

**REPORT OF DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE
EAST OLDHAM AREA COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT
2004/2005**

PURPOSE

To report the work of the East Oldham Area Committee.

BACKGROUND

This report summarises the work of 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

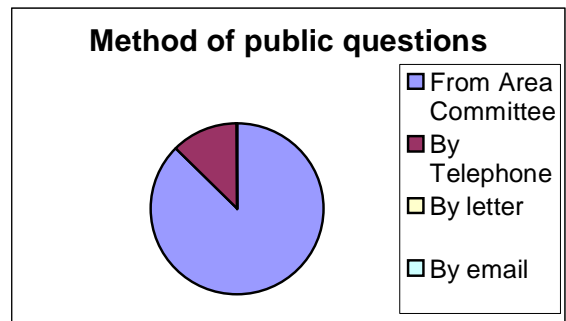
1.0 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

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. 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

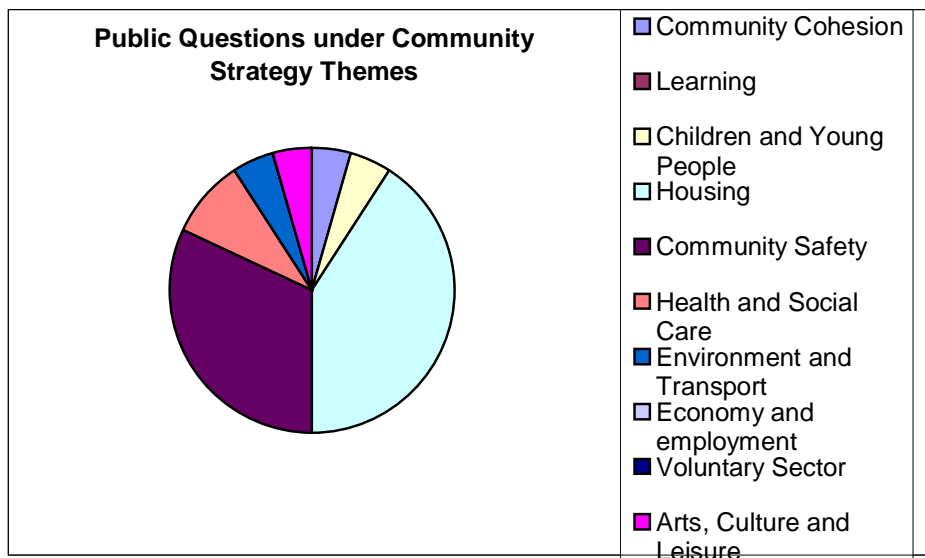
Number of Public Questions received

From Area Committee	21
By Telephone	3
By letter	0
By email	0
TOTAL	24



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	1
Learning	
Children and Young People	1
Housing	9
Community Safety	7
Health and Social Care	2
Environment and Transport	1
Economy and employment	
Voluntary Sector	
Arts, Culture and Leisure	1
Miscellaneous	2
TOTAL	24



As can be seen from the first pie chart, most public questions are received at the Area Committee, although a few are put forward by telephone. As the second pie chart shows, by far the greatest percentage of questions concerned housing. This is largely due to the significance of Housing Market Renewal in East Oldham.

There were also a number of questions regarding Community Safety, which is obviously a priority for East Oldhamers. A number of these were about the loss of the Neighbourhood Rangers, whose roles have since been undertaken by Police Community Support Officers.

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 includes clean ups and enforcement work.
- Education and Culture, specifically the Youth Service, in setting up youth sub groups across each Area Committee area
- Regeneration have been heavily involved in the area, specifically on Housing Market Renewal in Derker.
- 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.
- Linking with Greater Manchester Police Authority to support their role in consulting with members of public.
- Through the Reassurance Policing Pilot in the 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
- Effective consultation. A variety of agencies have visited the Area Committee to consult them on a number of issues. The Primary Care Trust came twice to the Area Committee and consulted extensively on the LIFT Health Centres at Moorside and Glodwick.

