

**COLDHURST AREA COMMITTEE**  
**3<sup>RD</sup> FEBRUARY 2009**

- PRESENT** Councillors: Jabbar, Miah and Uddin  
Co-opted Members: Mr N Miah (Chair), Mr J Allen and Mr R Smith  
Apologies for Absence:  
Ms H Woods and Inspector A Humphries (GMP)
- Item 2 **URGENT BUSINESS**  
There was no urgent business introduced by the Chair.
- Item 3 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**  
There were no Declarations of Interest received.
- Item 4 **MINUTES**  
See Item 5
- Item 5 **COLDHURST AREA COMMITTEE MINUTES – 26<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2008**  
**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2008 be approved as a correct record.
- Item 6 **REPORT OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE TEAM AND QUESTIONS**  
The Neighbourhood Manager reported that Inspector Humphries was unfortunately unable to both attend tonight's meeting and send a representative in his place. In his absence, Mr Allen provided the Committee with a brief update on issues arising from the last meeting of the Key Individual Network (KIN), in particular steps that were being take to address anti-social behaviour in the area.  
**RESOLVED** – That the KIN update be noted.
- Item 7 **HIGHWAYS ISSUES IN COLDHURST**  
Mr T Noblet, Service Director Highways attended the meeting to respond to any questions/concerns raised by Committee Members and members of the public. Issues were raised as follows:  
  1. Gritting – a Committee Members asked whether there was any scope for other roads in the Borough, in addition to primary/secondary ones, to be gritted in adverse weather conditions. Reference was made to the steep gradients of Belmont Street and Coldhurst Street and the resultant difficulties of not gritting these roads. In response, Mr Noblet provided the Committee with an overview of the Council's responsibilities in relation to the gritting of roads, in particular the need to keep open the town's principle highways and secondary routes. Following that,

the Council would make every effort to grit any other minor highways given the problem that there was 500 km of roads in the Borough. Mr Noblet also stated that he would be asking the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive to review the Council's policy and procedures in relation to gritting. In addition, another Committee Member considered that all bus routes should be gritted. Mr Noblet stated that discussions between the Council and First Bus Company were ongoing.

2. Officer Attendance at Area Committees – a Committee Member requested that an Officer from the Highways Department should attend meetings of the Area Committee on a regular basis. In response, Mr Noblet explained that he and two officers already had commitments to attend other Area Committees so this might prove difficult. However, he undertook to provide written reports in response to any issues and concerns that were raised at meetings.
3. Subway – a Committee Member reported on the problems being experienced in the subway at Hilda Street and Westbourne Street, in particular graffiti, lack of lighting, flooding and asked what was being done to address this problem. In response, Mr Noblet stated that the Council had now tendered out works to refurbish the subway. He also referred to another subway near Tesco's that was of a poor structural standard and tests were ongoing to try and determine the problem. Mr Noblet undertook to provide the Committee with dates when the problems to these two subways might be resolved.
4. Road humps on Chadderton Way – a Committee Member expressed concern in relation to the poor state of these road humps. Mr Noblet reported that the Council had a large shortfall in bringing its highways up to standard but was keen on looking at a potential PFI to address this matter.
5. Potholes on Vale Drive/Barker Street Estate – Mr Noblet undertook to investigate this matter and report back to the Area Committee at its next meeting.
6. Double Yellow lines on Neville Street – a Committee Member reported that residents had complained about these proposals and referred to site meeting that was to be arranged. Mr Noblet undertook to investigate this matter and report back to the Area Committee at its next

meeting.

7. A Committee Member requested that this Committee should be provided with a programme of proposed highways issues for Coldhurst.
8. Speeding on Belmont Street – a Committee Member reported that this was still continuing and enquired what progress had been made to address this problem. Mr Noblet was aware of the problem and would investigate this matter further.

The Chair thanked Mr Noblet for attending the meeting and responding to Committee Members' questions and concerns.

**RESOLVED** – That the questions and concerns put forward by Committee Members, together with the responses given, be noted and taken forward for investigation, where indicated.

Item 8

### **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

In the absence of any public questions, Mr M West, Local Service Delivery Manager, Street Scene provided the Committee with a number of updates affecting the Coldhurst area, namely the work being undertaken to grit/clear snow; 20 Ward Challenge clean up operation, in particular Anchor Street and clean up of the unadopted back alley at Crompton Street – Mr West reported that cleaning of this back alley would not continue and residents needed to take responsibility for their actions.

A Committee Member reported that a number of litter bins on Chadderton Way had been vandalised and that some needed to be emptied more regularly. In response, Mr West stated that an Emptying Schedule was in place and that further thought was being given to making litter bins more robust in the future which would hopefully address this issue. Also, as part of the 20 Ward Challenge, litter bins would be provided at more strategic points in the area.

