

REPORT OF DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE CHADDERTON AREA COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2004/2005

PURPOSE

To review the work of the Chadderton Area Committee.

BACKGROUND

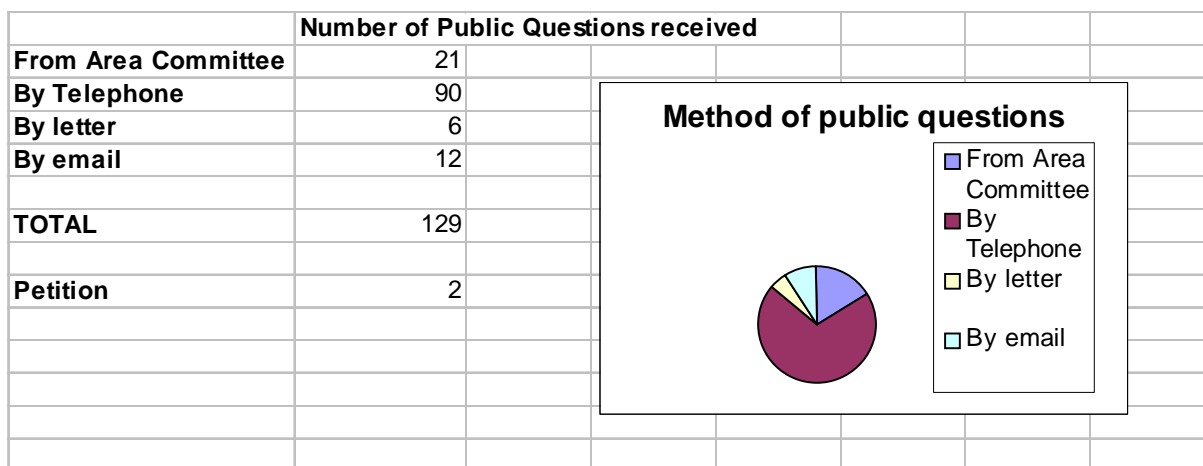
This report summarises the work of the Chadderton Area Committee during the municipal year 2004-05 under 5 headings:

- Public Question Time
- Influencing Services
- Using Area Committee budgets to support the community and voluntary sector and other priorities.
- Key achievements.
- Key issues and further actions required

1.0 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

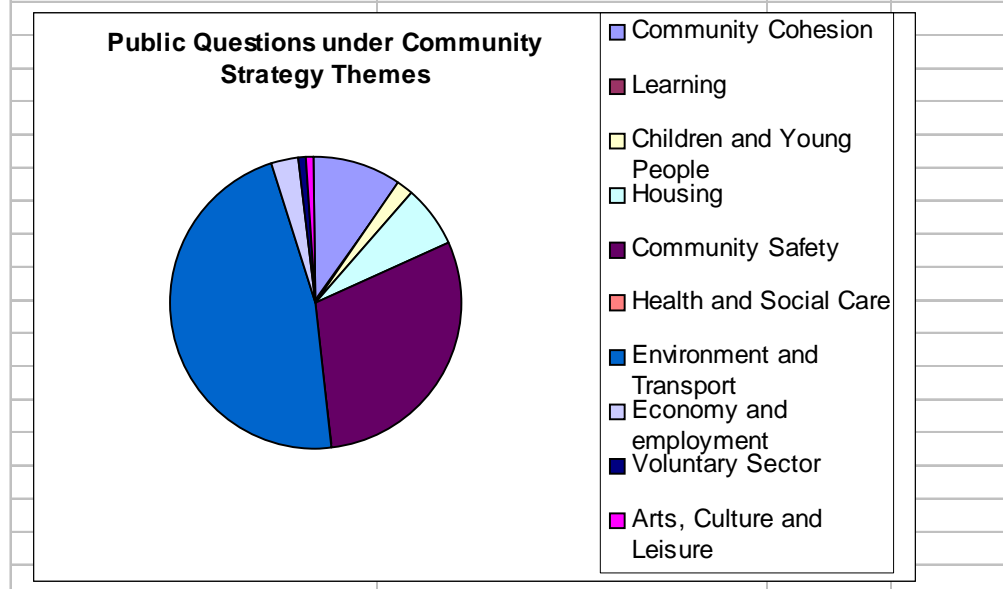
Public question time is the half hour allocated at Area Committee Meetings to receive general questions from the members of public. The following figures give an idea of the main concerns raised at the Area Committee and other sources. Some questions are received before the Area Committee Meeting in writing or over the telephone.

