

REPORT OF DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE
SADDLEWORTH AND LEES AREA COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT
2003/2004

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To review the work of the Area Committee during 2003/2004

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 This report attempts to summarise the work of Area Committee during the municipal year 2003-04, under the following 5 headings:

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

3. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

3.1 If question time accurately reflects the views of local people, it is clear that anti social behaviour and lack of facilities are of prime concern to local people.

3.2 In total 89 public questions have been raised. 40 of these were raised at the Area Committee meetings and the remainder directly with the Area Manager. The main issues and areas of concerns were centred around:-

- 1) environmental issues such as:
 - (i) inadequate drainage and sewer provisions;
 - (ii) proposed location of the wind farms;
 - (iii) gaps in signage;
 - (iv) cleanliness of the area;
 - (v) traffic calming measures
- 2) anti-social behaviour such as:
 - (i) off road bikers;
 - (ii) youths causing annoyance
- 3) inadequate transport provisions
- 4) inadequate facilities for youths in the area

- 3.2 Environmental issues also figure prominently, confirming the results of the Area Planning survey work where residents would like their area to be cleaner.
- 3.3 Potential location of wind farms, off Huddersfield Road in Denshaw raises concern to people living in the area.
- 3.4 Public transport provisions are deemed to be inadequate and adds to the isolation problem of the rural areas.
- 3.5 The community have identified that there are insufficient facilities such as play provisions
- 3.6 A number of concerns have been raised regarding the sewers and drainage systems being inadequate to service the local housing/ business infrastructure.

4. INFLUENCING SERVICES / PROMOTING COMMUNITY COHESION

- 4.1 Appendix 1 summarises the work of the Area Committee in relation to service provision and community cohesion.
- 4.2 The Saddleworth and Lees Area Committee has received a number of presentations during the year and was been invited to comment on several issues.

5. USING THE AREA COMMITTEE BUDGETS TO SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY / VOLUNTARY SECTOR AND OTHER PRIORITIES

- 5.1 Appendix 2 provides a summary of how the various budgets have been used and attempts to link projects to the Area Committee priorities and the themes of the Council's Corporate Plan.
- 5.2 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.

6. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- 6.1 Meetings were held at key venues in the Area and have been accessible to residents.
- 6.2 Setting up Sub Groups such as Street Cleansing, Greenfield (Fletchers) Mill and Youth Services has allowed for more detailed discussions to be held and actions to be taken which were then fed back to the Area Committee either for comment, information or action.
- 6.3 Recruitment of 3 new Co-optees.
- 6.4 Involvement in developing Area Plan and initiating Action Plan development.

- 6.5 Presence of Police and the Community Safety Unit at all meetings to talk on local issues and address them.
- 6.6 On most occasions, the meeting Agenda was manageable and meetings finished in time.
- 6.7 Successful links established with OMBC Environmental Services. This has resulted in quick and efficient response to questions and queries raised by residents either at the Committee meetings or in writing /by telephone to Area Manager.
- 6.8 A number of Members and Co Optees attended CRAT (Cultural Race Awareness Training)
- 6.9 The Area Committee have been committed to the three priority Areas : youth, crime and disorder and street cleansing. The Area Committee have allocated funding to themes eg £7,500 towards enhanced street cleansing provisions where:
- 1) additional bins were located in the area;
 - 2) additional warning signage;
 - 3) undertaking a one week SLAM (Saddleworth and Lees Against Mess) campaign which raised the awareness of cleanliness issues, instilled civic pride and had good community involvement.
- 6.10 A Youth Sub Group has been set up where the Area Manager and youth worker representative attend and feedback information to the Area Committee.
- 6.11 A Co-optee from the Area Committee attended the Mediation Northern Ireland Training with the Area Manager.
- 6.12 Involvement in the URBED visioning process.
- 6.13 Potential for the development of a skateboard park in Greenfield.
- 6.14 Extensive consultation work has been carried out within the Saddleworth and Lees Area.

