

CHADDERTON ANNUAL REPORT 2005/6



**REPORT OF DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE
CHADDERTON AREA COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT
2005/2006**

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 2005-6 under 5 headings:

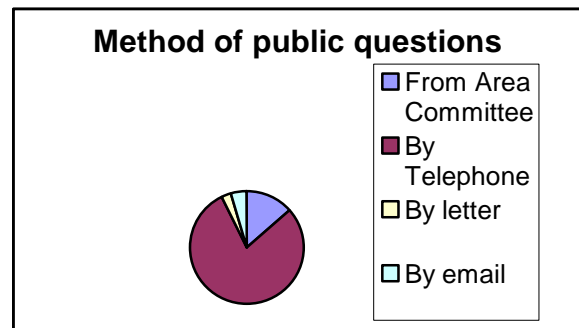
- Public Question Time
- Partnership Working
- Using Area Committee budgets to support the community, voluntary sector and other priorities.
- Key achievements.
- Key issues and further actions required

1.0 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

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.

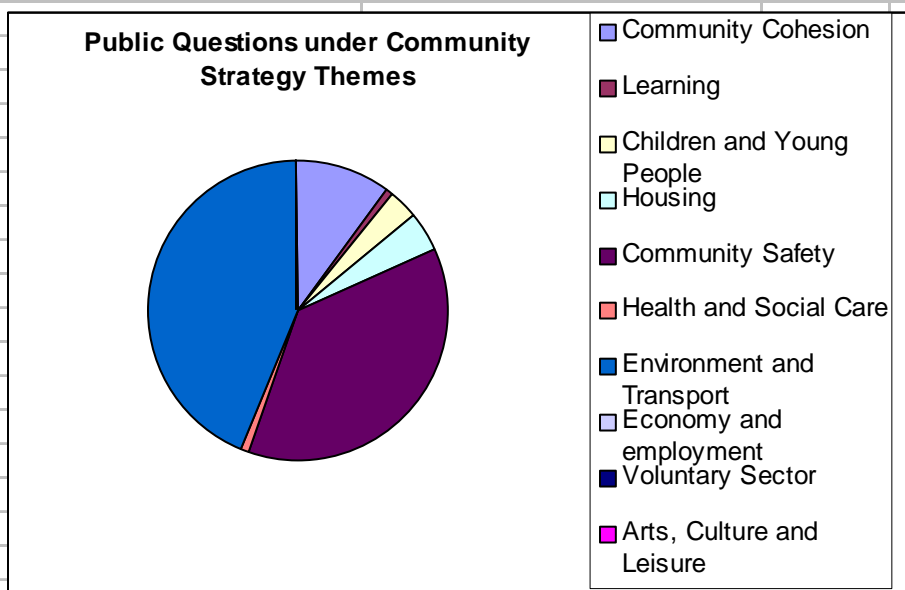
1.1 The chart below shows how many public questions were received and by what method

Number of Public Questions received	
From Area Committee	21
By Telephone	123
By letter	4
By email	7
TOTAL	155



1.2 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	12		
Learning	1		
Children and Young People	4		
Housing	5		
Community Safety	43		
Health and Social Care	1		
Environment and Transport	52		
Economy and employment	0		
Voluntary Sector	0		
Arts, Culture and Leisure	0		
Miscellaneous	0		
TOTAL	118		



1.3 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 residents refuse bins not being emptied which may have been as a result of a change in the collection system and on all occasions all complaints were reported to Environmental Services who attended and emptied the bins.

Also under the heading of Environment, members of the public reported issues regarding overgrown bushes, trees or grassed areas not being cut. Trees are inspected and pruned in rotation around the Borough so some trees were not pruned for some months. Environmental Services also undertook a review of the land they within Council ownership and some grassed land was subsequently not cut. All reports were submitted to Environmental Services and bushes/trees were cut.

This is the first year for the Area Committee that litter has not been resident's main complaint.