The chart below shows how many public questions were received and by what method



The Chart below shows the number of public questions received broken down into the Community Strategy themes.

Community Strategy Theme	Number of questions received
Community Cohesion	13
Learning	0
Children and Young People	2
Housing	9
Community Safety	38
Health and Social Care	0
Environment and Transport	61
Economy and employment	4
Voluntary Sector	1
Arts, Culture and Leisure	1
Miscellaneous	0
TOTAL	129



Environment

The information above demonstrates that the main concern reported by members of public was environmental issues. This was also reflected in the questions received at the Area Committee meetings. The biggest concern was about littering and on all occasions all complaints were reported to Environmental Services who attended the area and cleared away the litter. The appointment of a Community Solutions Officer has been instrumental in helping to make Chadderton cleaner.

Also under the heading of Environment, members of the public reported issues regarding travellers appearing at two main locations of Springs Road and Granby Street. Gates have now been erected at the entrance to each of these locations to prevent repeat incidents.

Community Safety

The second most important set of issues to be reported by members of the public were under the heading of Community Safety. The main concerns of people in Chadderton were anti-social behaviour, vandalism and alley-gating.

Numerous alley-gating schemes have been instigated in Chadderton with two major schemes around Turf Lane and Stanley Road. The Police have dealt with the anti-social behaviour issues resulting in a dispersal order for South Chadderton.

2.0 INFLUENCING SERVICES

2.1 Commission

A Commission including the team of Area Managers and Area Chairs was set up to explore how the Area Committees could be improved. Five main issues were identified that required examination in order that recommendations could be made to improve the future role of the Area Committees. These issues were:

Issue 1: To decide on the extent of the delegation and the nature of decision making by Area Committees

Issue 2: To clarify the relationship with the Parish Councils which exist within two parts of the borough

Issue 3: To determine the role co-optees should play in the Area Committees

Issue 4: To decide on the style of the Area Committee e.g. a local element of the LSP or Council Committee?

Issue 5: To consider the extent to which Area Committees should be strategically focused.

The following actions were carried out:

The Commission examined of the arrangements by other Local Authorities in framing delegation arrangements to Area Committees or similar Local Assemblies were examined and the findings disseminated.

The Commission consulted future proposals and included:

- The views of the appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Commission were sought
- The corporate legal, financial and managerial implications of any delegation proposals were considered
- Public opinion in relation to the proposals was obtained through the co-optees
- The views and recommendations of the Oldham Partnership were also sought.

The Commission produced a report for Cabinet with recommendations on the nature and extent of the delegation and decisions allocated to Area Committees. A brief summary of those recommendations include:

- To give the Area Committee constitutional powers to influence services at a local level

- To support the arrangement of a 'compact' between the Area Committees and Parish Councils
- To keep the current arrangements for co-optees but engage co-optees in sub-groups of the Area Committee
- To retain the Council Committee style of meeting but allow a more informal approach to the proceedings
- For the Area Committee to focus on the Area Action Plans.

The outcome of the Commission can be viewed in a more detailed report at www.oldham.gov.uk/council/decision_recording

2.2 Neighbourhood Solutions

The second part of the Commissions work was to examine the 'New Localism' agenda and report on how problems could be resolved quickly and effectively at the neighbourhood level.

Neighbourhood Solutions is an approach which combines Reassurance Policing (successfully piloted in Failsworth and St. Mary's) and the work of the Community Safety Panels. The Area Managers Team will bring together a number of agencies to act as one team. There will be a neighbourhood problem solving team in each Area Committee area to be called 'Area Action Teams'. Each team will work at a neighbourhood level to seek solutions to local problems to ensure that there is a quick and co-ordinated response from all the relevant agencies.

Area Committees will be integral to this process and based on information they receive from local residents and agencies such as the Police will prioritise the work of the Area Action Teams. Under the 'scheme of delegation' the Area Committee would also be able to help solve issues by directing local services to the area of need or by buying in additional resources using their budgets.

2.3 Work with other partners

The Area Committees have worked with Council Departments and other Agencies to tackle issues raised at their meetings. The Area Committees have worked with:-

- Community Safety Panels and Police to resolve crime issues in the area. The main focus has been on reducing the number of reports of youth nuisance.
- Regular work is carried out with Environmental Services and included a clean up campaign in Chadderton.
- Education and Culture, specifically the Youth Service, in setting up youth sub groups across each Area Committee area. There are also regular meetings of the Youth Alliance in which the Area Committee is represented to share information.
- Environmental Services in expanding the Christmas lights on to the shopping centre and arranging the switch on event.
- The Regeneration Department to relocate Zetex and progress the moving of Chadderton market.

