

At an extraordinary meeting of the WASHINGTON AREA COMMITTEE held at WASHINGTON BUSINESS CENTRE on THURSDAY 26TH MAY, 2016 at 6.00 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Williams in the Chair

Councillors Farthing, Fletcher, Kelly, Lauchlan, Middleton, F. Miller, G. Miller, Scaplehorn, D. Snowdon, D. E. Snowdon, Taylor, D. Trueman, H. Trueman and P. Walker.

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| Louise Butler | - | Chief Executives |
| Paul Wood | - | Commercial and Corporate Services |
| David Hardy | - | Community Services |
| Ian Richardson | - | Community Services |
| Mark Speed | - | Community Services |
| Colin McCartney | - | Gentoo |
| Albert Copus | - | Gentoo |

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Karon Purvis, Jane Eland, John Rostron and Steve Graham.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman wished to place on record her thanks to Councillor Farthing as the former chairman of the Washington Area People Board and the work she carried out in the role

Responsive Local Services Report

The Head of Place Management submitted a report (copy circulated) to review and approve the Responsive Local Services (RLS) Area Delivery Plan for Washington for 2016/2017 as recommended by the Washington Area Place Board

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Mark Speed, Head of Place Management presented the report and advised the Committee that Members had raised concerns at the Place Board meeting and that he acknowledged these issues.

In relation to Cleansing, Councillor H. Trueman enquired if there was an opportunity to increase fines for perpetrators of litter/dog fouling.

Mr Speed advised that this polarised opinion and that it was a policy decision. With fly tipping and such like it was all about resources and we needed to get the balance right.

Councillor D Snowdon advised that the current council policy points towards an educational role rather than that of an enforcement/punishment stance.

With regards to grass cutting, Councillor Farthing commented that she was disappointed in the provision for landscaping to prominent places and felt that this needed to be looked at in the Place Boards.

Mr Speed advised that he was due to visit the areas with the Chief Executive and they would be re-evaluating all sites.

Councillor Scaplehorn raised concerns that many of the high speed roads central reservations and roundabouts in Washington had their views to the right blocked due to overgrowing grass and requested special arrangements be made to tackle this.

Mr Speed advised that he would monitor the situation.

Councillor Kelly commented that Washington had a great deal of strategic roads and links and that he was frustrated to see these take priority, taking up a large part of the Washington budget and he queried if these roads should not be financed out of the city centre budgets.

Mr Speed advised that this way of working had been agreed at the Area Chairs meeting.

Councillor G. Miller commented that we did need to look at the roundabouts across Washington as this was a growing concern. Mr Speed informed the Committee that he would speak with his colleagues in Transport on the matter.

In relation to the service standards for fixed play, Councillor G. Miller commented that this part of the report he was least happy with. Councillor Miller accepted the report and it was something that had to be done but requested that should any spare money be identified, that it be allocated towards Fixed play.

Councillor Kelly agreed, however raised the concern that Area Committee budgets were not supposed to be used to backfill Council resource and suggested that a conversation be had on how this could be achieved via a different way forward.

Mr Speed advised that he would seek clarity as to how SIB budgets could be used in the future. Councillor Kelly commented that a bigger conversation was needed at the Place and People Boards.

The Chairman proposed that this be brought forward as a priority.

With regards to the service standards for Shrub Beds, Councillor Kelly enquired if these were taken out, what would they be replaced with, and if it was to be grass, what would be the frequency of cuts.

Mr Speed advised that he would take local intelligence on board with this issue.

Councillor Farthing and Kelly raised concerns over the dealing of trees in the area and that SNCBC's work was potentially coming to an end, which needed to be looked at.

Mr Speed advised that Senior Officers were having discussions on the issue.

1. RESOLVED that Members:-

- a) Noted the contents of the report
- b) Approved the Washington Area Place Boards Responsive Local Services Area Delivery Plan for 2016/2017
- c) Delegate the responsibility to oversee the development and delivery of the 2016/2017 Responsive Local Services Area Delivery Plan to the Place Board
- d) Concerns in relation to distribution of resource are noted and revisited via the Delivery Plan at Place Board

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting

(Signed) L. WILLIAMS,
Chairman.