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

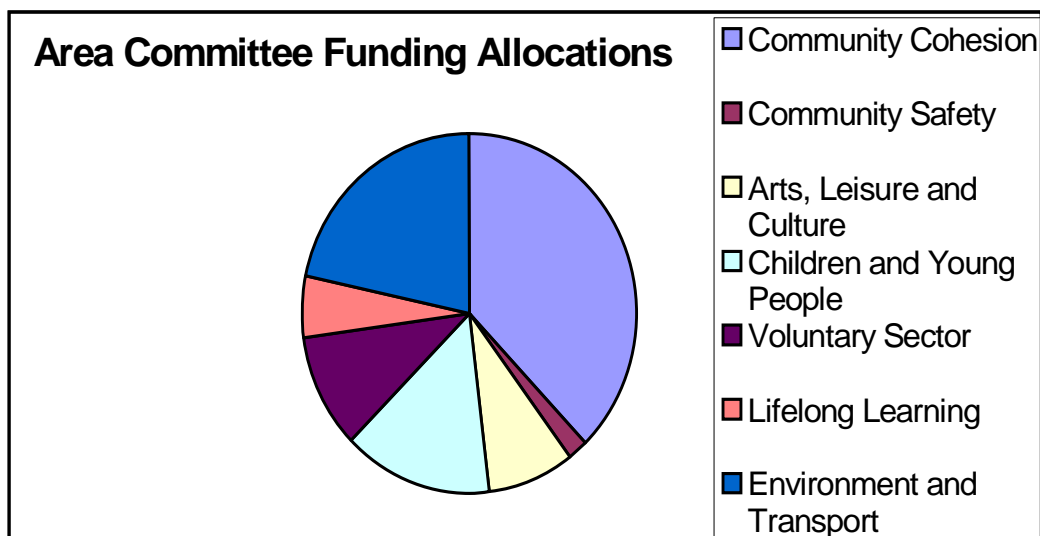
3.0 USING THE AREA COMMITTEE BUDGETS TO SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY VOLUNTARY SECTOR AND OTHER PRIORITIES

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 and Corporate Plan themes.

The Area Committee has awarded a total of 14 grants, amounting to £27,666 (See Appendix 1). The grants fall under three categories: Minor Grants – on which the Area Committee makes an allocation; Delegated Budget - grants which are applied for directly by community groups and Influencing Services - this category enables the Area Committee to add value to the work of key services working in the East Oldham Area.

The chart below shows the amount of funding for each Community Strategy Theme. The chart indicates that a large percentage of the Area Committee funding has been spent on Community Cohesion. This is because Community Cohesion is a priority for the East Oldham area. The Committee has been keen to allocate funding which promotes cohesion between people of different ethnic backgrounds and ages and which celebrates diversity.

Community Strategy Themes	Number of Grants	Funding Allocated
Community Cohesion	5	£10,466
Community Safety	1	£500
Arts, Leisure and Culture	2	£2,300
Children and Young People	1	£4,000
Voluntary Sector	2	£2,900
Lifelong Learning	1	£1,500
Environment and Transport	2	£6,000
TOTAL	14	£27,666



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 East Oldham Area Committee within the Community Strategy headings.

Community Strategy Theme	Action Plan reference	Achievements and influencing Services
Community Cohesion	CC3	Co-optees from East Oldham Area Committee attended two training events.
	CC2	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 East Oldham's community
	CC11	Improvements made to the festive lights at Hill Stores on Huddersfield Road. 'Big Switch On' competition organised for

	CC7	<p>schools – the winning entries were invited to the ‘Big Switch On’ event to press the button!</p> <p>Support given to Christmas Lantern Parade at Stoneleigh Park.</p>
Learning		
Children and Young People	<p>CYP2</p> <p>CYP 3</p> <p>CYP 4</p> <p>CYP 5, CYP 7 and CYP 9</p> <p>CYP 6</p> <p>CYP 8 and CYP 11</p>	<p>£4000 allocated from Delegated Budget to support organisations across East Oldham working on partnership activities for young people.</p> <p>Area Committee supported Fair Share scheme on Shaw Road to landscape green space and provide kick pitch and youth shelter.</p> <p>Youth Sub Group for the Area Committee established, encompassing all major youth partners from the area.</p> <p>Chair, Area Manager and relevant ward councillors have attended partnership working groups to extend youth provision in Glodwick and St Mary’s Estate.</p> <p>Mapping exercise carried out to identify youth providers in East Oldham and the gaps needing to be filled.</p> <p>Youth Sub Group worked together to meet the need of Friday night provision.</p>
Housing	<p>H</p> <p>H2</p>	<p>Sub Group on Housing established to meet as and when necessary to focus on specific Housing issues. First meeting held on the housing Allocations Policy.</p> <p>Member of HMR Derker Team attended all Area Committee meeting to ask questions.</p>
Community Safety	CS1	Area Inspector in regular attendance at Area Committees.