7. KEY ISSUES AND FURTHER ACTIONS REQUIRED

- 7.1 Low public attendance at Area Committees. Requires further additional marketing, publicity and promotion.
- 7.1 Regular attendance of Area Committee members. Requires firm commitment and understanding the importance of Area Committees to local people.
- 7.2 Too many topics presented for consultation, often rushed through. On occasions, it was felt that Area Committees were exploited as a quick tick box to the

consultation process. Area Manager should be notified well in advance to assist in Agenda planning.

- 7.3 Production and implementation of the area action plan to give the Saddleworth and Lees Area Committee a focus and be involved in co ordinating improvements in the area.
- 7.4 To set up a Delegated Budget Sub Group meeting to consider potential grant applications.

APPENDIX 1

INFLUENCING SERVICES / PROMOTING COMMUNITY COHESION	
SERVICE / ISSUE	ACTION / OUTCOME
Saddleworth and Lees Area Plan	Several presentations and meetings held. Area Committee's comments incorporated into Plan. Action Plan to be prepared.
Community Cohesion	<p>Two presentations given. Community cohesion a theme influencing all the Area Committee's work.</p> <p>Community development work supported through Delegated Budget.</p> <p>Cultural Racial Awareness Training (CRAT) held for Members and Co-optees of the Area Committee.</p> <p>Area Committee represented on the Oldham Good Relations Project (07968 766168), facilitated by Mediation Northern Ireland.</p>
Community Safety	<p>Regular presentations given. Saddleworth and Lees Community Safety Panel set up. Crime Prevention budget of £7,5000 allocated to Saddleworth and Lees and used for CCTV camera system.</p> <p>Regular attendance of the Police and Crime Reduction Officer to each of the Area Committee meetings.</p>
Street Cleansing	<p>Presentation by OMBC Street Cleansing Manager. Comments made. Sub Group established. Litter Plan being developed and funding allocated.</p> <p>Saddleworth and Lees Against Mess (SLAM) Campaign and events</p>

	programme held (8 th to 15 th May).
Youth Service	<p>Presentation by Head of Youth Service. Comments made. Youth Sub Group has been started which will expand to become the Youth Alliance Group.</p> <p>SK8 - Skate Park Progress report by Principal Design and Development Manager.</p> <p>Presentation made by Dobcross Primary School on environmental/recycling issues.</p>
Environment - Local Agenda 21	Presentation and update given by Environment Co ordinator
Environment - First Bus	Presentation given by the Managing Director of First Bus on transport issues
Environment - United Utilities Green, United Utilities (Sewers and Drainage)	<p>Presentations made by representatives regarding</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Sewers and drains 2) Wind farms
Unitary Development Plan (UDP) 'Special Meeting'	Presentation by OMBC Officers. Comments made. Public Inquiry awaited.
Oldham Vission	Presentation by URBED consultants. Comments made. Seeking feedback on the final document.
Children's Centres	Presentation by Head of Sure Starts. Comments made and feedback provided.
British Telecom Payphones	Consultation on removal of payphones
New Opportunities fund Fair Share Initiative	Several presentations made. Funding confirmed. Delivery Plan being drawn up. Projects to be implemented during 2004/05.

APPENDIX 2

DELEGATED BUDGET GRANTS TO THE COMMUNITY / VOLUNTARY SECTOR							
Applicant	Project	Grant Offer	Link to Area Committee Priorities				Link to OMBC Corporate Themes
			Community Cohesion	Street Cleaning	Youth Service	Community Safety	
05.06.2003: The ARC Community Association	Playgroup equipment	£3,000	*			*	Community cohesion Healthy well cared for people
Austerlands Cricket Club	Repairs and refurbishment of machinery	£1,000	*		*	*	Community cohesion Healthy well cared for people
Saddleworth Festival of Arts	Assistance with events	£1,000	*			*	Community cohesion Healthy well cared for people
Turning Point	Transform garden area	£1,000	*			*	Community cohesion Healthy well cared for people Improved environment
03.07.2003: St John The Baptist	Burial ground	£600	*			*	Community cohesion

