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SOUTH (INNER) AREA COMMITTEE

**Meeting to be held at Hillside, Beeston Road, LS11 8ND on
Wednesday, 15th May, 2013 at 6.00 pm**

MEMBERSHIP

Councillors

D Congreve	-	Beeston and Holbeck;
A Gabriel (Chair)	-	Beeston and Holbeck;
A Ogilvie	-	Beeston and Holbeck;
P Davey	-	City and Hunslet;
M Iqbal	-	City and Hunslet;
E Nash	-	City and Hunslet;
J Blake	-	Middleton Park;
K Groves	-	Middleton Park;
P Truswell	-	Middleton Park;

**Agenda compiled by:
Phil Garnett
Governance Services Unit
Civic Hall
LEEDS LS1 1UR
Tel: 39 51632**

**South East Area Leader:
Shaid Mahmood
Tel: 22 43973**

A G E N D A

Item No	Ward	Item Not Open		Page No
1			<p>APPEALS AGAINST REFUSAL OF INSPECTION OF DOCUMENTS</p> <p>To consider any appeals in accordance with Procedure Rule 25 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules (in the event of an Appeal the press and public will be excluded).</p> <p>(*In accordance with Procedure Rule 25, written notice of an appeal must be received by the Head of Governance Services at least 24 hours before the meeting.)</p>	

Item No	Ward	Item Not Open		Page No
2			<p>EXEMPT INFORMATION - POSSIBLE EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 To highlight reports or appendices which officers have identified as containing exempt information within the meaning of Section 100I of the Local Government Act 1972, and where officers consider that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, for the reasons outlined in the report. 2 To consider whether or not to accept the officers recommendation in respect of the above information. 3 If the recommendation is accepted, to formally pass the following resolution:- <p>RESOLVED – That, in accordance with Regulation 4 of The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 or Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 as appropriate, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of those parts of the agenda designated as containing exempt information on the grounds that it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the press and public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information, as follows:-</p>	
3			<p>LATE ITEMS</p> <p>To identify items which have been admitted to the agenda by the Chair for consideration.</p> <p>(The special circumstances shall be specified in the minutes.)</p>	

Item No	Ward	Item Not Open		Page No
4			DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY AND OTHER INTERESTS' To disclose or draw attention to any disclosable pecuniary interests for the purposes of Section 31 of the Localism Act 2011 and paragraphs 13-16 of the Members' Code of Conduct.	1 - 8
5			APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE To receive any apologies for absence.	
6			MINUTES - 20TH MARCH 2013 To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 20 th March 2013.	
7			OPEN FORUM In accordance with Paragraphs 6.24 and 6.25 of the Area Committee Procedure Rules, at the discretion of the Chair a period of up to 10 minutes may be allocated at each ordinary meeting for members of the public to make representations or to ask questions on matters within the terms of reference of the Area Committee. This period of time may be extended at the discretion of the Chair. No member of the public shall speak for more than three minutes in the Open Forum, except by permission of the Chair. (10 mins discussion)	
8			ELECTION OF AREA COMMITTEE CHAIR FOR THE 2013/2014 MUNICIPAL YEAR To receive a report of the Chief Officer (Democratic Services) which explains the arrangements for the annual election of Chairs for Area Committees and that in line with this process, to recommend that the Area Committee elect a Chair for the 2013/2014 municipal year.	9 - 14

Item No	Ward	Item Not Open		Page No
9			SOUTH LEEDS GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE To receive a report of Parks and Countryside the report provides an update to Members to an important scheme to effect the important greenspaces in Inner South.	15 - 48
10			A SUMMARY OF KEY WORK To receive a report of the Area Leader – South East Leeds, detailing work by the Area Management Team on key priorities in the Inner South Area of Leeds since the last Area Committee meeting.	49 - 82
11			WELLBEING REPORT MAY 2013 To receive a report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Customer Access and Performance) providing the Area Committee with and update on the current amount of revenue and capital funding committed and available via the Area Committee well-being budgets for Inner South.	83 - 90
12			DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING 6pm Wednesday 19 th June 2013, Venue To Be Confirmed.	

SOUTH (INNER) AREA COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, 20TH MARCH, 2013

PRESENT: Councillor A Gabriel in the Chair

Councillors J Blake, D Congreve, P Davey,
K Groves, M Iqbal, E Nash, A Ogilvie and
P Truswell

58 Appeals Against Refusal of Inspection of Documents

There were no appeals against the refusal of inspection of documents.

59 Exempt Information - Possible Exclusion of the Press and Public

There were no resolutions to exclude the public.

60 Late Items

There were no formal late items added to the agenda. However supplementary information was submitted to the agenda with regard to Agenda Item 11. 'Wellbeing Report' Minute 68 refers.

61 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary and Other Interests'

No declarations were made.

62 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies.

63 Minutes - 9th January 2013

RESOLVED - The minutes of the meeting held on 9th January 2013 were approved as a correct record.

64 Open Forum

In accordance with Paragraphs 6.24 and 6.25 of the Area Committee Procedure Rules, the Chair allowed a period of up to 10 minutes for members of the public to make representations or ask questions on matters within the terms of reference of the Area Committee.

Alice MacDougal who works for Victim Support in the Anti-Social Behaviour Team for Leeds City Council briefly described the services her team has to offer and handed out leaflets containing further information and contact details.

A local resident commented on the untidy appearance of Dewsbury Road and that more should be done to keep the area clean and tidy. It was confirmed that this issue had been raised with the relevant officer who intends to re-align resources.

65 Development of Area Lead Role

The Assistant Chief Executive (Customer Access and Performance) submitted a report which provided initial proposals to the Committee for its input, shaping and feedback with a view to introducing the revised roles in the new municipal year.

Shaid Mahmood, the Area Leader (South East Leeds) presented the report and was in attendance to answer Member questions.

Members commented that rationalisation of meetings needed to take place and that clearer objectives should be set.

Members also commented that some analysis should take place on the time commitments needed to be a champion/lead role as some Members have this role and some don't. Further to this, equity of the roles was raised as an area for concern as some roles have support from other Members and some don't.

Members agreed that the Area Lead Role should be linked to the Neighbourhood Improvement Boards.

It was highlighted to Members that there was only one Neighbourhood Plan in the South Inner Area but that as services are delegated, Members will be asked to take lead roles in managing this. Members discussed how this fitted in with the role of the existing local Councillors.

RESOLVED – The Committee resolved to

- (a) Note the contents of the report; and
- (b) Feedback the comments made during discussions

66 Welfare Reform Impact On Council Tenants

The Chief Executive Aire Valley Homes Leeds, Chief Officer (Revenues & Benefits) and South East Area Leader submitted a report updating Inner South Area Committee on Welfare Reform changes that impact on council tenants and that are due to be implemented in April 2013. It also summarised work that is currently being undertaken to prepare tenants for those changes and for future changes that will impact later in the year.

In attendance to answer Member questions was Steve Carey Chief Officer (Revenues & Benefits) and Simon Costigan, The Chief Executive Aire Valley Homes Leeds.

Members voiced concerns about the effects of these reforms and the potential for an increase in domestic violence as a result. Members considered that an update on this should be included within the next welfare reform report.

Members also stressed the importance of completing the review of one and two bedroomed flats and the accurate clarification of these flats.

Members considered that a further report be submitted concentrating on the issues local to the Inner South Area.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the work done to date by ALMOs and the Council to prepare for the introduction of Welfare Reform changes be noted; and
- (b) That the Area Leader South East Leeds be invited to develop a bespoke report in relation to current challenges presented for citizens in the Inner South Area Committee Area and current and future activity to address those challenges.

67 Children's Services Area Committee Update Report

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report which informed the Committee on the local outcomes for children and young people, and provided an update on the work of the Children's Services Directorate and of the Leeds Children's Trust.

Sarah Sinclair Chief Officer (Children's Services) and Martyn Stenton Area Head of Targeted Services (South East Leeds) were in attendance to answer Member questions.

Members questioned officers present about the number of social work teams in the Inner South commenting that there are only two teams when there should be three.

Members asked about the links with adult social care in terms of supporting families, it was confirmed to the Committee that this was taking place.

It was noted by the Committee that cluster engagement has improved however it still poses challenges.

Members also questioned why the numbers of NEETs were not going down in comparison to other areas of the City. It was considered that the contraction of the careers service and the transient nature of the area contributed to the levels remaining high.

