

**REPORT OF DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE
SHAW AND ROYTON AREA COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT
2005/2006**

PURPOSE

To review the work of the Shaw and Royton Area Committee.

BACKGROUND

This report summarises the work of the Shaw and Royton 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.
- Future Considerations

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. Appendix 1 shows the questions asked during public question time in 2005/06, and the answers given. Five questions were asked, relating to bus stops, Royton Assembly Hall, Dunwood Park and parking charges.

2.0 PARTNERSHIP WORKING

2.1 Neighbourhood Solutions

The Area Committee has been a major partner in the establishment of Neighbourhood Solutions over the past year. An Area Action Team (AAT) has been established for Shaw and Royton, which brings together key agencies such as the Police, Community Safety, FCHO and youth providers as well as representation from Ward Councillors to work together to problem solve issues in hotspot locations. At each Area Committee an update of Neighbourhood Solutions and the work of the Area Action Team is provided as part of the Area Managers Report and more recently, the minutes from the Area Action Team meetings have been attached for information.

The AAT has successfully worked together to initiate and support activity across Shaw and Royton. Major achievements include:

- Supported the recommendation to refuse a planning application for land off Co-operative Street, Shaw for housing development and the subsequent appeal resulting in the land being saved as public open space.
- Worked to initiate and secure the £50,000 redevelopment of the existing kick pitch on the Oozewood Estate, Royton to a MUGA (Multi Use Games Area). The project was jointly funded by the Airport dividend and a contribution from FCHO.
- Organised a 'Bogus Caller / Door Step Dangers Event' at Royton and Crompton School following an increase in bogus caller activity across the area, particularly the high profile incident at 14 Oozewood Road.
- Developed a successful £20,000 NRF bid to bring the Youth Buzz to St. George's Playing Fields, Shaw and Oozewood Road Estate, Royton
- Is working towards producing a newsletter to promote the work of the Area Action Team and Area Committee

The AAT has worked in the hotspot locations of Oozewood and Smallbrook, but is moving towards a more shifting approach to areas as and when problems arise across Shaw and Royton.

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 budgets available to the Area Committee have been used in 2005/06, followed by the end of year budget statement. As shown, the majority of the budget was used on Area Committee organised projects and events, such as the Christmas Lights and fun days.

Delegated Budget and minor grant monies 2005/06

Applicant	Money used for	Amount
Area Committee	Additional events allocation - for St George's Day event and young people's event.	£7,395.00
Area Committee	Barrier Planters - planting for summer 2006	£4,033.00
Area Committee	Christmas Lights - Royton	£5,000.00
Area Committee	Christmas Lights - Shaw	£5,000.00
Area Committee	Christmas tree costs - Shaw and Royton	£2,474.10
Area Committee	Graffiti Removal kits	£200.00
Area Committee	Wreaths for memorials - holocaust memorial day and remembrance day	£200.00
Oldham Metropolitan Brass Band Association	Prizes for slow melody competition	£350.00
Royton Local History	Costs towards the Royton Hall dig, summer 2005	£2,517.00
Shaw and Crompton Action in Community Team	Set up costs	£1,000.00

Youth Service

Summer Programme 2005

£1,500.00

TOTAL**£29,669.10****SHAW AND ROYTON AREA COMMITTEE - End of Year Statement, 2005/06****(DELEGATED AND MINOR GRANTS BUDGET 2005 / 06)****Delegated Budget**

	<u>£</u>	<u>Delegated Budget £</u>	<u>Minor Grants</u>	<u>Minor Grants £</u>
Budget for the Year 2004 / 05 (including 03/04 b/f)		58,174		6,446
Actual Expenditure to 31st March 2005		<u>-18,004</u>		<u>-4,273</u>
Balance being underspending for the year c/f		40,170		2,173
<u>Add:</u>				
Budget for the Year 2005 / 06		<u>23,497</u>		<u>0</u>
Total Funds Available 2005/06		<u>63,667</u>		<u>2,173</u>

