

**REPORT OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE
WEST OLDHAM AREA COMMITTEE**

ANNUAL REPORT

2003/2004

1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 This report attempts to summarise the work of Area Committee during the municipal year 2003-04, under 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

2.0 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

2.1 40 public questions or enquiries have been received either directly at the Area Committee meetings or as a result of publicity of the Area Committee meetings. The Area Manager has endeavoured to obtain an answer on all issues raised and replied to questions directly at the meetings through regular updates and by writing directly to the concerned resident.

2.2 At each Area Committee meeting questions from the general public and Committee members were also received following topic presentations from various OMBC departments and other partner agencies. Appendix 1 lists all the topic presentations made during the year and their linkages with key services and Community cohesion as discussed in section 3.0 below.

2.3 If question time accurately reflects the views of local people, it is clear that anti social behaviour, Fitton Hill stock transfer and New Deal for Communities (Hathershaw and Fitton Hill) performance were the main issues of concern to local people.

2.4 Environmental issues also figure prominently, confirming the results of the Area Planning survey work where residents of West Oldham would like their area to be cleaner.

3.0 INFLUENCING SERVICES / PROMOTING COMMUNITY COHESION

- 3.1 Appendix 1 also summarises the work of the Area Committee in relation to service provision and community cohesion.
- 3.2 Committee has received a number of presentations during the year and has been invited to comment on several issues.
- 3.3 Members' views on this approach would be welcomed.

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

- 4.1 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.
- 4.2 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.

5.0 KEY ACHIVEMENTS

- 5.1 Meetings were held at key venues in each of the 4 wards of the Area.
- 5.2 Successful involvement in re-shaping Ashton Road Quality Bus Corridor proposal.
- 5.3 Recruitment of 4 new Co-optees.
- 5.4 Successful involvement in developing Area Plan and initiating Action Plan development.
- 5.5 Presence of Police at all meetings to take on local issues and address them.
- 5.6 On most occasions, the meeting Agenda was manageable and meetings finished in time.
- 5.7 Introducing delegated budget allocation by clear themes and forming delegated budget sub group to deal with grant applications.
- 5.8 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.

- 5.9 Some of the Co-opted members undertook 'Culture and Race Awareness' training and also participated in Oldham Good Relations programme facilitated by Northern Ireland Mediation group.

6.0 KEY ISSUES AND FURTHER ACTIONS REQUIRED

- 6.1 Low public attendance at Area Committees. Requires further marketing, publicity and promotion.
- 6.2 Low attendance of Area Committee members. Requires firm commitment and understanding the importance of Area Committees to local people.
- 6.3 Too many topics presented for consultation, often rushed through. Requires On occasions, it was felt that Area Committees were exploited for consultation purpose. Area Manager should be notified well in advance to assist in Agenda planning.
- 6.4 The Area Committee should be made aware of the options available, including costs, stemming from presentations or reports to be able to make decisions at the meeting.
- 6.5 The delegated budget for 2004/5 has been reduced and will require careful administering with a suggestion by the Area Manager to split the budget in to several smaller pots for simple allocation.
- 6.6 Production and implementation of the area action plan to give the Area Committee a focus and drive improvements forward for the area.

APPENDIX 1

INFLUENCING SERVICES / PROMOTING COMMUNITY COHESION	
SERVICE / ISSUE	ACTION / OUTCOME
West Oldham Area Plan	Several presentations and meetings held. Area Committee's comments incorporated into Plan. Action Plan to be prepared.
Community Cohesion	Two presentations given. Community cohesion is a theme influencing all the Area Committee's work. Festive lights sub – group looking into Eid and Diwali celebrations. Area Committee represented on the Oldham Good Relation project, facilitated by Mediation Northern Ireland
Community Safety	Several presentations given. Small Community Safety Panel set up and operating in the Area. Crime Prevention budget of £7,500 allocated to west Oldham and used improving safety and security. Regular attendance of the Police and to the Area Committee.
Street Cleansing	Presentation by OMBC Street Cleansing Manager. Comments made. Extra street cleansing staff recruited on top of those provided by SRB and New Deal. Proposal to develop Litter Plan for the Area
Youth	Presentation by Youth Service and Youth Alliance. Comments made. Youth Alliance group has started.

<p>Oldham Vision</p>	<p>Presentation by URBED consultants, Comments made. Final document under consultation.</p>
<p>Unitary Development Plan (UDP)</p>	<p>Presentation by OMBC officers. Comments made.</p>
<p>Primary Care Trust LIFT programme</p>	<p>Presentation by PCT officers. Comments made.</p>
<p>Children's' Centres/Sure Start</p>	<p>Presentation by OMBC officers, Comments made. Proposal underway for Werneth and Fitton Hill.</p>
<p>New Opportunities Fund Fair Share Initiative</p>	<p>Several presentations made. Funding confirmed for 3 projects. Delivery Plan being drawn up. Projects to be implemented during 2004/5.</p>
<p>Housing Market Renewal Fund (HMRF)</p>	<p>Comments and concerns raised by residents. Petition received. Future meetings received.</p>

APPENDIX 2

(DELEGATED AND MINOR GRANTS BUDGET 2003/04)

	Delegated Budget £	Minor Grants £
Budget for the Year 2002 / 03 (including 01/02 b/f)	50,820	17,375
<u>Less:</u>		
Actual Expenditure to 31st March 2003	-6,890	-1,500
Being under spending for the Year Carried Forward	43,930	15,875
<u>Add:</u>		
Budget for the Year 2003 / 04	57,960	4,293
Total Funds Available 2003 / 04	101,890	20,168

Actual Expenditure from 1st April 2003 to 8th March 2004

	£	Westwood & Coldhurst	
Senior Citizens Health	-1,615	Women's Association	-2,884
Fitton Hill Playgroup	-450	Werneth & Freehold Community	
St.Annes A.R.L.F.C.	-1,000	Development Association.	-5,657
Coppice Neighbourhood Group	-40	The Coldhurst & St.Mary's	
Peshkar Productions	-5,028	Welfare Association	-3,000
Life for a Life - Dr.Kershaw's Hospice	-458	Crossbank House Tenants Assoc.	-482
Oldham Parish Church	-3,016	Sunshine Project	-2,500
Pakistani Community Centre	-750		
Indian Association. Oldham	-4,000		
Westwood Over 50sBand	-1,000		
	<u>-17,357</u>		

Outstanding Commitments Not Yet Paid

2003 / 04

Hathershaw Playgroup	-500		
Oldham Parish Church (£4000 -£3016)	-984		
Glodwick Bangladeshi Association	-3,556		
Friermere Cricket Club	-1,000		
Peaceful Solutions	-1,250		
Oldham Youth Inclusion Project	-3,000		
Oldham Garden Suburb Residents Assoc.	-3,000		
West Pennine Housing Assoc.&HMR in Freehold	-700		
Werneth and Freehold Community Development Project	-7,000		
Tudor Street Community Sports Facility	-10,000		
Research Project	-15,000		
Kashmiri Association, Oldham	-6,840		
Oldham Race Equality Partnership	-333		
Festival Lights	-10,000	-63,163	
	<u>-63,163</u>		
Balance of available funds for 2003 / 04	21,370		5,645