died during WWI and who were listed on the Nottingham Bulwell St Mary and All Souls memorial to the online agenda following the meeting.**

8 TOP TIPS FOR A HEALTHY LIFESTYLE

Two Year 10 students, Anna Robinson and Shannon Pole-Johnson, members of the Bulwell EAZ Student Forum, accompanied Linda Abbott, manager of Bulwell Education Action Zone (EAZ).

The Bulwell EAZ is an Education Improvement Partnership (EIP) and is a collaborative group led by the head teachers of seven schools in North Nottingham working with partner organisations to raise standards and improve outcomes for children, young people and families.

Anna and Shannon talked to the Committee about the film which the Student Forum has produced with the help of the Decade of Better Health Strategy Team and Endfilms. It is called 'Top Tips for Healthy Eating' and can be viewed on youtube at www.youtube.com/watch?v=aJW6m-rl5Yg. It was launched during the local week of action and shown to pupils across the area in school assemblies.

Councillors who attended the film premiere praised the students and welcomed the positive impact which it was likely to have on fellow pupils.

RESOLVED to note the achievements of the young people involved in making the film.

9 FOOD BANK

Reverend Morris of Bestwood and Bulwell Food Bank, delivered a presentation informing the Committee of the need for and work of the Food Bank which operates in the North of the City. With support from the Trussell Trust, he started the food bank approximately 19 months ago as a result of having seen a presentation which highlighted the short term emergency need for food, for a variety of reasons, by some people in Britain and Bulgaria.

Donations for the food bank are received from individuals, community groups, churches, schools, supermarkets and work place collection points. The food bank is affiliated to 27 churches in the area, all donating food, although one of the main sponsors is currently Tesco which, to date, has donated a total of 16 tonnes of food. Ward Councillors have also contributed funds to the scheme. On an individual basis, it appears that it is people living in relatively poor communities who are contributing the most.

In September 2012, 22 people were fed from the food bank. In April 2013, 222 people were fed, which is equivalent to a total of 1,400kg of food.

Food bank vouchers are issued by care professionals such as doctors, health visitors, social workers, the Citizen's Advice Bureau and Job Centre Plus staff when they identify people in crisis. The voucher can be taken to any of the food banks in the area where it will be exchanged without question. However, the idea is that no-one should need the food bank more than three times as it is only for crisis circumstances. Of all the people who have benefited, only four people have returned to the service more than three times with exceptional circumstances. To date people from 25 wards across the City and County have benefited from the food bank.

Of the 1,600 vouchers issued, only 700 have been cashed and only 100 have been issued by Job Centre Plus. It is noted that many benefit claimants are affected by payment delays but also that the majority of recipients are 'the working poor'.

Information regarding the reasons why vouchers are issued is collected by the issuing organisation/individual and then passed to Trussell Trust Head Office where it is collated. The Trust identified common themes, such as benefit delays, and lobbies Central Government or large businesses to resolve the issues.

It is important that for people receiving (or waiting for) benefits, the value of the food parcel does not exceed the maximum limit of £16.00 as any amount over this will be deducted from the benefit payment.

To ensure that volunteers are protected, the food banks do not issue vouchers, but if someone in need turns up requesting food, they are directed to a place where vouchers are issued.

The increased limitations of crisis loans by Central Government is believed to have impacted on the need and demand for food banks nationally.

RESOLVED to note the need for and achievements of the Bestwood and Bulwell Food Bank, and to thank Reverend Morris for his attendance and presentation.

10 FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Martin Bills and Robyn Ellis of the Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire and Rescue Service informed the Committee of the current situation regarding Fire Service call outs.

The following points were made:

- (a) As illustrated within the Performance report later in the agenda, Bulwell and Bulwell Forest rank top of the City league table for the number of fire incidents. Primary fires have involved property such as buildings, homes and vehicles, while secondary fires in the City included grassland and rubbish bins. These are broken down as follows:

	Dec 2011-May 2013 (last 18 months)	Nov 2011-May 2010 (18 months before)
<u>Bulwell Ward</u>		
Primary Fires	32	41
Secondary Fires	82	162
<u>Bulwell Forest Ward</u>		
Primary Fires	14	26
	27	34