Actual Expenditure:**From 1st April 2005 to 31st March 2006**

			Sai To Do Martial Arts	-1,670
Skatepark Painting	-500		Oldham Met.Brass Band	
Heyside Juniors Cricket Club	-4,681		Assoc.	-250
Street Cleansing - RASCAL	-2,983			
Street lighting Wessex Park Close,Shaw	-6,905			
War Memorial Hard Standing	-2,400			
Celebrating Diversity	-2,414			
Friends of High Crompton	-925			
Lowerfields Residents	-1,000			
Youth Service Summer Programme	-1,500			
Oldham Met.Brass Band Association	-100			
Shaw & Crompton Action in the Community	-1,000			
Barrier Planters 05/06	-3,916			
Christmas Trees / Lighting	-2,271			
Wreaths for memorial days	-63			
Area Games	-500			
Royton History Grant	-2,517			
Expenses	<u>-461</u>	-34,137		
Counter Credit	50			
Cooptee Training-Contribution Repayment	<u>150</u>	200		

Outstanding Commitments Not Yet Paid**2003 / 04**

Street lighting Wessex Park Close,Shaw	<u>-265</u>	-265
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2004/05

Street Lighting - Dunwood Park (to be paid 3x£1550)	<u>-4,650</u>	-4,650
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2005/06

EVENTS ALLOCATION (4198+2691+2885)	-9,774	
barrier planters	-4,033	
Christmas Lights	-10,000	
Expenses Allocation (£992 -£460.90)	-531	
Graffiti removal kits	-200	
Christmas Trees / Lighting (2474 - 2271.12)	<u>-203</u>	<u>-24,741</u>
Balance of available funds (carried forward)	<u>74</u>	<u>253</u>

4.0 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

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 Development of St. George's Skate Park

The construction of the skate park at St George's fields was completed during Summer 2005. An official opening event was held in September, and this was a great success. The skate park is currently very well used by local people.

4.3 Events Sub Group

- **Festival of Diversity**

The Events Sub Group, together with representatives from the Youth Sub Group developed two excellent programmes to celebrate the Festival of Diversity.

The launch event – 'The Big Bang!' took place on Saturday 9th July on Royton Precinct and included Chinese Lion Dancers and Capoeira Brazilian dance displays. There was something for all ages with a bouncy castle, storey telling, penalty shoot out with Chaddy the Owl, workshops of drumming and circus skills along with Tameside Brass band Ensemble.

The Finale event – 'A Grand Day Out' took place on Saturday 6th August at Shaw Memorial Gardens where attractions included face painting, mask making and paper crafts. In addition there was story telling in a Native American tee pee, circus skills workshop, bouncy castle and balloons for all. Bangla Drummers and Chinese Lion Dancers provided performances throughout the day.

- **Celebration of St. George's Day**

A St. George's Day 'family fun day' was held at Royton and Crompton School on Saturday 22nd April and was a great success for the area and very well

attended. Attractions included Revolution Road Show, face painting and arts and crafts, street theatre, bouncy castle, sports events, Scouts BBQ, youth buzz and more.

- **Young People’s Event**

The sub group have also been working towards the Young People’s Event to be held on 15th July 06

4.4 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 have been working towards the development of the Young People’s Event to be held in July ‘06

Young people will also have a key role in the production of the Area Action Team newsletter and will contribute to the reporting of events/ initiatives, writing of articles and the design of the newsletter.

4.5 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.

4.6 Area Action Plan

The below is a resume of the specific achievements of Shaw and Royton Area Committee within the Community Strategy headings.