1.4 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 alley-gating and anti-social behaviour

There was a continuation of alley-gating schemes instigated in Chadderton and building on the previous years work. This has resulted in the number of burglaries being reduced. However several resident groups have asked for the alleys to be cleared at the same time as the gates were installed but unfortunately funding is not available at present.

The Police continue to deal with the anti-social behaviour issues and since the introduction of the Area action Teams this has been approached as a multi-agency issue.

2.0 PARTNERSHIP WORKING

2.1 Neighbourhood Solutions

Neighbourhood Solutions is the name for a new way of working at a neighbourhood level to tackle issues that adversely affect the quality of life for local people. It involves service providers such as the Council (e.g Environmental Services, Youth Service), Police, Primary Care Trust, Groundwork Youthworks, First Choice Homes, Connexions, Voluntary Sector and other organisations working together in a co-ordinated way within neighbourhoods so that they have a greater impact. These organisations work with the local Councillors within a group called the 'Area Action Team' which has been in operation for 9 months.

A key element of Neighbourhood Solutions is the involvement of Councillors and Co-optees from Area Committees who played a central role in prioritising the neighbourhoods for action, helping local people to get involved and facilitating the identification of local issues and even more importantly, being involved in identifying the best solutions to stop the problems from recurring.

The two initial priority areas for action were Chadderton shopping centre and nearby estate and Coalshaw Green area. The main issues being tackled were anti-social behaviour from some young people and car crime.

In the centre of Chadderton:

Due to targeted action, arrest of a ringleader, use of 12 anti-social behaviour notices and other actions listed below the shopping centre has seen a reduction in crime.

- Agencies have been working together to tackle the issues in the pilot area and some of the outcomes include:
- A clean up of the area involving residents
- Graffiti removed

- Extra Police patrols
- Youth outreach work
- After requests from the Area Action Team, the youth Buzz was deployed on Thursday evenings for 6 weeks leading up to December 2005. The Youth Buzz was based on Asda car park to engage with young people who have been congregating on the car park and causing general problems within the Asda store. Youth Service have managed to re engage these young people and work with them and they now attend the open access sessions at the Oakbank Centre.
- Additional youth activities at the sports centre
- Three estate walkabouts with residents
- Test purchases for selling alcohol to minors with four sales obtained and shops given a warning
- Clean up of the 'pocket park' with funding and support from Asda and Groundwork
- Residents meetings held that included young people
- Additional 'No littering' and 'homewatch' signs erected and sponsored by the Area Committee
- New windows for Apfel Lane Community Centre
- An arsonist was caught red-handed in a joint operation by members of the Area Action Team. CCTV was used to survey several properties and the offender was seen to light newspaper in letter boxes. The offender was given a jail sentence
- Plans to re-model the access points through the wall surrounding the estate to make the entrances safer.

In the Coalshaw Green area Yew Tree School, in conjunction with the Area Action Team, have fenced off a section of their grass field but have agreed to open up the area for community use that will have two sets of goal posts and seating. Funding was received from the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund to help with the costs of this project. This is a worthwhile addition to the area as a post dispersal arrangement with youth agencies looking to provide activities within the new area. In addition several other actions were taken such as a clean up as part of the 20 Ward Challenge and a multi-agency event to meet residents. This area continues to be a focus for the Area Action Team.

