

**WILLENHALL NORTH/WILLENHALL SOUTH/SHORT HEATH AREA  
PANEL MEETING**

**Willenhall Chart, 19 Gomer Street, Willenhall, WV13 2NS**

**Thursday, 24 March, 2016 at 6.00 p.m.**

**Present**

Councillor S. Coughlan (Vice Chair in the Chair)  
Councillor D. Coughlan  
Councillor D. Hazell  
Councillor E. Hazell  
Councillor D. Shires  
Councillor I. Shires

**Officers**

Paul Gordon	Head of Business Change
Neil Picken	Senior Committee Business and Governance Manager
Michael Greenfield	Area Manager
Charis Blythe	Senior Planning Policy Officer
Sandy Urquhart	Senior Regeneration Officer

107/16 **Apologies**

Apologies for the duration of the meeting were received from Councillors C. Creaney and A. Hicken.

108/16 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor S. Coughlan – Community Director - Palfrey Community Centre and Trustee of Willenhall CHART

Councillor D. Coughlan declared an interest in the funding application submitted by Clean & Green with Friends of Willenhall Memorial Park as she was employed in the café at Willenhall Park.

109/16 **Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 (as amended)**

There were no items to be considered in private session.

110/16 **Minutes**

A member requested an amendment to the Minutes to correctly state that the site visit requested was to Ashmore Lake Road.

**Resolved:**

That the minutes of the meeting that took place on 19 January, 2016, a copy having previously been circulated, be approved as a true and accurate record subject to an amendment to the resolution of minute 100/16 to remove Ashmore Lake Industrial Park and insert Ashmore Lake Road.

111/16 **Walsall's Local Plan Consultation**

The Panel considered a report [annexed] detailing the latest consultation on three documents including the Site Allocation Development and Publication Draft, Walsall Town Centre Area Action Plan Publication Draft; and Community Infrastructure Levy Draft Charging Schedule.

It was highlighted that the consultation period commenced on 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2016 and would end on 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2016. It was anticipated that the documents would be adopted late in 2016 or early, 2017.

In terms of Willenhall, it was reported that there had been no changes from the preferred options stage as the proposals aren't contentious. As part of the consultation process officers had manned a market stall. Those that engaged had made positive responses.

There then followed a period of questioning during which a debate was held regarding the location of traveller sites. A number of members reported that they had reported concerns to officers. However, they were advised that the proposed sites 'ticked the boxes'. Members stated that this approach was worrying. Officers advised that a Gypsy/Traveller matrix was currently out for consultation. In relation to preferred options, Members were advised that central government had issued new guidance which narrowed the options available. Members were encouraged to view and comment on the proposals which were out for consultation.

Further discussion took place on the need to develop heavy rail capabilities which would be important to the future success of Willenhall. The Panel were in agreement that previous proposals to introduce the metro would not have been beneficial.

**Resolved**

That the report be noted.

## 112/16 **Area Managers Report**

The Panel considered a report [annexed] which set out some of the work undertaken within the local area.

The Area Manager advised that he had access to a number of shed alarms and requested Members to contact him should they know of anyone that may benefit from having one installed. He also advised that Assa Abloy had donated a number of locks which would also be available to those living within the Willenhall North/Willenhall South and Short Heath areas.

An update was provided on youth services with members noting that a number of staff had now left the authority following the review of youth services.

A member commented that rubbish and litter was becoming a huge issue stating that there was a very low turn-out for the 'clean for the queen' campaign. It was reported that this was particularly poor in Willenhall South. It was feared that the situation would become worse as council services were reduced.

### **Resolved**

That the report be noted.

## 113/16 **Funding Report**

***Councillor D. Coughlan, having declared an interest in the application submitted by Clean and Green, did not vote on that application.***

Members received the funding report (annexed) which set those projects carried forward from the previous year, approved projects and a list of funding requests for consideration.

The list of funding requests contained within appendix 1 of the report was considered. Members commented on several applications and suggested a number of additional caveats for applications which were listed as reaching all wards as follows:-

- There needs to be evidence that the individuals who are benefitting from the project are from the Willenhall & Short Heath Area;
- There needs to be promotion of the activity in the Wards of Willenhall North, Willenhall South, Short Heath;

- If it is identified that the project supports different groups – it will need to be demonstrated how your projects assisted in reducing ASB/increasing educational attainment/improved life chances;
- If there are community based events (Presentation Evenings etc) applicants will need to let the councillors know, as they may want to attend.
- The projects need to be delivered within the boundaries of Willenhall & Short Heath. Failure to do so will result in the funding being rescinded;
- If there are User Groups within the area then the expectation is that the applicant will contact them to broaden the engagement of people in the local community. Evidence of this should be included within the feedback to Area Partnerships.
- In the work that you undertake you will need to promote WMBC and the funding that was provided to assist the residents of Willenhall & Short Heath

### Resolved

1. That subject to the caveats as detailed within the body of the minute above, the following funding be approved:-

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Funding approved</b>
Willenhall E-ACT	£2,500.00
*Darlaston & Willenhall Children Centre	£1,250.00
Clean & Green with Friends of Willenhall Memorial Park	£4,134.47
Coltham Gallery Photography	£1,111.00
Willenhall Amateur Boxing Club	£2,000.00
Willenhall Dodgeball Group	£2,087.74
Charlie Angel's Cheerleading Group	£2,400.00

### 114/16 **Date of next meeting**

The date of the next meeting to be agreed by Council in May, 2016

The meeting terminated at 7.30p.m.

Chairman: .....

Date: .....