- Oldham Partnership, specifically the Community Cohesion Partnership where the Area Managers were requested to attend meetings of the partnership to report on activities in the areas. The Area Managers have also been liaising with Oldham Partnership in relation to implementing 'neighbourhood solutions' across the Borough.
- Greater Manchester Police Authority to support their role in consulting with members of public.
- Through the Reassurance Policing Pilot in several wards, a good working relationship has been established with the Police and Community Safety Unit, which has led to the establishment of a solid problem solving approach. The Area Committee was instrumental in hosting an open day at Chadderton Town Hall.
- Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Executive to discuss the bus service along Middleton Rd where several recommendations were made taking in to account local needs.

Key achievements developed with partners are listed in Section 4 of this report.

3.0 USING THE AREA COMMITTEE BUDGETS TO SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY VOLUNTARY SECTOR AND OTHER PRIORITIES

The information below is a summary of how the various budgets have been used. The summary confirms that most projects have a strong community cohesion theme. There are also clear links between the projects and the Area Committee priorities in their action plan.

The Area Committee has awarded grants throughout the year, a total of 5 grants were made amounting to £15,168.00

A budget statement is attached to this report.

The chart below shows the percentage of funding for each priority area and includes all expenditure. The chart indicates that a large percentage of the Area Committee funding has been spent on providing equipment for groups to deliver activities for local people and has a youth provision theme running across the expenditure.

Area Committee Priorities	Funding Allocated		
Community Cohesion	10,531		
Street Cleaning	0		
Youth Service	6,749		
Community Safety	0		
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> <p>Delegated Budget allocations</p> <p>Community Cohesion</p> <p>Street Cleaning</p> <p>Youth Service</p> <p>Community Safety</p> </div>			

Two minor grants were also awarded to a junior band and a veteran bowling club that amounted to £5,525.00.

4.0 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Co-optee Training

Area Committee co-optee/new elected members induction took place on Saturday 9th and Thursday 28th October. The events proved to be relatively successful with 36 out of 62 co-optees attending.

Following on from the success of the co-optee training in October, another session was held on Tuesday 22nd February. A total of 34 co-optees and 4 newly elected Councillors attended this session and found the training to be interesting and beneficial.

The training consisted of an overview of the Council's organisational structure and an introduction to all departments. This was followed by a detailed description of the Environmental Services Department and an overview of the Regeneration Department.

Feedback from the session has generally been good, showing an average satisfaction rating of 8 out of 10 for the programme as a whole.

Youth Sub Group

A Youth Sub Group has recently been established. This should hopefully help to give the young people of the area an opportunity to express their views and have them heard by local decision makers. It will also make it easier to engage the young people of the area on a variety of issues.

Mediation Northern Ireland

Ward Councillors, Area Managers and Co-optees have participated fully in the Mediation Northern Ireland programme. Conflict resolution techniques employed in Northern Ireland have been discussed in an attempt of identifying appropriate methods that could be used in Oldham.

Area Action Plan

An Area Action Plan for each Area Committee was approved. The plan has been put together by the Area Committee Co-optees. It will help to drive the priorities within the area and influence the work of the new Area Action Teams.

Grant Scheme

The Area Managers on behalf of the Area Committees have succeeded in amalgamating the Minor Grants scheme and grants awarded by the Area Committee whereby all grants will be decided at the Area Committees.

Below is a resume of the specific key achievements of Chadderton Area Committee within the Community Strategy headings.

Community Strategy Theme	Action Plan reference	Key Achievements and influencing Services
Community Cohesion	CC3	The Christmas lights were extended to the shopping centre.
	CC2	The Area Committee meetings ARE NOW publicised on the council website and posters distributed. New co-optees elected. The committee make up now reflects the make up of Chadderton's community
	CC15	Effective use of the Town Crier has been made at Area Committee events
	CC5	Co-ordinated, with the Police, in arranging an 'open day' to launch Police Reassurance and gather information from members of public.
Learning		Participated in the programme development at the City Learning College. Support given for the 'extended schools' programme and a grant awarded for learning about media production.