Members considered that an update report was required in three months time.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the contents of the report be noted;
- (b) That a further update report be submitted to the Committee in three months time.

68 Wellbeing Report

The Area Officer presented a report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Customer Access and Performance). The report provided:

1. Confirmation of the 2012/13 revenue allocation and the 2011/12 carry forward figure.
2. An update on both the revenue and capital elements of the Well being budget.
3. Details of revenue funding for consideration and approval.
4. Details of revenue projects agreed to date (as shown at Appendix 1 to the report).
5. Members were also asked to note the current position of the Small Grants Budget.

RESOLVED –

- (a) that the contents of the report be noted;
- (b) that the Well Being Budget as set out at paragraph 3.0 be noted;
- (c) that the points raised under ring fencing arrangements set out in paragraph 3.3 of the report be noted;
- (d) that the Well Being revenue projects previously agreed as set out in Appendix 1 be noted;
- (e) that the following be agreed in respect of Wellbeing funding allocations, as detailed within paragraph 4.0 of the submitted report:

Name of Project	Name of Delivery Organisation	Decision
Middleton & Belle Isle Christmas Lights	Leeds Lights	£4,826.15 Revenue (Middleton Park) APPROVED
City & Hunslet and Middleton Park Neighbourhood Improvement Officer	Health for All / Area Support Team	£32,228.22 Revenue (City & Hunslet & Middleton Park) APPROVED

Draft minutes to be approved at the meeting
to be held on Wednesday, 15th May, 2013

Belle Isle Gala 2013	Area Support Team	£2,500 (Revenue) Middleton Park APPROVED
Middleton Gala 2013	Area Support Team	£2,500 (Revenue) Middleton Park APPROVED
Holbeck Gala 2013	Holbeck Gala	£3,500 (Revenue) Beeston & Holbeck (£2,334); City & Hunslet Ward (£1,166) APPROVED
Beeston Festival 2013	Beeston Festival 2013	£5,000 (Revenue) Beeston & Holbeck (£2,500); City & Hunslet (£2,500) APPROVED
Bands in the Park and Dog Show 2013	Friends of Cross Flatts Park	£2,300 (Revenue) Beeston & Holbeck (£1,150) and City & Hunslet (£1,150) APPROVED
Middleton Craft, Flower and Produce Show	Friends of Middleton Park	£2,550 (revenue) Middleton Park TO BE CONSIDERED BY MEMBERS OUTSIDE THE MEETING
Middleton Park Summer Programme	Friends of Middleton Park	£2,475 (Revenue) Middleton Park TO BE CONSIDERED BY MEMBERS OUTSIDE THE MEETING
Cross Flatts Park – Playground Improvements	Parks & Countryside	£50,000 (revenue) (£25,000 per ward for Beeston & Holbeck and City & Hunslet) APPROVED
Cross Flatts Park – Millennium Garden Improvements	Parks & Countryside	£10,000 (revenue) (£5,000 per ward for Beeston & Holbeck and City & Hunslet) APPROVED
South Leeds Domestic Violence	Women's Health matters	£15,339 (revenue) All Wards (£5,113)

Draft minutes to be approved at the meeting
to be held on Wednesday, 15th May, 2013

Education and Support Group		APPROVED
Victim's fund	Victims Support	£2,500 (revenue) All Wards APPROVED

- (f) that the small grants situation as set out in paragraph 5.0 to the report be noted.

69 A Summary Of Key Work

The Area Leader submitted a report which provided brief details of the range of activities with which the Area Support Team are engaged based on the Area Committee Business Plan priorities and actions that are not addressed in greater detail elsewhere on this agenda. It provided opportunities for further questioning or the opportunity to request a more detailed report on a particular issue.

In relation to Health and Wellbeing Councillor Truswell raised the co-operative energy scheme which Members have received an email about. The aim of the scheme being for local people to collectively negotiate for better energy tariffs.

Changes to the Neighbourhood Improvement Board structure in the Inner South to better reflect wards and their needs were noted.

RESOLVED – that the contents of the report be noted.

70 Dates, Times and Venues of Area Committee Meetings 2013/14

The Chief Officer (Democratic Services) submitted a report which sought approval of a meeting schedule for 2013/14 municipal year.

Members noted the dates proposed and commented that in terms of timing of meetings that it would be better for all if the meetings were moved from 6:30pm to 6pm.

RESOLVED – The Committee resolved that

- (a) That the meeting dates as set out in paragraph 3.1.1 to the report be approved;
- (b) That once the date of the Annual Council Meeting for 2014 has been finalised that the Chair in consultation with Area Management Officers approve the arrangements for the seventh Area Committee meeting; and
- (c) That the time the Committee meets be moved from 6:30pm to 6pm.

71 Dates, Times and Venues of Future Meetings

6:30pm 15th May 2013 – Venue to be confirmed.

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Report of Chief Officer (Democratic and Central Services)

Report to South Inner Area Committee

Date: Wednesday 15th May 2013

Subject: Election of Area Committee Chair for the 2013/2014 Municipal Year

Are specific electoral Wards affected?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Beeston & Holbeck, City & Hunslet, Middleton Park		
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:		

Summary of main issues

1. Area Committee Procedure Rules require that the Chair of each Area Committee will be elected from amongst the City Councillors eligible to serve on that Committee.
2. Following the closure of nominations for the position of Chair, and prior to the Annual Council Meeting, Area Committees are required to meet to elect a Chair for the forthcoming Municipal Year.
3. Therefore, the Area Committee is recommended to elect a Chair for the 2013/2014 Municipal Year, from amongst the nominations which have been received. The Area Committee will be informed at the meeting of the nominations which have been received for the position of Chair.

Recommendations

4. Members of the Area Committee are recommended to elect an Area Committee Chair for the 2013/2014 Municipal Year, from amongst the nominations which have been received.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to explain the arrangements for the annual election of Chairs for Area Committees and that in line with this process, to recommend that the Area Committee elect a Chair for the 2013/2014 municipal year.

2 Background information

- 2.1 Article 10 of the Council's Constitution sets out the composition, functions and role of Area Committees.
- 2.2 Paragraph 5 of the Area Committee Procedure Rules deals with the process by which Chairs for Area Committees are elected. Attached as appendix 1.

3 Main issues

- 3.1 The Area Committee Procedure Rules state that the Chair of each Area Committee will be elected from amongst the City Councillors eligible to serve on that Committee.
- 3.2 Each Political Group with Members elected within an Area Committee's boundary may submit a nomination from amongst Members on the Area Committee to Chair that Committee, via the Group Whip. An independent Member may also put forward a nomination.
- 3.3 The deadline for the submission of nominations for the position of Chair was 5.00pm on Tuesday, 14th May 2013. The Area Committee will be notified at the meeting of the nominations which have been received, prior to the election taking place.
- 3.4 The Procedure Rules state that following the closure of nominations and before the Annual Council Meeting, Area Committees will meet to agree the election of Chair for the forthcoming Municipal Year.
- 3.5 The Chair will be elected by an overall majority of first votes cast by those Members eligible to do so and present at the meeting. The Member presiding at the meeting as Chair will have no second or casting vote. If no overall majority is achieved, then the nominee with the smallest number of votes will be eliminated from consideration and the vote repeated.
- 3.6 Where an overall majority of votes cannot be obtained, or it is not possible to hold or convene a quorate meeting of the Area Committee, or for any other reason a decision is not possible in advance of the Annual Council Meeting, then the appointment will be made at the Annual Council Meeting.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1.1 All Group Whips have been given due notice of the deadlines relating to the submission of nominations for the position of Area Committee Chairs, and have been provided with details of the process.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 4.2.1 There are no specific implications relating to equality and diversity or cohesion and integration arising from this report.

4.3 Council policies and City Priorities

- 4.3.2 Operational and effective Area Committee meetings, which facilitate a widely accessible but robust decision making forum are in line with the Council's Policies and City Priorities. In order for such meetings to take place, an eligible City Councillor must be properly elected to the position of Area Committee Chair.

4.4 Resources and value for money

- 4.4.3 There are no direct resource implications arising from the submission of this report to the Area Committee.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

- 4.5.4 This report is not subject to Call In, as the Executive and Decision Making Procedure Rules state that the power to Call In decisions does not extend to those decisions taken by Area Committees.
- 4.5.5 The process summarised above regarding the election of Area Committee Chairs is in line with the Area Committee Procedure Rules.