Community Strategy Theme	Action Plan reference	Achievements and influencing Services
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	CS1	<p>St. George's Playing Fields and Oozewood Estate. The project was very successful engaging hard to reach groups.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Young people involvement <p>The Area Committee has committed to the involvement of young people in the decision making process at Sub Group meetings.</p>
	CYP4/CC6 /CS1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ George Street Skate Park <p>The launch event of the George Street Skate Park took place in September 05</p>
	CYP4/CC6 /CC1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Royton Park Skate/BMX Park <p>The Skate Park in Royton is now complete with a launch event programmed for September 06</p>
	CC2/CYP2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Youth Sub Group <p>The Youth Sub Group has continued to make a contribution to activity across the areas and has been actively involved in the organisation of the Festival of Diversity, St. George's day Celebration and Young People's Event.</p>
	CS6/CC6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Area Action Team <p>The Youth Service is integral to the work of the Area Action Team.</p>
Housing	CS6/CC6	<p>Area Action Team</p> <p>Both First Choice Homes Oldham (FCHO) and Northern Counties are integral to the Area Action Team.</p>
	H1/CS7/ CC7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Estate Walkabout <p>Members from the Area Committee attend FCHO estate walkabouts.</p>
Community Safety	CS5/CC6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Royton Pub Watch - Update <p>The Area Committee funded the set up costs for the Royton Pub Watch.</p>

	<p>CS6/CC6</p> <p>CS7</p>	<p>There were:</p> <p>16 members at July 2004</p> <p>21 members at April 2005</p> <p>23 members at July 2006</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Area Action Team <p>Greater Manchester Police, the Community Safety Unit including the Crime Reduction Officer and Anti Social Behaviour Officer are integral to the Area Action Team.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bogus Caller/Doorstep Dangers <p>An event was held at Royton and Crompton school to inform young people and vulnerable residents of the dangers of bogus callers/distraction burglaries. This work is being followed up in the community through the Police.</p>
Health and Social Care	HSC 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Health Improvement Plan <p>The new Skate Parks in the area assist in addressing the concern regarding the issue of obesity amongst young people.</p>
Environment and Transport	<p>ET3</p> <p>ET4</p> <p>ET3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Airport Dividend/FCHO £50,000 <p>Redevelopment of disused Kick pitch at Oozewood Estate to a MUGA (multi Use Games Area)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New Opportunities Fund (NOF) Schemes <p>Royton Skate Park now complete Refurbishment of Dunwood Park Play Area (also utilising OMBC Environmental Services funding)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Area Barrier Planters supported <p>The Area Committee has financed the continuation of provision of barrier planters for the summer at Royton Junction, Royton Town Hall, Shaw Road End Junction and around the Memorial in Shaw.</p>

	CS6/CC6 ET10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Area Action Team <p>Environmental Services are integral to the Area Action Team.</p> <p>Establishment of EVA (environmental visual audits) system to ensure effective reporting and response to environmental issues across the area.</p>
Economy and Employment	EE2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Oldham Beyond <p>The Area Committee to be involved in the consultation process regarding the Master Planning exercise which will set the framework for the regeneration of the District Centres</p>
Voluntary Sector	VS1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Delegated Budget support for local groups and community initiatives (see budget statement)
Arts, Culture and Leisure	AL1/CC5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Festival of Diversity <p>Two local events held as part of the Festival of Diversity</p>

5.0 FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

5.1 Neighbourhood Solutions

Area Action Teams have been in place now for just over one year. These teams have been helping Ward Councillors, Council Officers, the Police, First Choice Homes and youth services to name just a few, to work together to help find solutions to neighbourhood problems.

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.

5.2 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.

5.3 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.

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

The Area Action Team partners are looking into producing a quarterly newsletter for the area, informing residents of work being carried out.

5.5 Town Centre Master Planning

The Area Committee will be involved in the Master Planning process which will provide the framework for the regeneration of Shaw and Royton District Centres over the coming months.

5.6 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.

5.7 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.

5.8 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. Alongside the training programme the participants have worked on two building good relations case studies in Glodwick and Royton. In completing the course, participants have gained practical experience in resolving conflict by using mediation techniques.