Another Committee Member asked why the Council could not co-ordinate the collection of household waste and emptying of litter bins to take place simultaneously. Mr West clarified the processes in place but, despite the difficulties involved, would make every effort to address the problems outlined.

A Committee Member also enquired as to the feasibility of introducing alley gates in the area. Mr West reported that at least 85% of residents affected would have to agree to this. In addition, the resource/cost implications, together with surface treatment

maintenance, would be high and there was a strict priority programme in place.

The Chair thanked Mr West for attending the meeting and responding to Committee Members' questions and concerns.

**RESOLVED** – That the questions and concerns put forward by Committee Members, together with the responses given, be noted and taken forward for investigation, where indicated.

Item 9

## **OLDHAM COUNCIL BUDGET 2009/10 AND BEYOND**

Mr P Timmins, Interim Director of Finance attended the meeting and provided the Committee with details of the Councils' budget proposals for 2009/10 to 2011/12.

The Director circulated a briefing paper that had been prepared for all the Area Committees and sought the views of Committee Members and members of the public on the proposals before any final decisions were taken by the Council on 25th February 2009.

Committee Members sought further clarification regarding the following proposed budget options and the possible effect that they may have on the people of Coldhurst:

1. Adult Social Care: Reduction in the size and quality of care packages provided to clients.
2. Restructure of the School Crossing Patrol Service.
3. Review of Libraries service, including branches and mobile service.
4. Youth Centres – possible closure of Robin Hill Youth Centre. Committee Members reported that Coldhurst had the largest number of young people in the Borough and, as such, the Centre was very well used. It also provided Value for Money as a Council resource and its services should be retained and remains open.

At this point, the Committee recommended to the Cabinet and the Leader of the Council that Robin Hill Youth Centre was kept open.

In response, the Director provided the rationale behind the Council's budget options and advised the Committee that these were only proposals at this moment in time. Committee Members and members of the public were encouraged to make their own representations known to their local Councillors as well as attending the Council's Performance and Value for Money Select Committee on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2009.

The Chair thanked Mr Timmins for attending the meeting and responding to Committee Members' questions and concerns.

**RESOLVED** – (a) That the report of the Director of Finance be noted.

(b) That this Committee recommends to Cabinet and the Leader of the Council that Robin Hill Youth Centre is kept open.

Item 10

### **HOME ACCESS PROJECT**

Mr S Goodman, Head of ICT Strategy, attended the meeting and provided the Committee with details of a Government pilot scheme to provide computers and broadband access for families in Oldham. This would enable all children to have an equal opportunity to learn at home.

Mr Goodman circulated a leaflet that outlined further information about the computer and internet package, together with the eligibility criteria necessary to apply for a Home Access Grant. Mr Goodman reported that the pilot project would be at no cost to the Council and inclusive for everyone. The official launch of the scheme and availability of application packs would take place in early February; equipment available from suppliers at the end of this month; February to June 2009 – schools to be visited; and September 2009 – final date for the receipt of applications.

The scheme would comprise two areas – Failsworth and Hollinwood and West Oldham, including Coldhurst.

A Committee Member considered that it would be beneficial for the application packs to be available on-line.

The Chair thanked Mr Goodman for attending the meeting.

**RESOLVED** – That the update provided by Mr Goodman on the Home Access Project be noted.

Item 11

### **DELEGATED BUDGET SUB GROUP REPORT**

The Neighbourhood Manager reported that the Committee's Delegated Budget Sub Group at its meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> December had approved the following applications for funding:

1. £500 - Groundwork Oldham and Rochdale in support of the West Oldham Youth Offer project.
2. £1,000 - Mega Mela Group in support of the Oldham Mela 2009 project, subject to conditions.
3. £1,200 - Sport for Life Project in support of the Holiday Sport Project, subject to conditions. These had now been received and to be shared with Councillor

Miah.

**RESOLVED** – That the update be noted for information.

Item 12

**OLDHAM PARTNERSHIP STEERING GROUP UPDATE**

**RESOLVED** – That the verbal update given by Mr J Allen following the last meeting of the Oldham Partnership Steering Group be noted.

Item 13

**AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

A Committee Member requested that the Area Committee should, at a future meeting, consider as an Agenda item the issue of registration processes associated with Muslim burials. He enquired whether the Chief Executive of Oldham Primary Care Trust might be in a position to attend the next meeting in March this year.

In response, the Neighbourhood Manager stated that this could be combined with a progress report on the new health Centre and considered that a future meeting of the Committee might be dedicated solely for these two matters.

**RESOLVED** – That the Neighbourhood Manager be requested to progress the above as a future agenda item.

Item 14

**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

**RESOLVED** – That the next meeting of the Area Committee be held on Tuesday, 31st March 2009 at 6pm at the Oldham Muslim Centre, Compass House, Neville Street, Oldham.

The meeting commenced at 6.00pm and closed at 7.50pm.