4.6 Risk Management

- 4.6.6 There are no risks directly arising from the submission of this report to the Area Committee, however, not electing a Chair for the 2013/14 municipal year at this meeting will mean that the matter would have to be resolved at the Annual Council Meeting.

5 Conclusions

- 5.1 The Area Committee Procedure Rules state that the Chair of each Area Committee will be elected from amongst the City Councillors eligible to serve on that Committee, and that between the closure of nominations (5.00pm, 14th May 2013) and the Annual Council Meeting (6.00pm, 20th May 2013), the Area Committee will meet to agree the election of Chair for the forthcoming Municipal Year. The Committee therefore is recommended to elect a Chair at this meeting for the 2013/2014 Municipal Year, from the nominations which have been received.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 Members of the Area Committee are recommended to elect an Area Committee Chair for the 2013/2014 Municipal Year, from amongst the named nominations which have been received.

7 Background documents¹

None

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.

5.0 ELECTION OF CHAIR

- 5.1 The Chair of each Area Committee will be elected, from amongst the City Councillors eligible to serve on that Committee.
- 5.2 Each political Group¹ with Members elected within an Area Committee area may put forward a nomination from amongst Members on the Area Committee to Chair the Area Committee. An Independent Member may also put forward a nomination.
- 5.3 All nominations must be notified to the Head of Governance Services by no later than 5pm the day before the meeting convened to consider the appointment of the Chair. The Head Of Governance Services will give appropriate notice to whips and Independent Members of this deadline.
- 5.4 Area Committees will meet to agree the election of Chair for the forthcoming Municipal Year during the period that is the first working day after the nomination process closes, and the last working day that is the day before the Annual Council Meeting.
- 5.5 The Chair will be elected by overall majority of first votes cast by those Members eligible to do so and present at the meeting, the member presiding at the meeting will have no second or casting vote. If no overall majority is achieved, then the nominee with the smallest number of votes will be eliminated from consideration and the vote repeated.
- 5.6 All agreed appointments will be reported to the Annual Council Meeting.
- 5.7 Where an overall majority of votes cannot be obtained, or it is not possible to convene, or hold, a meeting of the Area Committee, or, for any other reason a decision is not possible in advance of the Annual Council Meeting, the Annual Council Meeting will appoint the Chair.
- 5.8 Where it has not been possible to hold a meeting of the Area Committee and the Annual Council Meeting is required to consider more than one nomination for the position of Chair, the Chair will be elected by overall majority of votes cast by those Members of the Area Committee eligible to do so and present at the Council meeting. If no overall majority is achieved, then the nominee with the smallest number of votes will be eliminated from consideration and the vote repeated.
- 5.9 Where an overall majority of votes cannot be obtained by votes cast by those Members of the Area Committee eligible to do so and present at the Council meeting, the vote will be widened to include all Members of Council. The nominee with the overall majority of votes cast by members of Council will be appointed as the Chair of the Area Committee.

¹ A nomination from a political group must be forwarded by a Whip

- 5.10 Where it has not been possible to hold a meeting of the Area Committee and the Annual Council Meeting is required to consider an unopposed nomination for the position of Chair, the unopposed nominee will be elected by the Council.
- 5.11 Where Council has made an appointment of Chair of an Area Committee the decision will be reported to the relevant Area Committee.



Report author: Glen Gerner
Tel: 2243829

Report of Parks & Countryside

Report to South Leeds (Inner) Area Committee

Date: Wednesday 15th May 2013

Subject: South Leeds Green Infrastructure Update

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Beeston & Holbeck, City & Hunslet, Middleton Park
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. This report provides an update on the Green Infrastructure project, which covers Inner South Leeds, in development by Parks & Countryside.

Recommendations

2. That South Inner Area Committee note and comment on the contents of this report.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 This report provides an update to Members to an important scheme to effect the important greenspaces in Inner South.

2 Background information

- 2.1 This report and associated presentation describes the planned enhancement of Green Infrastructure (GI) in south Leeds, following an existing green corridor, from Lingwell Nook, northwards through East Ardsely Fall, Thorpe and south Middleton, to link with Rothwell Country Park and the Lower Aire Valley plus Leeds City Centre.
- 2.2 This GI enhancement will focus upon linking and connecting existing P&C land holdings, such as woodland, natural grassland and wetland and improving quality and biodiversity. Enhancement and promotion of alternative transport opportunities through the GI corridor (e.g. Public Rights of Way; Leeds Core Cycle Network Routes; new and established permissive ways) will facilitate and encourage car free journeys in which people can walk or cycle to and from school/work or simply for pleasure.
- 2.3 There are a number of individually important areas of natural environment within this GI corridor, such as Ancient Semi-natural Woodland (ASNW) and extensive young plantations, as well as areas of meadow, wetland and water courses, each requiring a specific style of management. However, rather than treating each area in isolation, the intention is to take a broader 'landscape scale' approach which maximises the multiple benefits of a large, well connected and diverse natural landscape.
- 2.4 Looked at holistically, not only can this facilitate the free movement of wildlife and people, benefiting biodiversity and encouraging improved health and wellbeing, it can also help to create a strong 'sense of place', by improving the aesthetic quality of the landscape. This, in turn, can provide stronger economic benefits, such as increasing property values and attracting businesses.
- 2.5 Well designed and well managed GI also provides substantial benefits in terms of helping the City to adapt to the effects of Climate Change. By contributing to stormwater management, air pollution (trees act as efficient filters) and local temperature control (evidence shows that increasing the area of GI can help to significantly lower urban summer temperatures as well as provide shelter from cold, winter winds. Last, but not least, large areas of quality, easily accessed green space offer an escape from the constant background noises of the modern built environment, proving opportunities for peaceful, quiet reflection.
- 2.6 All Leeds City Council owned woodlands are certified under the United Kingdom Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS), confirming that management is compliant with national and international guidelines. Existing woodland within the corridor will be managed to facilitate connectivity, improve public access, enhance woodland habitats and to secure opportunities to provide sustainable supplies of carbon lean woodfuel. Forestry Commission support will be sought at all stages of work with a view to drawing down funding through the English Woodland Grant Scheme (eWGS).

3 Main issues

- 3.1 The attached briefing paper and presentation (**Appendix 1 & 2**) outline the scheme and its impact on the area.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1.1 Projects are developed to address priorities in the Area Committee Business Plan. The production of this plan is informed by Local Councillors and local residents. All projects developed are in consultation with Elected Members and local communities. Approval for any contribution from the Wellbeing budget is secured at Area Committee.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 4.2.1 Community groups submitting a project proposal requesting funding from the Wellbeing budget have an equal opportunities policy and as part of the application process, complete a section outlining which equality groups the project will work with and how equality and cohesion issues have been considered.
- 4.2.2 Internal and statutory partners are committed to equality and cohesion and all projects they are involved with will have considered these issues.
- 4.2.3 A light touch Equality Impact Assessments is carried out for all projects.

4.3 Council Policies and City Priorities

- 4.3.1 The projects outlined in this report contribute to targets and priorities set out in the following council policies:
- Vision For Leeds
 - Children and Young Peoples Plan
 - Health and Wellbeing City Priority Plan
 - Safer and Stronger Communities Plan
 - Regeneration City Priority Plan

4.4 Resources and Value for Money

- 4.4.1 There are no resource implications as a result of this report.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

- 4.5.1 All decisions taken by the Area Committee in relation to the delegated functions from Executive Board are not eligible for Call In.

4.5.2 There are no key or major decisions being made that would be eligible for Call In.

4.5.3 There are no legal implications as a result of this report.

4.6 Risk Management

4.6.1 This report provides an update on work in the Inner South and therefore no risks are identifiable. Any projects funded through Wellbeing budget complete a section identifying risks and solutions as part of the application process.

5 Conclusions

5.1 The report provides up to date information on key work areas of the Area Committee.

6 Recommendations

6.1 The Area Committee is asked to:

a) note the contents of the report and make comment as appropriate.

Background documents¹

There are no background papers associated with this report

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available for inspection on request for a period of four years following the date of the relevant meeting. Accordingly this list does not include documents containing exempt or confidential information, or any published works. Requests to inspect any background documents should be submitted to the report author.

South Leeds Green Infrastructure Corridor

Helping to build a liveable city

Project Brief

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South Leeds Green Infrastructure Corridor

Introduction

This project brief describes the planned enhancement of Green Infrastructure (GI) in south Leeds, following an existing green corridor, from Lingwell Nook, northwards through East Ardsely Fall, Thorpe and south Middleton, to link with Rothwell Country Park and the Lower Aire Valley plus Leeds City Centre.