- (b) It is noted that in Bulwell Ward there has been a 22% reduction in primary fires from the period before, but that Bulwell Ward also accounted for 13% of deliberate fires in the City. Proportionally, the 'share' for each ward is only 6%. The reduction may be due to the wet summer, in that there were fewer grass fires as grassland (of which the ward has many) was not as dry as usual, and, following the Fire Cover Review, additional prevention resources have been placed in the area.
- (c) The Fire Cover Review has benefited the City resources overall with the number of Risk Reduction Officers doubling from 4 to 8, and the number of uniformed staff focusing on risk reduction rising from 2 to 8.
- (d) There are 2 fire stations in the City: one in the centre of the City, and one at Stockhill Lane. Each has 2 appliances and a crew of 9 firefighters who also undertake community safety education, including home safety checks. For some incidents an appliance may arrive from Arnold Station. This is because the turnaround area for fire stations, (the general area for which each fire station will 'cover' call-outs), does not match the City and County boundaries. Most of the Bestwood area is covered by the Arnold Station.
- (e) The Fire and Rescue Service, in conjunction with the Police, are operating a community safety project called 'Safer Homes' in the Merchant Street area, identifying vulnerable citizens, taking them through home safety checks, and where appropriate, referring them to other partner agencies.
- (f) Preventative work includes:

Risk Watch is aimed at children and young people up to the age of 14. The Fire Service Officers visit primary schools in the Area and also Bulwell Academy, to talk to the children and young people about preventing injuries in the home for them and their families;

Fire Setter Scheme focuses on young people who have been identified as either being an arsonist or potentially becoming one, deterring them from such activity;

Vanguard Plus works with young people to tackle gang and youth violence.

- (g) The Crime and Drugs Partnership (CDP) is included within partners. The Fire and Rescue Service has based a financial analyst with the CDP to collate, compare and share data collected from the different partner agencies to inform multi-agency approaches to shared issues.
- (h) A Local Area Action Plan is being trialled in the North of the City. Partners have constructed and agreed emergency plans which can be activated with the hour.
- (i) Fire Crews maintained a visible presence in the Area both by carrying out home safety checks, but also by doing a periodic drive around, which enables them to identify and report community safety issues such as fly tipping.

RESOLVED to thank Martin Bills and Robyn Ellis for their attendance and update.

11 AREA CAPITAL FUND 2011/13 AND 2013/15 PROGRAMMES

The Committee considered the Director of Neighbourhood Service's report, summarising the funds spent to date and the proposed funding of further schemes from the Area Capital Fund. The Committee previously discussed the Area Capital fund at their previous meeting (minute 45, dated 20 February 2013).

Neighbourhood Development Officers Emma Eckhardt and Celia Knight presented the report.

Following issues raised at a 'The Leader Listens Event' regarding the heavy flow of HGV lorries, an additional scheme was tabled at the meeting, requesting that the Committee consider funding a 2 day traffic survey of HGVs on St Alban's Road at a cost of £2,400.00 to gauge the issue.

RESOLVED

- (1) **to approve funding for the following proposals:**

Ward	Project	£ Estimated Cost
<u>Bulwell Forest Ward</u>		
Spring Road	Signals	2,500 (jointly funded with Bulwell Ward)
Piccadilly	Bollards	
Bestwood Road	VAS	7,500
St Alban's Road	Traffic survey	2,400

Bulwell Ward			
Minerva Street	Footpath	68,249	
Rise Park Area	Street name plates	600	(jointly funded with the church)

(2) having deducted the approved allocations, to note the following monies available:

Bulwell Ward - £6,050.00

Bulwell Forest Ward - £101,346.00

(3) to request that Neighbourhood Development Officer, Celia Knight, to provide start dates for the approved schemes.

12 AREA COMMITTEE WEEKS OF ACTION FOR BULWELL AND BULWELL FOREST WARDS

Neighbourhood Development Officer Emma Eckhardt presented the report which informs the Committee of a wide range of events and activities arranged or participated in during the Bulwell Week of Action held between Monday 18 March and Saturday 23 March 2013, and outlined activities for the Bulwell Forest Week of Action being held between 22 June And 29 June .

Emma highlighted the following points:

- (a) More than 20 partners were involved in the Bulwell Week of Action.
- (b) Approximately 1,000 people were engaged during the Week of Action.
- (c) The Fire and Rescue Service and Police attended sessions in schools regarding the impact of environmental crimes and fire. This included establishing reporting links in schools so that pupils were aware of how to report issues.
- (d) Bulwell Forest Ward's week of action is to focus on increasing community involvement and identifying gaps in community provision, such as toddler groups.
- (e) There will be an 'All things Green' event which will focus on recycling, along with different themed walks, including litter pick, dog walk and a history walk.
- (f) Following the success of the past 3 years, volunteers have arranged a grand finale event 'Fun at the Forest' with a full programme of local entertainment from individuals and groups, along with a free bouncy castle, face painting and football. Top Valley Academy would link science projects with the event which will be a cheap family day with any charges kept to a minimum to ensure that it could be enjoyed by everyone. It is planned that the Olympic torch runner, Barry O'Dowd, will open the event at 1pm.