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

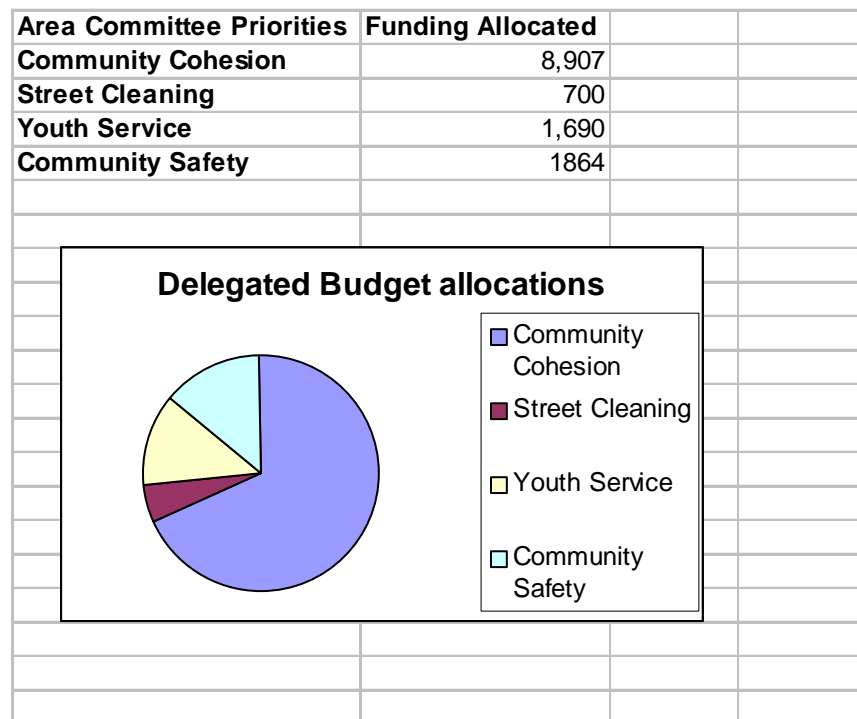
The information below is a summary of how the various budgets have been used. The summary confirms that most projects have a strong community cohesion theme. There are also clear links between the projects and the Area Committee priorities in their action plan.

The Area Committee has awarded grants throughout the year, a total of 11 grants were made, which is double that of the previous year, amounting to £13,161.00.

The Area Committee also funded the extension of the Christmas lights on to the library and trees in front of the petrol station. Funding was also allocated for the production and re-sale of Christmas cards.

A budget statement is attached to this report.

The chart below shows the grant funding for each priority area identified by the Area Committee. The chart indicates that a large percentage of the Area Committee funding has been spent on local groups to deliver activities for local people and has an intergenerational theme running across the expenditure.



4.0 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS

4.1 Co-optee Training

During the last year's training/information giving sessions, Co-opted members had identified their own topics for the sessions. Three sessions were held during 2005-6 year. The key session was on introducing and explaining the activities of Council Departments e.g. Environmental Services, Regeneration and Chief Executive's Department. Another session explained the proposed changes in the Social Services Department detailing out the new Children's Services. The purpose, structure, operation and achievements of the Oldham Partnership were also explained during the second session. Finally at the co-optees' request, the new Local Area Agreements and Localism initiatives were explained in the third session.

Attendance at the above sessions has varied. Around 20-25 co-opted members have participated at each session.

4.2 Youth Sub Group

The Youth Sub Group meets on a regular basis and allows the young people of the area an opportunity to express their views and have them heard by local decision makers. It also makes it easier to engage with the young people of the area on a variety of issues. The young people of the group have attended each Area Committee meeting to present the report on young people to Members. Several training sessions have been held to teach young people various skills in arranging and managing meetings.

Young people from the sub-group took part in the 'Over to You' conference which gathers opinions from young people.

The Youth sub-group have also been involved in the gathering of information for the youth website and participated in helping to make initial design recommendations.

4.3 The Neighbourhood Works

"The Neighbourhood Works" is an ODPM funded programme for Elected Members, officers and partner agencies designed to develop understanding and skills so that we can deliver better co-ordinated services at a neighbourhood level. The programme includes sessions that will enable Members and officers to work with colleagues from Salford to share good practice.

The programme had two launch events, one in each Council area, to outline the programme. Some key elements of the programme are;

- Explore the issues emerging for the Councils and partner agencies, within the context of the Government's agenda for stronger, safer and more cohesive communities.
- Empower participants to look critically at what they do and how they can influence delivery within existing structures using good practice from around the UK.
- Learning how to engage local residents to shape their area and have a say on service delivery.

After initial comments from participants there has been some adjustment to the programme. The sessions for Module C, which is specifically for Elected Members, were postponed due to low take up and an alternative delivery method is being investigated.