This GI enhancement will focus upon linking and connecting existing P&C land holdings, such as woodland, natural grassland and wetland and improving quality and biodiversity. Enhancement and promotion of alternative transport opportunities through the GI corridor (e.g. Public Rights of Way; Leeds Core Cycle Network Routes; new and established permissive ways) will facilitate and encourage car free journeys in which people can walk or cycle to and from school/work or simply for pleasure.

There are a number of individually important areas of natural environment within this GI corridor, such as Ancient Semi-natural Woodland (ASNW) and extensive young plantations, as well as areas of meadow, wetland and water courses, each requiring a specific style of management. However, rather than treating each area in isolation, the intention is to take a broader 'landscape scale' approach which maximises the multiple benefits of a large, well connected and diverse natural landscape.

Looked at holistically, not only can this facilitate the free movement of wildlife and people, benefiting biodiversity and encouraging improved health and wellbeing, it can also help to create a strong 'sense of place', by improving the aesthetic quality of the landscape. This, in turn, can provide stronger economic benefits, such as increasing property values and attracting businesses.

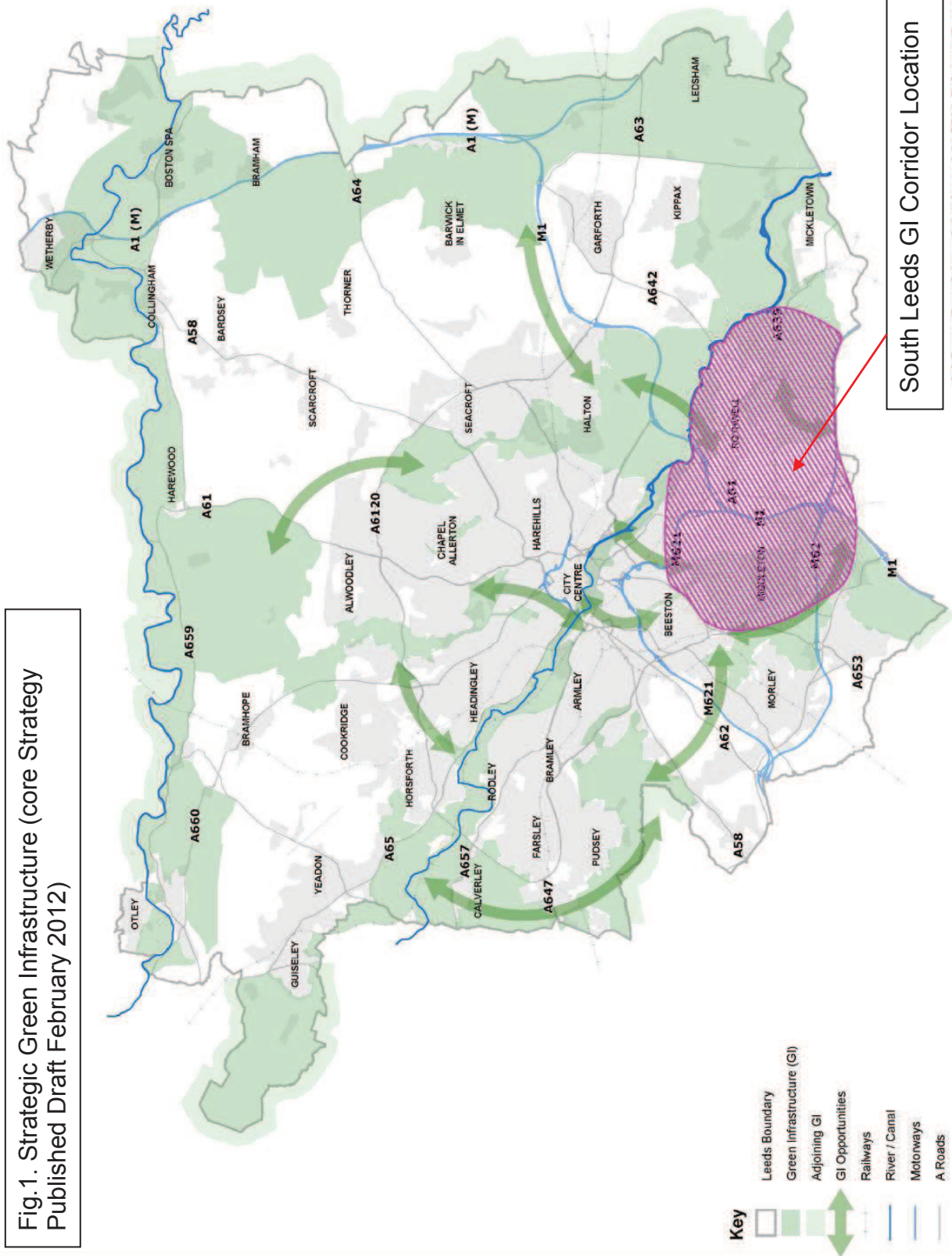
Well designed and well managed GI also provides substantial benefits in terms of helping the City to adapt to the effects of Climate Change. By contributing to stormwater management, air pollution (trees act as efficient filters) and local temperature control (evidence shows that increasing the area of GI can help to significantly lower urban summer temperatures as well as provide shelter from cold, winter winds. Last, but not least, large areas of quality, easily accessed green space offer an escape from the constant background noises of the modern built environment, providing opportunities for peaceful, quiet reflection.

All Leeds City Council owned woodlands are certified under the United Kingdom Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS), confirming that management is compliant with national and international guidelines. Existing woodland within the corridor will be managed to facilitate connectivity, improve public access, enhance woodland habitats and to secure opportunities to provide sustainable supplies of carbon lean woodfuel. Forestry Commission support will be sought at all stages of work with a view to drawing down funding through the English Woodland Grant Scheme (eWGS).

It is envisaged that the full implementation of the project will be phased over several years. Each phase is described on pages 12 to 20. The first two phases will result in the creation of the Ardsley and Robin Hood Nature Park and this is described in detail on page 22.

Funding for phase 1 is currently being sought and letters of support from stakeholders are invited.

Fig.1. Strategic Green Infrastructure (core Strategy
Published Draft February 2012)



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South Leeds Green Infrastructure Corridor

Vision

The Vision for the South Leeds Green Infrastructure Corridor is to facilitate the development and promotion of an integrated and interlinked network of multifunctional greenspaces, which will benefit both people and wildlife, and will also support the Strategic Green Infrastructure targets of the Leeds Core Strategy. The involvement of local communities, who have such an important role to play in this scheme, will be actively encouraged throughout.

The (Strategic Green) Infrastructure performs many important functions and provides opportunities for recreation. Within these areas the Council will maintain and, in partnership with others, enhance the following key corridors :

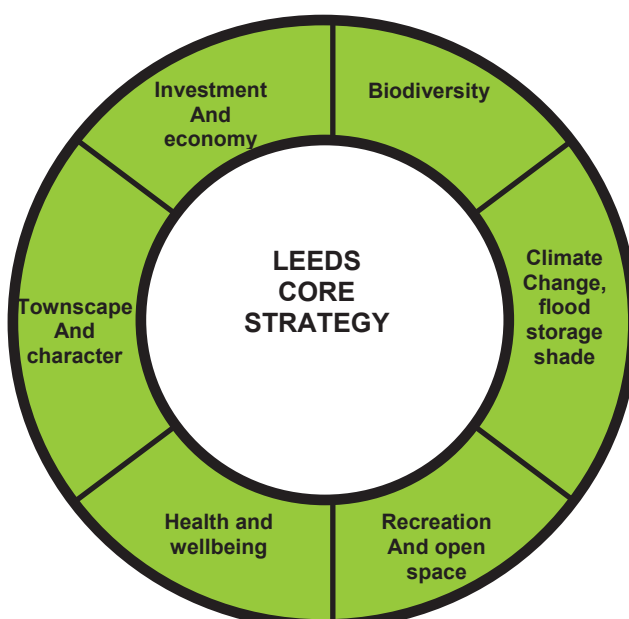
- (i) *The Aire Valle, along the river and canal corridors and including West Leeds Country Park and Kirkstall Valley Park to the north and; Fairburn Ings; St. Aidans and Aire Valley Leeds to the south incorporating the Urban eco- settlement (which has particular aims to strengthen green links to Leeds City Centre, the Lower Aire Valley, Temple Newsam and Rothwell Country Park)*
- (ii) *South Leeds (including the Morley-Middleton-Holbeck corridor)*
- (iii) *The Limestone Ridge*
- (iv) *The Wharfe Valle*
- (v) *Wykebeck Valley*
- (vi) *Woodhouse Ridge*
- (vii) *Meanwood Valley*
- (viii) *Tong Cockersdale*
- (ix) *Gledhow Valley*

Spatial Policy 13.