Appendix 1 – Public Questions

Area Committee Date	Question received from	Question	Response at Area Committee	Further Response
28/06/2005	No questions received			
27/09/2005	Mrs E Garside	What is the idea behind all the raised pavements at bus stops and is it in all areas? Was any thought given to the added dangers of people with walking difficulties? Also who has paid for all the work?	An Elected Member reported that this work had been carried out borough wide. It was explained that the level of the pavement had been raised to ease access onto buses, which were able to lower to the new pavement level. This work had been paid for by the GMPTE. Ms Garside was assured a definitive answer would be sought from the relevant people.	<p>The following reply was supplied by the Traffic and Transportation Department:</p> <p>It is proposed to upgrade all bus stops on two Quality Bus Corridors. These are Saddleworth/Oldham/Manchester (A669/A62) and the Rochdale/Oldham/Ashton/Hyde (A671/A627). The aim is to make bus stops look smart and easier to use, especially for people with vision or mobility impairments. Bus stop areas will also be raised to help people getting on and off buses and where possible a shelter will be provided at many stops with seating, lighting and timetable information.</p> <p>There are also plans to fit some bus stops; generally the most busy ones, with passenger information displays giving the expected arrival time of buses and other bus service information. The location of all bus stops will be reviewed to ensure they are conveniently placed. People who live or have businesses near proposed bus stops will be consulted about any changes. The funding for this work came from the government who passes to the council to spend on local transportation projects.</p>

08/11/2005

Mr B Deaville

Mr. Deaville expressed his concerns regarding the redevelopment of Royton Assembly Hall and asked

1. Whether the rumours that Royton Assembly Hall was going to be turned into an Islamic Centre were true?
2. Whether the restaurant was to be of an Asian/Oriental nature and
3. Whether the hall would have public rooms?

An Elected Member explained that whilst Whispers were behind schedule, however once planning permission is granted they do have five-years to develop the plans. The Elected Member also raised his concerns regarding the Royton Rag (which was the alleged source of the rumour), which printed propaganda and stated that the Royton Assembly Hall would be developed to reflect the Royton Community and it would not be turned into an Islamic Centre. Members expressed their concern regarding the progress of the development and explained that they would request a progress report and this would be reported back to the Area Committee.

Mr B Deaville

" £30,000 has been found to refurbish and remodel Dogford park and plans have been on display in the library, a consultation form is available for residents to fill in and comment on the proposals. I believe Councillor Judge has been active in making recommendations to the Council. Can I be assured that following the consultation exercise that the views are made public and this money is wasted on unnecessary works?"

In response, Councillor Judge reported that the Community was currently being consulted, including the youth clubs and once all ideas had been collated a decision would be made. It was explained that the £30,000 investment was only the start and a running programme would be put in place to continue the redevelopment of the park.

31/01/2006

Mr M McGrath

Mr McGrath circulated a covering report and requested the Area Committee to support the efforts of the local community to include the renovation of Dunwood Park in the proposed Council bid for Parks for People Lottery Bid.

Members expressed that Dunwood Park met all the criteria for the Parks of People Lottery Bid and would support that the park be included in the bid.

Concerns however were raised that resources granted to the Friends of Dunwood Park had not been spent, through not fault of their own and it was requested that the Area Manager should start to chase up the Services who were not delivering.

RESOLVED: That Area Committee

a. fully supports the Friends of Dunwood Park and request that the Area Manager writes to Regeneration expressing that Dunwood Park should be included in the Parks for People Lottery Bid,

b. requested that the Area Manager investigate why some organisations have still not spent the funds allocated to them by the Area Committee.

14/03/06

Mr D Shaw

Can the Councillors on the Committee assure us that car parking changes will not be introduced by OMBC in Royton District Centre?"

Members advised that the Task and Finish Group set up to look into district car parking had submitted to date, to the relevant Commission, two reports which conclusively stated that, the Group was unable to make any recommendations to the Commission due to not being provided with all the information requested from National Car Parks (NCP) and as such, the matter was still being considered by that Group. The Chair added that this Committee was opposed to the introduction of such charges and Members were campaigning against the proposals. The outcome of the Task and Finish Group was awaited.