4.4 Area Action Plan

A new Area Action Plan for the Area Committee has been put together by the Area Committee Co-optees and its Partners and will be approved at the first Area Committee meeting in 2006-7. It will help to drive the priorities within the area and influence the work of the new Area Action Teams.

Below is a resume of the specific key achievements of Chadderton Area Committees last action plan within the Community Strategy headings for the previous area action plan.

Community Strategy Theme	Action Plan	<u>Key</u> Achievements and influencing Services
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	reference	
Community Cohesion	CC3	<p>The Christmas lights were extended to the library and trees on Middleton Road. Christmas cards depicting the Town Hall and Foxdenton Hall were produced for re-sale.</p> <p>A lantern parade by local primary schools took place in Coalshaw Green Park supported by a grant from the Area Committee.</p>
	CC5	<p>Open days were held in February at the Town Hall and June 2005 on the shopping centre in Chadderton where Councillors and agencies explained to residents what had been accomplished around the centre housing areas and to ask what were residents main concerns.</p>
	CC7	<p>The Area Committee make up reflects the make up of Chadderton's community</p>
	CC14	<p>The Area Committee approved the creation of a 'Chadderton Day' to be held each June.</p>
	CC15	<p>Effective use of the Town Crier has been made at Area Committee events</p> <p>Two intergenerational events held bringing together young and old people to discuss issues in Chadderton.</p>
Learning	L1	<p>Gave support for the PFI that will see the upper and lower Radclyffe schools joining together.</p>
	L2	<p>Funding received for the building of a new indoor athletics track at Radclyffe school.</p>
	L6	<p>Councillors and Co-optees participated in the programme development at the City Learning College.</p> <p>Grant support given for the 'extended schools' radio programme.</p>
Children and Young People	CYP1	<p>New style changing facilities agreed with residents for Granby St playing fields and awaiting confirmation of funding for 2 pitches.</p>
	CYP3	<p>New kick-about area completed in Chadderton</p>

	CYP4	Hall Park. £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.
	CYP8	A new youth website approved with the Family Information Service agreeing to provide a telephone service. A youth activities matrix started and publicised at the committee meeting. Young people were questioned by other young people about what they would like to see in their area. Over 40 questionnaires were completed by the young people and the results will help shape the new action plan.
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 Granby St playing fields and alley-gating completed along Granby St and Turf Lane areas. Gates erected on Springs Road to prevent access by travellers.
	CS2	Stanley Rd and surrounding areas given 'designated status' and alley-gating commenced.
	CS8	Committee members being integral to the work of the Area Action Teams to reduce crime with regular reports being received by the Area Committee. Three bogus caller events held to educate older people about the dangers. A Youth Justice programme run involving youths

		<p>being taken through the whole process of being arrested, interviewed and appearing in court which is meant to inform youths of what this feels like and deter them from committing crime.</p> <p>New homewatch schemes set up and signs purchase with the help of the Area Committee.</p>
Health and Social Care	HSC1	One new health centre opened and one health centres proposed for Chadderton centre.
Environment and Transport	ET1 ET8	<p>Continued implementation of the litter plan with additional signs erected and bins installed.</p> <p>Several clean ups held by partners of the Area Committee with residents such as Long Lane, Yew Tree field, Granby St and Crossley Field.</p> <p>Baretrees Doorstep Green project completed where funding was granted from the Area Committee.</p> <p>Corpus Christi Junior school linked up with Friezland School from Saddleworth in a school-linking programme to highlight areas near to the two schools that required cleaning. Pupils then undertook a litter pick of the areas around the schools.</p>
Economy and Employment	E1 & 7 E2	<p>Proposed moving of the market to a prime spot on the shopping centre and planning permission approved.</p> <p>Two new business watch schemes set up.</p>
Voluntary Sector	VS1 & CC11 VS4	<p>A youth database started and forwarded to Voluntary Action Oldham with the plan to include the information of their new website.</p> <p>Voluntary groups have been involved in the organising and running of events such as the Christmas lights switch on and Chadderton Day.</p>
Arts, Culture and Leisure	ACL5	<p>A new restaurant opened in the Chadderton Town Centre.</p> <p>The committee instigating the setting up of a junior bowling club at Coalshaw Green Park.</p>