Core Strategy - Leeds Local Development Framework Publication Draft (2012)

This South Leeds Green Infrastructure Corridor project will actively contribute to achieving many of the functions identified in the Core Strategy (see Diagram 1 below). Additionally, as the map showing the Strategic Green Infrastructure in Figure 1 shows, it will also supports two of the key corridors identified in the Core Strategy, namely the southern section of the Aire Valley, and South Leeds incorporating the Morley-Middleton-Holbeck corridor.

Diagram1 Functions of Green Infrastructure (Core Strategy Leeds Local Development Framework).



South Leeds Green Infrastructure Corridor

Strategic Context

Background

The Leeds Core Strategy (Published Draft February 2012) identifies the South of Leeds as a regeneration priority area. It contains a concentration of neighbourhoods that perform below city and national averages across a range of indicators (health, affluence etc). There are, however, opportunities for investment that will have a lasting and positive impact on those neighbourhoods and the city as a whole.

The Leeds Landscape Assessment (1994) recognises that much of the south Leeds urban fringe landscape has been progressively broken down over many years, leading to loss of woodlands, hedgerows and other “rural” features. The present landscape suffers from a variety of conflicting land use pressures including fly-tipping and anti-social activities (such as off-road motorbike riding and vandalism), pressure from development, and relatively poor connectivity due to existing transport infrastructure and housing.

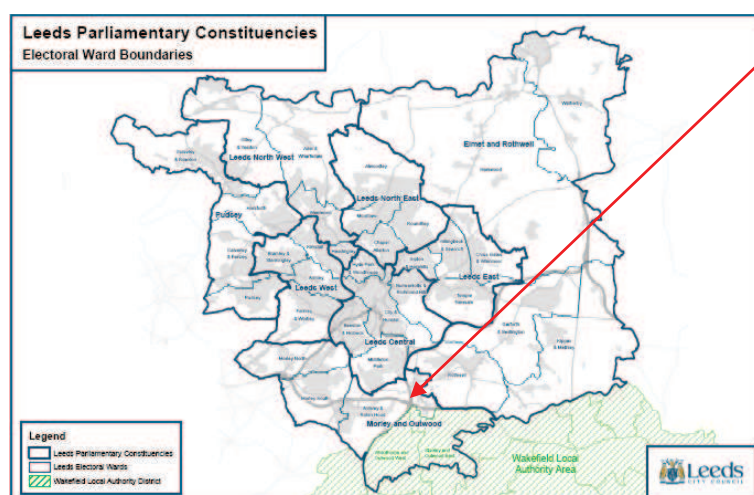
Integral to the overall spatial approach of the Core Strategy is the desire to maintain and enhance an integrated network of Strategic Green Infrastructure; a network of multi-functional greenspaces, both urban and rural, which includes protected sites, woodlands, nature reserves, river corridors, public parks and amenity areas, together with green links. It extends from urban centres through green corridors to open countryside and supports the natural, recreational and ecological processes which are integral to the health and quality of life of sustainable communities. A key function of GI is to help maintain and enhance the character and distinctiveness of local communities and the wider setting of places (Core Strategy Published Draft February 2012). The South Leeds Green Corridor (see Fig 1. opposite), is a vital part of the network of Strategic GI which encompasses and permeates the urban core.

Spatial Policy 13 within the Core Strategy identifies the South Leeds Corridor as one of nine, inter-connected key corridors for the Leeds district. The Policy recognises the important functions that this strategic GI provides and commits the Council to maintaining and, in partnership with others, enhancing the key corridors.

Paragraph 4.10.1 of the Core Strategy includes the following statement: *‘In complementing the whole network of Green Infrastructure, it is important to improve the quantity, quality and accessibility of green spaces serving the people living and working in the district. The provision of green space is vital for the continued health and well being of residents and visitors of Leeds.’*

Paragraph 5.5.2 notes that there are opportunities to enhance GI within and around the key strategic corridors. In support of this approach, Policy G1 provides a framework to manage long term provision, in particular, Policy G1 (ii) provides support for the enhancement of the South Leeds GI Corridor by stating that *‘Where appropriate, the opportunity is taken to extend Green Infrastructure by linking green spaces or by filling in gaps in Green Infrastructure corridors, including (where relevant) extending these into the City Centre...’*

Location



Situated approximately 8km out from the City Centre, the South Leeds Green Infrastructure Corridor passes through 3 Electoral Ward Boundaries and connects with several others. It also connects well with the Aire Valley and, therefore the rest of the GI network and has the potential to connect directly to the proposed City Centre Park.

Electoral Wards

Ardley and Robin Hood (Ward number 3)

East Ardsley Fall lies to the South of the M62 and close to the Wakefield Local Authority Wards of Wrenthorpe and Outwood West, and Stanley and Outwood East. It is the southern-most site in this scheme and encompasses Phases 1 and 2. This includes current and planned grant aided (Forestry Commission) woodland management to improve public access, enhance woodland habitats and to secure opportunities to provide sustainable supplies of carbon lean woodfuel.

On-going improvements to a permissive bridleway extending from Lingwell Nook in the south, northwards to Moor Knoll Lane will complete a circuitous route for horse riders, cyclists and walkers, connecting with Dolphin Beck Marsh on the opposite side of the Leeds- Wakefield railway line. Phase 2 of development will see Dolphin Beck Marsh and Thorpe Wood linked, providing an accessible area of semi natural greenspace and completing the creation of the **Ardley and Robin Hood Nature Park**.

Middleton (Ward number 23)

From Thorpe Wood, the corridor forks to the east and west of Middleton Park. To the east of Middleton Park it links with woodlands and wetlands of Sharp Lane, travelling parallel to the M1/M621 towards Hunslet cemetery (City and Hunslet ward). Here the existing green corridor ends directly South of the city centre, but there are opportunities to link into the South Bank Regeneration Strategy and continue towards the proposed City centre Park. West of Middleton Park, the corridor includes both Sisson's Wood and West Wood, providing a link to Morley, Churwell and the West Leeds Country Park.

Implementation of the Middleton Regeneration Strategy will include the re-development of large areas of social housing to the south-west and south of Middleton Park. There is very real potential for the GI corridor to add value to this re-development and to become fully incorporated into the very fabric of the new housing estates.

Rothwell (Ward 29)

From the young plantations of Sharp Lane stretching East, the corridor follows an underpass beneath the M 621 and on via Rothwell Pastures to link with the River Aire at Rothwell Country Park. This section of the corridor is key to linking with the Aire Valley and its links to the rest of the Strategic GI Network, including direct links to Springhead Park and Water Haigh Woodland Park, directly adjoining the new RSPB St. Aiden's reserve.

The map on page 7 (Fig. 2) illustrates the whole of the South Leeds Green Infrastructure Corridor, highlighting all the key existing P&C controlled green spaces and the non-vehicular access routes (Public Rights of Way and Leeds Core Cycle Network Routes) that connect the sites and facilitate and encourage people to visit and pass through this corridor.

The key sites (e.g. Middleton Park, Thorpe Wood, Rothwell Country Park etc) are named on the map and are briefly described below:

1. **Middleton Park** is a major City Park and contains one of the largest area of Ancient Semi-natural Woodland (ASNW) in West Yorkshire. It is almost completely surrounded by development, but the GI corridor provides links via West Wood and there are opportunities to strengthen links during planned re-development. Currently, the park is part way through a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) improvement scheme working to improve the park's infrastructure, biodiversity and enhance its functionality.
2. **West Wood and Sisson's Wood** (part ASNW) allow the Corridor to skirt the south-east boundary of Middleton Park and Link with Dewsbury Road and Morley fringe towards Churwell. From here there is potential to link with Beeston Royd (man-made woodland and agricultural landscape on former land fill) and on towards the West Leeds Country Park.
3. **Thorpe Wood** (ASNW) with a healthy propensity for natural regeneration), connected to East Ardsley Fall and Dolphin Marsh via the Dolphin Beck and a Public Footpath that passes beneath the M621. Thorpe Wood is the pivotal link to Sharp Lane and the eastern side of Middleton Park and Sisson's Wood/West Wood and the western side of Middleton Park.
4. **East Ardsley Fall** is composed of young plantations (P.1976) and associated man-made, non-woodland habitats running parallel to the Leeds-Wakefield railway.