RESOLVED to note the report.

13 FINANCE AND DELEGATED AUTHORITY

Emma Eckhardt and Celia Knight, Neighbourhood Development Officers, introduced the report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services and informed the Committee that since publication, further schemes had received approval but that the details of these will be included in the report to the next meeting.

RESOLVED

- (1) to note the following allocations made via delegated authority of the Director of Communities:

<u>Bulwell Ward</u> (Councillors Klein, Hartshorne and Morris)	£
Bulwell Academy - EAZ Healthy Eating Film	500
One Vision - Ashton Park Launch	300
Bulwell Bog notice board	1, 200
<u>Bulwell Forest Ward</u> (Councillors Campbell, Clark and McDonald)	£
Stanstead School- NDVF Great Project	550
Dragons Den 2013	2,500
Bulwell Forest Community Garden	300
The Big Lunch - Rise Park	300

- (2) to approve the financial reports as follows:

<u>Bulwell Ward</u>	£
Balance Brought Forward 2011/12	19,001
Councillor Funding 2012/13	15,000
Deprivation Funds	15,993
Total Funds	49,994
Allocated funds 2012/13	16,588
De-committed schemes	6,041
Uncommitted funds after allocations	39,447
<u>Bulwell Forest Ward</u>	£
Balance Brought Forward 2011/12	20,820
Councillor Funding 2012/13	15,000
Deprivation Funds	0
Total Funds	35,820
Allocated funds 2012/13	13,114
De-committed schemes	4,640
Uncommitted funds after allocations	27,346

14 COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

Emma Eckhardt and Celia Knight, Neighbourhood Development Officers, introduced the report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services and informed the Committee that further applications could be submitted. Clarity is being sought regarding the community representative status of all Lead Organisations across the City. The Head of Democratic Services expects to clarify the situation by the next meeting.

RESOLVED to note the following appointments of Community Representatives to the Committee for the municipal Year 2013/14:

Reginald Knowles	-	Bradford Street Allotments
Sheila Loades	-	Bulwell Hall Tenants' and Residents' Association
Doreen Carruthers	-	Forest Park Neighbourhood Watch
Roz Yousouf	-	Nottingham Elders Forum
David Norman	-	My Sight Nottinghamshire
Gillian Slack	-	Ravensworth Road Methodist Church
Paul Bakajsa	-	Rise Park Action Group
John Millington	-	Rise Park Community Association
Paul Jackson	-	Royal British Legion Bulwell Branch
Sally Wilson	-	Snapewood Community Centre

15 WARD PERFORMANCE REPORT

Emma Eckhardt and Celia Knight, Neighbourhood Action Officers, introduced the report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services which presented performance information on each of the following topics:

- Ward Priorities
- Community Engagement
- Finance
- Safer Theme - crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB)
- Neighbourhood Theme - cleansing and environmental issues
- Working Theme - unemployment rates
- Housing
- Community Protection
- Fire
- Health Theme - local health priorities

The following points are highlighted in the summary of issues:

Bulwell Ward

- (a) Compared to the corresponding period last year, all crime is down by 12.21%, with ASB down by 29.83%.
- (b) Fly tipping incidents had increased by 10 to 32 compared to the corresponding period last year.
- (c) Deliberate fires are down by 53.29% for the year to date against the same period last year, that's 81 fewer fires.
- (d) A week of action had been successfully held, bringing partner agencies, voluntary organisations and businesses together to tackle some of the ward priorities.
- (e) Events and activities are planned for the summer, including an event on National Play Day on Bulwell Hall Park.

Bulwell Forest Ward

- (f) Compared to the corresponding period last year, all crime is down 19.34%, and in March there was a reduction of 33.33% compared to March the previous year.
- (g) There had been 16 incidents of fly tipping which was an increase of 12 on the same month last year.
- (h) For the same period as last year, the number of deliberate fires was down to 89 which was a reduction of 74.79%.
- (i) Various ward walks and other community engagement events had been held and issues raised by citizens and at the Local Area Group, such as drug use, had been taken forward by the Neighbourhood Action Team.
- (j) The Southgate Multi Use Games Area had been launched in February and proved to be popular.
- (k) An information session for citizens who'll be affected by the welfare reforms had been held at Top Valley Community Centre.
- (l) A Bulwell Forest Ward Week of Action is to be held between 22 and 29 June 2013.

RESOLVED to note the report.