Children and Young People	CYP1	Funding for a youth shelter secured and waiting for installation near Drury Lane
	CYP4	£15k allocated by the Committee from Fair Share funding for play equipment in Foxdenton Park
	CYP5	£15k allocated by the committee from Fair Share funding for play equipment in Coalshaw Green Park
	CYP3	Support given and planning permission granted for a kick-about area in Chadderton Hall Park A youth activities matrix started and publicised at the committee meeting.
Housing	H1	Committee members have participated in FCHO estate walk-about with residents. A number of FCHO housing areas are under going work to improve the stock to 'decent homes standard'.
Community Safety	CS1	Funding was secured for gates to secure Granby St playing fields. Gates erected on Springs Road to prevent access by travellers.
	CS2	Stanley Rd and surrounding areas given 'designated status' and alley-gating commenced.
	CS5	Additional PCSO's deployed in Chadderton and assisted in solving issues raised at the Area Committee meetings. Supported the Police to obtain a dispersal order in the South Chadderton Area that has reduced youth nuisance reports.
	CS8	Reassurance Policing launched across Chadderton.
Health and Social Care	HSC1	Two new health centres proposed for

		Chadderton.
Environment and Transport	ET8	Baretrees Doorstep Green project completed where funding was granted from the Area Committee.
	ET1	Continued implementation of the litter plan and employment of a Community Solutions Officer. All schools were visited, additional signs erected and fixed penalty notices issued.
Economy and Employment	E1 & 7	Proposed moving of the market to a prime spot on the shopping centre and planning permission submitted by Asda.
Voluntary Sector	VS1 & CC11	A youth database started and forwarded to Voluntary Action Oldham with the plan to include the information of their new website.
Arts, Culture and Leisure	ACL5	A new restaurant opened in the Chadderton Town Centre. The committee instigating the setting up of a junior bowling club at Coalshaw Green Park.
	ACL6	Support and advice given to start the setting up a Trust for the operation of Foxdenton Hall.

5.0 FUTURE CONSIDERATION

5.1 Scheme of delegation

The Area Managers Team will be working to develop and put into practice the scheme of delegation, linking this to Neighbourhood Solutions. this will give the Area Committee more control over the issues that affect its area

5.2 Neighbourhood Solutions

The newly formed Area Action Teams will need to develop a close working relation and agree with the Area Committees the initial 'hot spot/s' to address in their areas. Actions will be developed to tackle specific problems and the Area Committees will be able to influence the outcomes.

5.3 Co-optee Development

It will be important to further develop Co-opted Members through training programmes so that they have the capacity to play an active role on the Committee. They will need

the skills to contribute to the increasing role the Committee will play in local decision making. A number of suggestions for further training are being considered. Examples include Neighbourhood Solutions and the Work of the Local Strategic Partnership.

5.4 Marketing of the Area Committees

Although the Area Committees now feature on the Council website there is a need to further improve the way Area Committee meetings and their work is promoted.

5.5 Shopping Centre

Chadderton's market has declined and there are proposals to move it and also develop the shopping centre. The Area Committee will be able to play a key role in helping push forward the developments.

5.6 Youth Provision

The new Youth Sub-group will be tasked with mapping activities in the Chadderton area and identifying gaps in provision. The Area Committee will play a major part in bridging the gaps as this issue has been highlighted by members of public as the main issue to address in Chadderton.

5.7 Area Action Plan

To re-visit the Area Action Plan and include the work of the Area Action Team. Also to encourage ownership of the action plan by the various LSP partnerships.

5.8 Health

To encourage a representative of the health profession to attend the Area Committee meetings. To work with the health providers in Chadderton to implement a programme of intervention schemes.

5.9 Capacity building

Oldham Council, in conjunction with Salford City Council, are introducing an ambitious programme to develop comprehensive neighbourhood management. Both authorities have recognised that one of the keys to the delivery of services that respond to the needs of citizens (as expressed at a local level), is recognising the impact it has on all aspects of the way the Council operates.

'Partners in Change' will provide a training programme, running in three phases:

- Phase 1 Shared learning events for managers with specific responsibility for local areas and managers with specific responsibility for service delivery in local areas
- Phase 2 Skill building for local Elected Members to develop community leadership
- Phase 3 Designing a programme that can be delivered in each Local Authority area for middle and senior managers and managers from partner organisations which will create a short feedback loop from the emerging practice in the new

area arrangements and develop the skills and knowledge base of managers in all services

It is expected that 100 Council managers, up to 50 managers from partner agencies and 50 Elected Members will participate in the programme commencing delivery in July 2005, with cohorts of participants undertaking learning until September 2006.