5. **Dolphin Marsh** one of Leeds' few remaining reedbeds. An existing Public Bridleway runs parallel to the site, linking with the permissive bridleway running along East Ardsley Fall to provide a continuous and popular circuit. The latter is currently being upgraded with the help of funding from the Forestry Commission.
6. **Sharp Lane/Throstle Carr Beck** provides high quality, recently created woodland/ plus associated habitats (meadow, wetland and hedgerow) together with a circular pedestrian/cycle/bridleway access link. This site forms an integral part of the new Leeds New Forest Village development (1200 new homes) and forms an early example of the potential of planned strategic GI
7. **Sharp Lane Plantations** - older plantations continuing link north to Holbeck and beneath M621 to Rothwell and Lower Aire Valley. Opportunities for enhancing both woodland and associated open habitats, plus improved public access and interpretation.
8. **Ouzlewell Green.** A community woodland (P.1995) and orchard adjacent to Dolphin/ Oulton beck. Currently lacking defined public access (but with a public footpath along it's Northern edge) this site adds much needed refuge habitat to the river, and to neighbouring Bushy Cliffe Wood (Privately owned ASNW). The orchard provides an opportunity for local people to be introduced to the pleasures of eating fruit grown close to home and will be promoted through the P&C led 'Feed Leeds' initiative.
9. **Rothwell Pastures and disused railway.** Historically important as the site of Rothwell castle (founded by Ilbert de Lacy and once owned by John of Gaunt). The site includes a small reed bed habitat on the River Dolphin. and is managed as part of a new partnership project with Leeds City Council and the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust.
10. **Springhead Park.** A traditional public park with formal gardens and open, close mown grass slopes. This site includes a river corridor (Dolphin/Oulton Beck), young native woodland planting and associated open habitats.
11. **Water Haigh Park.** A new 98ha park created in 2008 on the site of the former water Haigh Colliery. following several phases of restoration there are now a series of interconnected woodlands, meadows, wetlands and hedgerows, plus riverside and canal side habitats, together with well managed public access and interpretation. Located in the heart of the Lower Aire Valley, the site lies directly adjacent to the new RSPB St. Aiden's reserve. This site is also the home of two junior football clubs (West Yorkshire Football Academy and Rothwell Juniors) This site is also part of the new partnership project with Leeds City Council and the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust.
12. **Rothwell Country Park.** 52.3 hectares of woodland, scrub, meadow, marsh, ponds and scrapes on reclaimed land of a former colliery (and historically royal hunting grounds associated with Rothwell Castle). This site is also part of the new partnership project with Leeds City Council and the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust.

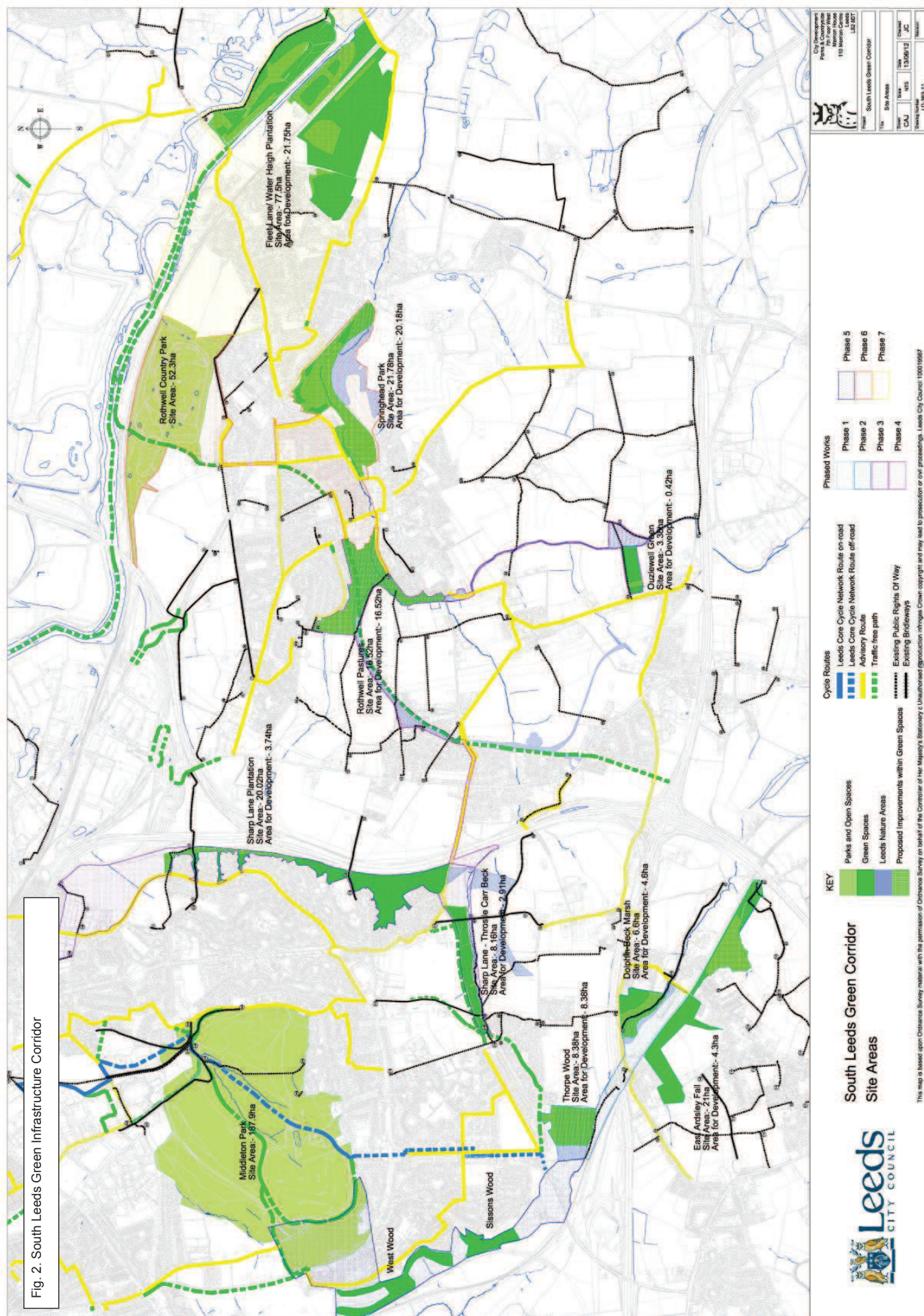
A number of Public Open Spaces and Recreation grounds fall within this corridor. In each case there are opportunities to both enhance biodiversity and, at the same time reduce management costs associated with traditional maintenance regimes. For example areas of short mown, amenity grassland could be converted to wild flower meadows or community food growing plots as part of the 'Feed Leeds' initiative.

Promoting areas of meadow/ wildflower, hedgerows and marginal scrub habitat within these spaces will improve their biodiversity, increase BAP priority habitat in this scheme, and will add important ecosystem services – pollination, education, wellbeing, inspiration, aesthetic beauty and biodiversity resilience. According to a study undertaken by the woodland trust (Trees or Turf?, Woodland trust, May 2011), converting high maintenance amenity grassland to more 'natural' rough or meadow grassland surfaces will greatly reduce the annual maintenance costs associated with maintaining short swards. Figures suggest average annual maintenance costs for amenity grass as £1620 per hectare per year (100% gang mown), as opposed to just £580 for rough grassland.

Adding value to these 'stepping stone' sites by enhancing biodiversity and connectivity, and contribute to Access to Natural Greenspace Standards (ANGSt) – see **Appendix 1** (page 23).

An additional, valuable link to the Lower Aire Valley exists along Dolphin/ Oulton beck. The beck has its source to the southern boundary of Thorpe Wood, it then connects to Dolphin Beck Marsh, where it takes on Environment Agency Main River status. The beck flows through a number of council owned sites – Ouzlewell Green, Rothwell Pastures, Springhead Park, before connecting with the Aire at Water Haigh Woodland Park.