	CS 4	<p>Crime figures for the Area made available so that trends can be monitored.</p> <p>Grant given to support alley-gating scheme in Glodwick.</p>
Health and Social Care	HSC5 and HSC6	Integrated Care Centres planned in Glodwick and Moorside. Area Committee regularly consulted on the proposals.
Environment and Transport	ET6	£1000 of Delegated Budget allocated to support the development of the Pennine Edge Forest – specifically around the Lees Brook Nature Park.
	ET8	Successful Clean Up Campaign carried out across East Oldham by the Area Committee using £5000 of Area Committee funds. The campaign included physical clean ups involving schools and members of the community and awareness raising with schools, businesses and communities.
	ET12	The Area Committee was consulted on and received regular updates on the Huddersfield Quality Bus Corridor.
Economy and Employment		
Voluntary Sector	VS4	Voluntary groups such as Positive Steps Baby Yoga Group supported by Area Committee funding.
Arts, Culture and Leisure	ACL 2	Area Committee supported parks events at Oldham Edge, Waterhead Parks and Stoneleigh Park with £1000 being allocated to each ward.

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 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.

5.6 Housing Market Renewal

The 2nd wave roll out of the Housing Market Renewal Fund will impact on many areas of East Oldham including Clarksfield, Greenacres and Glodwick. The Area Committee needs to be ready to provide a forum for consultation on the 2nd Wave in order to provide a mechanism for communication between the HMR team and affected communities.

5.7 Linking Schools Project

Working with Saddleworth and Lees Area Committee and the Linking Schools Project to link schools in the two areas. The project aims to promote Cohesion between the two areas.

APPENDIX 1 East Oldham Area Committee - Summary of grants for 2004-5				
Date Considered at AC	Organisation	Request for	Community Strategy Theme served	Amount Awarded
MINOR GRANTS				
29/07/04	Salem Morovian Church	Disabled Toilets	Community Cohesion	£1500
29/07/04	Waterhead ARLFC	New furniture for the club	Arts,Culture and Leisure	£1800
26/01/05	Glodwick Bangladeshi Association	Photocopier	Community Cohesion	£2466
DELEGATED BUDGET GRANTS				
22/09/04	Positive Touch	Radio, baby yoga equipment, laminator	Voluntary Sector	£500
22/09/04	Groundwork	Alleygating in Glodwick	Community Safety	£500
01/12/04	Pakistani Community Centre	Food, games for X'mas/Eid Party	Community Cohesion	£500
14/04/05	Greenhill Football Club	Kits, trophies, balls, bibs etc	Arts,Culture and Leisure	£500
INFLUENCING SERVICES				
06/05/04	Litter and Environment	Clean up campaign	Environment and Transport	£3000 (increased to £5000 14/04/05)
06/05/04	Festive Lights	Hill Stores Improvements	Community Cohesion	£3000
06/05/04	Parks Events	Events across the area	Community Cohesion	£3000
06/05/04	Youth	Youth Work activities the area	Children and Young People	£3000 (increased to £4000 14/04/05)
06/05/04	Penine Edge Forest	Environmental Improvements	Environment and Transport	£1000
14/04/05	Hodge Clough Junior School Computer Club	Re-Conditioned Computers	Life Long Learning	£1500
14/04/05	Oldham Collective Recycling Project	Improvements to property to bring it into wider community use	Voluntary Sector	£2400
Minor Grant total				£5766
TOTAL				DB Grants Total £2000
Influencing Services Total				£18,900
Total, All Grants				£27,666