16 STREAMLINING INVESTMENT TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR: AREA BASED GRANT MONITORING

Louise Graham, Voluntary and Community Sector Grants Team, was accompanied by Malcolm Swift of Market Development, to present the report of the Interim Director of Quality and Commissioning summarising the proposed process for monitoring Area Based Grants. The Committee previously discussed Streamlining Investment to the Voluntary Sector at its informal session of the February 2013 meeting.

Internal and external organisations will be involved in monitoring the performance of Right Track which has been appointed as the Lead Organisation for Bulwell and Bulwell Forest for the term ending in 2 years and 9 months time.

In addition to the formal monitoring process, there will be an informal route providing the opportunity to question, challenge or praise Right Track, via the Voluntary and Community Sector Grants Team.

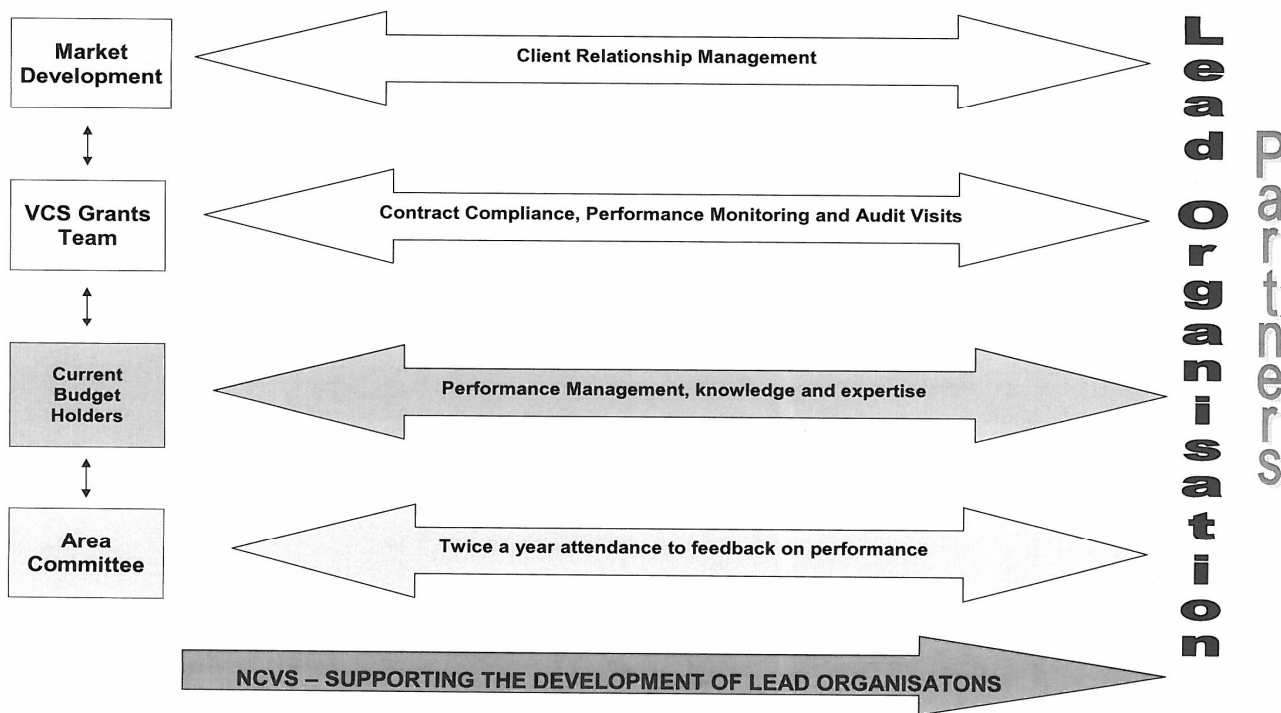
The second phase of the programme will include consideration of fairer funding allocations on a broader scale across the City, with specific regard to funding on the basis of the Indices of Multiple Deprivation. This is expected to start at the end of the current contract.

Councillors commented that currently most community organisations only applied for City Council funding and that funding applications need to be extended to external and partner organisations. There have been some very successful applications made for play and repeat offender and diversionary work.

RESOLVED

- (1) to note the proposed monitoring process for Area Based Grants as follows:

Appendix 1 – Proposed Monitoring and Relationship with Lead Organisations and Partners



- (2) to approve the twice annual reporting of the Lead Organisation to Area Committee;
- (3) to note the routes for discussion and challenge with regard to Area Based Grant Monitoring.

17 **FUTURE MEETING DATES**

RESOLVED to next meet at 5.30pm on 4 September 2013.