The River Dolphin is a key asset It provides a shared landscape character component across a diversity of sites, as well as habitat connectivity. A Survey undertaken by Leeds and Wakefield City Council Species Conservation Officers to ascertain the quality of habitat for water voles along this watercourse, identified a lack of continuity (see South Leeds Water vole Project 2010). Short stretches of good quality habitat were found to be interspersed with poor and sometimes very poor conditions. The report highlights the degradation and isolation facing the river and its biodiversity as a whole in its current condition, and provides evidence for immediate intervention.



South Leeds Green Infrastructure Corridor

Aims and Objectives

In order to realise the Vision of the South Leeds Green Infrastructure Corridor, we will aim to:

- 1. Maximise the ecological and recreational value of connected greenspace in the south of Leeds.**
This will be achieved by creating, wherever appropriate, new areas of greenspace, whilst also enhancing the quality, accessibility and connectivity of existing greenspace. The value associated with each of these sites is considerable, both in terms of biodiversity and the opportunities they provide for public use. However, by improving connectivity and ensuring that this is sustainable, we will maximise the collective potential of these sites.
- 2. Engage with local communities in order to promote partnership working at all levels of the scheme.**
It is essential, from the outset, to encourage and develop the input of local communities. This will foster a sense of ownership and pride, which will ultimately ensure the longevity of the scheme. Subsequently, this scheme must be able to answer the immediate needs of the people it serves, thus ensuring that the area is cherished and cared for long into the future, and will therefore continue to add value to the lives of future generations.
- 3. Respond to and embrace existing and future strategies which support the principle of Strategic Green Infrastructure in the south Leeds area.**
The adoption of the principles of Green Infrastructure is essential to ensure a sustainable future for the greenspaces and communities of south Leeds. The natural environment provides everything we need to survive and as such, is recognised as a key vehicle to realising targets and functions set out in the Leeds Core Strategy.

Objectives

The following objectives will be put in place to achieve the aims outlined, ensuring that interventions are suitable and respond to environmental, social and economic needs.

Objective		Actions
1	Establish a baseline assessment of the current status of the sites in terms of recreation, biodiversity, habitats etc.	Ecological surveys and research; liaison with relevant LCC departments, other authorities and interest groups.
2	Encourage community involvement in the various elements of the scheme – creation of volunteer opportunities, linking to the wider community and landscape. bringing pride, ownership and social functions to communities.	Develop community interest and involvement - friends groups etc. Promotion of the site in local press etc to raise the profile and increase local interest and support.
3	Embrace opportunities to improve the Health and Wellbeing of the people of Leeds. Improving both physical and mental health, making the most of greenspace assets to improve the quality of life.	Increase the functionality of sites with improved access, furniture and features. Encourage people to investigate, interact, and contribute to the care of their surroundings,. Make places where people want to go with interventions they want to happen.
4	Add value to sites by conserving and enhancing natural habitats , particularly Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) priority habitats and associated biodiversity; have regard for legal status and obligations, particularly protected species and designated sites. Strengthen site resilience to pressures associated public use and surrounding developments.	Develop management plans and associated action plans for each of the sites to guide long-term management. Increase habitat areas where appropriate, enhance habitat quality, manage vegetation to promote diversity, create buffer zones to protect habitats, manage/remove atypical species. Use ecologically sound management principles and environmentally friendly products. Ensure sustainable methods are used for ongoing management. Work with statutory bodies to ensure appropriate interventions.
5	Ensure there is provision for quiet recreation , by considering the recreational needs of local people, and making appropriate provision which is in keeping with the natural status of the sites. Ensure that all sites are protected from inappropriate/ disruptive use.	Improve site infrastructure - paths, furniture, interpretation panels etc. Maintain site boundaries and protect access points from unauthorised access. Maintain presence of Parks Patrol to deter anti-social use.
6	Develop sites as educational resources for local schools and community groups - to further the understanding of nature and encourage a sense of ownership and care for the area.	Liaise with communities. Construct site features such as pond dipping platforms and bird hides. Create interpretive materials for wider distribution as well as on-site signage. Link interpretation to relevant themes for the area.
7	Identify and successfully draw down sources of funding for the various phased projects within the scheme.	Identify funding opportunities for capital and management costs and liaise with funding organisations to maximise potential for successful bids. Provide information and management plans for review by interested parties to evidence long-term aspirations.
8	Maintain and enhance the protection of sites through appropriate legal/policy framework, increase in nature conservation site designations.	Work in partnership with adjacent landowners and developers, and ensure good lines of communication. Consult with external statutory authorities to agree all plans before commencing works. Seek to upgrade statutory designations to further protect sites and raise the profile of the scheme. Identify access, ownership, maintenance responsibilities etc.
9	Create a landscape scale nature park for South Leeds which incorporates a collection of welcoming sites, maintained to a high standard.	Identify and link sites which will offer places for quiet recreation and benefit local biodiversity. Ensure sensitive selection of materials and methods and use phased management tasks to limit impact. Consider the aesthetic and landscape value and impacts of projects.
10	Create a sensible, achievable maintenance regime for ongoing management based on agreed management plans, which gives opportunities for local communities.	Keep management plans, action plans, risk assessments and method statements up to date. Provide clear guidelines and support to voluntary groups and local people so that they can take ownership and responsibility for their own surroundings and provide training and assistance where there is a need. Ensure sufficient funding is available for works to continue. Put communication and reporting procedures in place.
11	Raise the profile of GI in Leeds and compliment national and pan-regional GI strategies.	Develop sustainable links to existing GI, building on PROW, cycle routes and transport networks to connect people with places. Work with Planning department where developments occur to maximise GI potential
12	Monitor initial impacts and progression throughout implementation and ongoing site management and review management plans accordingly.	Species recording, reporting and monitoring. Checks for invasive species. Identify trends in species diversity and populations. Record and monitor management tasks. Review management plans every 5 years, with interim reviews if necessary.

South Leeds Green Infrastructure Corridor Consultation

The planning and implementation of the initial phases of the South Leeds Green Infrastructure Corridor scheme will naturally include consultation with all the relevant departments of Leeds City Council, as well as other external agencies and organisations, stakeholders and local community and user groups.

Parks and Countryside's Natural Environment team, who initiated the scheme, will continue to provide project co-ordination and this will involve all the component elements of the team, including Public Rights of Way, Natural Habitats and Forestry.

Parks and Countryside's East and West Area Management teams, who have also been involved from the outset, have been requested to provide initial operational information and also to confirm responsibility for future maintenance, and this has now been fully endorsed.

Inter-Directorate liaison, particularly with City Development (Core Strategy) and our colleagues within Environment and Neighbourhoods (Social Landlord) will ensure that the multiple benefits of Green Infrastructure are understood and fully entrenched, and that we will be informed about new developments within the project area.

Statutory organisations, particularly Natural England, the Environment Agency and the Forestry Commission will be consulted to ensure projects receive the appropriate approval and consent. In addition, the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and Aire Action Leeds are essential working partners for this scheme and all have been invited to provide letters of support.

A number of community groups have been approached to consider the project and provide feedback to inform decisions and to have a real input into the development of the scheme.

Thorpe In Bloom will take a supporting role in the first phase – Ardsley and Thorpe Nature Park. As a local group they are a valuable addition to the required working partnerships, and it is anticipated that they will assist in the development and implementation of the scheme.

Other groups who will be approached to be involved in the project include Rothwell in Bloom, The Friends of the New Forest Village (currently establishing a group), and the Oulton Society.

All appropriate local schools and community groups will be informed and invited to participate in the consultation process during the various stages of the scheme.

Publicity and interpretation will be used to maximise the exposure of the project and to inform the general public, effectively providing opportunities for input and feedback.

South Leeds Green Infrastructure Corridor

The Corridor

In order for the corridor to develop successfully, it will be essential that each site sits within a linked, accessible local infrastructure that promotes the inclusion and involvement of local communities. With the support of these communities, the development of a site into a useable and cherished place will become a reality and will support, and strengthen intervention in neighbouring sites. With this in mind, the sites will be considered as 'stepping stones' in the overall plan, having individual management plans, but grouped into phases for development according to their potential for connecting communities, their importance with regard to priority habitats and species, and their value in terms of contribution to the GI and Core Strategies.