31.07.2003: Oldham Metropolitan Brass Band	Contest prizes	£180	*		*	*	Community cohesion Healthy well cared for people
04.09.2003: Alt Tenants' and Residents' Association	Refurbishment of tenants hall	£3,000	*		*	*	Community cohesion
02.10.2003: SK8	Creation of skate park area	£2,000	*		*	*	Community cohesion
02.10.2004: Denshaw Community Association	Building regulation fees	£1,353	*		*		Community cohesion
30.10.2003: Uppermill Sports Club	Mowing machine	£1,498	*	*		*	Community cohesion Healthy well cared for people
Springhead Football Club	Training facilities,	£300	*		*	*	Community cohesion Healthy well cared for

	equipment for youth teams						people
Delph Tots	Trolley to enable removal of pool table	£190	*			*	Community cohesion
Friends of Willow Bank Pond	Regeneration of mill pond	£1,800	*			*	Community cohesion Healthy well cared for people
04.12.2003: Saddleworth Museum and Arts Gallery	CCTV Camera system	£2,497	*		*	*	Community cohesion
Austerlands Cricket Club	Equipment to cover shortfall from previous application	£1,342	*		*	*	Community cohesion Healthy well cared for people
Greater Manchester Police	Football coaching scheme	£510	*		*	*	Community cohesion Healthy well cared for people
08.01.2004: Friarmere Cricket Club	Winter nets	£1,500					Community cohesion Improved environment
Friends of	Regeneration of	£676	*			*	Community cohesion

Willow Bank Pond	mill pond (shortfall)						Healthy well cared for people
Community Safety Unit	Revenue costs for running CCTV System	£1,000	*		*	*	Community cohesion
Street Cleansing Department	1. additional litterbins, 2. warning signs 3. undertaking a clean up campaign	£7,500	*	*	*	*	Community cohesion Healthy well cared for people
05.02.2004: Boarshurst Brass Band Club	Roof work	£3,000	*	*		*	Community cohesion
Greater Manchester Police	GMP Football Coaching shortfall	£100	*	*		*	Community cohesion Healthy well cared for people
Diggle Education Foundation	Sunfield Crescent revenue costs	£4,000	*	*		*	Community cohesion Healthy well cared for people
01.04.2004: Community Safety Unit	Revenue costs (CCTV system)	£336	*			*	Community cohesion

	shortfall)						
Greenfield Cricket Club	Repair and renovation of machinery	£1,150	*	*			Community cohesion Healthy well cared for people
Lydgate Brass Band	To purchase a new piece of equipment	£1,872	*	*			Community cohesion Healthy well cared for people
Saddleworth Voluntary Services	Training of staff	£350	*			*	Community cohesion Healthy well cared for people

DELEGATED BUDGET FUNDING FOR OTHER PROJECTS

Applicant	Project	Grant Offer	Link to Area Committee Priorities				Link to OMBC Corporate Themes
			Community Cohesion	Street Cleaning	Youth Service	Community Safety	
Saddleworth & Lees Area Committee	Banners	£498	*				Community cohesion

CRIME PREVENTION GRANTS

Applicant	Project	Grant Offer	Link to Area Committee Priorities				Link to OMBC Corporate Themes
			Community Cohesion	Street Cleaning	Youth Service	Community Safety	

Saddleworth & Lees Area Committee	CCTV Camera system	£7,300	*			*	Community Cohesion
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MINOR GRANTS TO THE COMMUNITY / VOLUNTARY SECTOR

Applicant	Project	Grant Offer	Link to Area Committee Priorities				Link to OMBC Corporate Themes
			Community Cohesion	Street Cleaning	Youth Service	Community Safety	
31.07.2003: Saddleworth Players	Disabled access & toilet improvements	£3,500	*		*	*	Community cohesion Healthy well cared for people
Dobcross Youth Band	Purchasing musical instruments	£1,477	*		*		Community cohesion Healthy well cared for people
05.02.2004: Little Acorns	Development of a toy/resource library	£1,259	*			*	Community cohesion Healthy well cared for people
Grotton & District Residents	Disabled access & toilet improvements	£1,275	*			*	Community cohesion Healthy well cared for people

Association							
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