	ACL6	Support and advice given to start the setting up a Trust for the operation of Foxdenton Hall and a grant awarded for further decoration.
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5.0 FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

5.2 Neighbourhood Solutions

During 2006/07, an Improvement Plan will be developed to help build upon the work of the Area Action Teams. There will be a particular focus upon ensuring that the Borough can meet its key priorities in the Local Area Agreement on crime, the quality of the environment, engagement of local people in influencing decision making and a general increase in public satisfaction about the neighbourhoods within which they live. An essential part of the Improvement Plan will therefore be to improve the opportunities for local people to get involved. A consultation about how we might better engage local people in influencing the services delivered in their neighbourhood will be launched shortly with a view to implementing any changes by January 2007.

5.3 Local Area Agreement

The Local Area Agreement (LAA) is an initiative that will give Oldham the opportunity to accelerate the pace of change and will be the strategic tool for improving partnership working. The LAA will act as the catalyst for driving forward more effective, co-ordinated and streamlined joint agency working to deliver improved services for the benefit of residents.

The Oldham Partnership is currently streamlining its structures as a result of the Local Area Agreement and re-organising internally by amalgamating its current nine thematic partnerships in to five Partnership Boards or 'Blocks'.

Each Block will have identified outcomes, indicators and targets to achieve the strategic priorities and promote stronger community cohesion.

5.4 Co-optee Development

It will be important to further develop Co-opted Members through continued 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. To increase attendance at Area Committee meetings and making sure that training sessions are attended, there is a new recruitment pack for year 2006-7 which will emphasise that all co-opted members must attend at least 2 out of 3 training sessions and be active in at least one of the Area Committee sub-groups.

5.5 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. The Area Chairs have approved a marketing and communications strategy that will be implemented during 2006-7.

Chadderton's partners will be producing a monthly newsletter during 2006-7 to inform residents of the work of the Area Committee and Action Team.

5.6 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.

5.7 Youth Provision

The Youth Sub-group will be tasked with mapping activities in the Chadderton area and identifying gaps in provision. The young people in the sub-group will begin to write their own reports for the Area Committee meetings and will be making recommendations on the contents of the Children's and Young Peoples section of the area action plan.

The Youth Website will be launched to create a 'one stop shop' for all activities for young people.

5.8 Area Action Plan

To launch the new Area Action Plan and include the work of the Area Action Team but reduce the number of thematic headings to three. These will be the key issues raised by residents; Community Safety, Environment & Transport and Children & Young People.

5.9 Neighbourhood Works Programme

Oldham Council, in conjunction with Salford City Council, have introduced 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 and it is expected that 100 Council managers and up to 50 managers from partner agencies will participate in the programme.

6.0 Mediation Northern Ireland

Three Area Managers have participated in the Mediation Northern Ireland programme along with other partner representatives, they participated in a four-day training session in Belfast and six further sessions in Oldham. In completing the course, participants have gained practical experience in resolving conflict by using mediation techniques that will be available for any area in the Borough.

6.1 Events

The Area Committee will be leading on several events for 2006-7, namely; Chadderton Day – an event that will celebrate the history of Chadderton within a fun day for young and older people at Foxdenton Park. Agencies will also be able to display their services to promote what they do for residents.

Bowling Challenge – an intergenerational crown green bowling competition will be held in Coalshaw Green Park on 16th July and provide an opportunity for older people to help young people in the art of bowling. The event will form part of the Festival of Diversity.

Christmas lights switch on – this successful annual event will continue this year outside Chadderton Town Hall and also feature an older and younger person switching on the lights.

The Area Committee will try to capture all the events taking place in Chadderton and promote them to residents in the Chadderton News letter which is also posted on the Area Committee website.