Phase 1 Initial Intervention

East Ardsley Fall and Lingwell Nook: Plantation woodland and meadow. Including a newly constructed bridleway from Moor Knoll Lane joining with the existing bridleway Rothwell 21 at Lingwell Nook. This site, known as "The Fall" since at least the early 1700s, lies on the north facing side of a shallow valley, immediately north-east of the village of East Ardsley. The present woodland was developed on the sites of three former heavy industries (coal mining, steel works and railway sidings) in the mid 1970s. Footpath and bridleway access from Moor Knoll Lane and Lingwell Nook. Footpath access is from Falls Lane. A network of tracks and trails occur throughout, allowing access to all parts of the woodland. The adjacent Leeds - Wakefield railway line gives the site additional value for green corridor connectivity. The woodland is currently managed under a woodland grant scheme for biodiversity. A series of planned improvement works will be undertaken on this site (tree management, access controls, footpath construction etc) alongside the improvements outlined in this phase of development, providing added value to the interventions and potential for match funding through a Forestry Commission Woodland Improvement Grant.



LCC owned Site Area : 21ha

Site area considered for GI development : 4.3ha

Biodiversity objectives

- **Open mosaic habitat on previously developed land** – 3.9ha creation on post industrial site
- **Reedbed creation** and management. Providing varied habitat for mammals, birds, invertebrates and amphibians
- **Lowland meadow creation** – wildflower seeding in open areas
- **Traditional Orchard** – 0.41ha community Orchard planting.
- **Hedgerow creation** to increase the amount of this priority habitat available in South Leeds

Existing planting not already under EWGS - management, ground flora – bluebells

Green Infrastructure and Ecosystem Services objectives

- **Cultural heritage** – known as the fall since at least early 1700s. More or less forgotten locally. Interpretation to promote the site
- **Aesthetic landscape value** – maintain open space, views, green horizons. Added spring and summer colour with wildflowers.
- **Recreation** – walking, horse riding, cycling, play, picnics. Improve path network/ surfaces. Install seating/ tables
- **Education** – biodiversity, pond life, seral progression, birds. Construct pond dipping platforms, bird hides, interpretation
- **Pollination** – wildflowers
- **Spiritual inspiration** – space, natural beauty, peaceful reflection. Environmental art/ sculpture? Improved functionality to allow for exploration and contemplation
- **Biodiversity resilience** – connections to other sites and migration corridors (railway and motorway embankments). Increase in habitat structures within the site.
- **Social value** – establish volunteer involvement and friends group. Space for social interactions
- **Carbon sequestration** – new planting to increase canopy cover

Proposed Intervention

- **Create and manage** 3.9ha wildflower meadow (RE10 marginal land mix – British Seed Houses, or equivalent mix)
- **Plant** 0.41ha community orchard (local provenance varieties) to include a 450m hedgerow with pollinator species
- **Construct** a network of footpaths through the meadow and orchard areas
- **Install** interpretation boards, picnic benches and seating
- **Construct and manage** a reedbed system on existing leachate ponds for habitat, education and to improve water quality
- **Install** new access controls at site entrance
- **Plant** a 450 m Elm avenue along an existing bridleway as part of the Great British Elm experiment

Phase 2 Ardsley and Robin Hood Nature Park

Dolphin Beck Marsh (LNA 035) is a 3.3ha Leeds Nature Area which runs South East through a 6.6ha site owned and managed by Leeds City Council Parks and Countryside. Historically, this area of Leeds was heavily involved in industries such as coal mining, iron works, railway engineering and repair, mill working and intensive agriculture.

The marsh occupies a valley bottom traversed from north west to south east by Dolphin Beck. It's origin seems due to the spreading of the beck over low-lying land, creating a network of subsidiary channels and generally waterlogged conditions throughout much of the site. Situated at the upper limit of Dolphin Beck (An Environment Agency main river) the site supports one of the few remaining stands of native reed (*Phragmites communis*) in Leeds. A number of surveys of the reedbed have also identified the presence of water voles (UK BAP priority species).



See individual management plan for Dolphin Beck Marsh for specific site details.

LCC owned Site Area : 6.6ha

Site area considered for GI development : 4.6 ha

Biodiversity objectives

- **Reedbed improvement** – increase the area/ quality
- **River headwater improvement** - removal of tyres and waste from the river bed and surroundings
- **Hedgerow creation** to west – buffer to development and new habitat
- **Meadow creation** on Thorpe rec. to increase habitat area and act as a buffer for the LNA
- **Lowland mixed deciduous woodland.** Degraded slopes to be planted with mixed deciduous species.

Green Infrastructure and Ecosystem Services objectives

- **Water regulation** – purification and flood prevention resulting from improved and increased reedbed
- **Wellbeing** – maintain a safe, clean, natural environment for physical and mental benefits. Improved accessibility to allow for exploration
- **Erosion prevention** – valley sides. Unconsolidated post industrial substrates planted to increase stability
- **Aesthetic landscape value** – improving views, disguising eyesores, added scenic value to local housing projects
- **Recreation** – walking, horse riding, cycling, play, picnics, watching wildlife. Improved path surfaces. Install boardwalks, bird hides, tables and seating
- **Education** – biodiversity, water life, seral progression, birds, water /nutrient cycles. Build pond dipping platforms. Interpretation boards and other features.
- **Pollination** – wildflowers Thorpe rec.
- **Spiritual inspiration** – unique character, natural beauty, peaceful. Moving water. Improving access to allow a more intimate experience while protecting the habitat.
- **Biodiversity resilience** – connections to other sites. Increasing habitat area and quality. Buffering against local developments. Improved access controls to encourage proper use of the site
- **Social value** – establish volunteer involvement and friends group. Making a place for social interaction
- **Carbon sequestration** – new planting to increase canopy cover and the benefits to air quality and local climate.

Proposed Intervention

- **Construct** 500m surfaced footpath (1.2m wide)
- **Surface** 500m bridleway along existing route
- **Construct** 300m boardwalk (recycled plastics)
- **Plant** 500m hedgerow (Hawthorn, blackthorn, Dogwood, Guelder Rose, Hazel, Field Maple)
- **Install** 1000m rabbit proof fencing
- **Create and manage** 0.4ha wildflower meadow (community plug planting exercise)
- **Plant** 450 native deciduous trees (Alder, Birch, Sessile Oak, English Oak for slope stabilisation)
- **Improve** 1ha of existing reedbed (selective management, creating 25% open water)
- **Relocate** 0.25ha reed to increase habitat area to 1.25ha
- **Install** 3 footbridges
- **Install** 2 field gates
- **Install** 4 all-ability kissing gates
- **Install** 3 interpretation boards
- **Install** 4 simple benches
- **Install** 3 picnic benches
- **Carry out** 2 days of litter picking annually
- **Remove** of tyres from the beck
- **Manage** scrub and invasive species along the beck

Thorpe Wood (LNA 105): A Local Nature Area containing approximately 7ha of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland. Dominated by oak and birch, the tree stock is generally stunted, twisted and multi-stemmed, presumably as a result of past coppicing. Approximately ¼ of the site is open ground, much of it dominated by bracken, although natural regeneration of both oak and birch is locally very good. A water course (Dolphin Beck) and marshy area form the southern boundary of the wood. Full public access. A public footpath runs close to the southern boundary. There is potential for match funding here through a Forestry Commission Woodland Improvement Grant in providing improved access and management work, interpretation and facilities to compliment and bolster the interventions outlined below.



See individual management plan for Thorpe Wood for specific site details.

LCC owned Site Area : 8.38ha

Site area considered for GI development :8.38ha

South Leeds Water vole Project identifies this stretch as very poor quality habitat

Biodiversity objectives

- **River headwaters improvement** to the South – restructure the river channel, establish buffers and marginal habitats. Protection from offsite pressures.
- **Hedgerow creation** and management to the East – provide cover and shelter, prevent illegal access and encroachment of adjacent agricultural land and practices
- **Lowland mixed deciduous woodland** management – ensure healthy regeneration, varied woodland structure and ground flora etc.
- Bracken control – manage stands to promote natural regeneration and reduce area of bracken monoculture
- **Lowland heath** establishment to the North and East where sporadic growth currently occurs but is limited by bracken stands

Green Infrastructure and Ecosystem Services objectives

- **Recreation** – path surfacing, bridges, seating. Connect with Dolphin Beck Marsh under the M62 via PROW to South of Dolphin beck
- **Wellbeing** – maintain safe, clean, natural environment for physical and mental benefits. Interpretation and signage to encourage site use
- **Cultural heritage** – ASNW. Recognised locally but not widely celebrated. Promotion and interpretation to develop a sense of local pride
- **Spiritual inspiration** – unique character, natural beauty. Unusual tree forms. Improved access and facilities to better enjoy the whole site
- **Biodiversity resilience** – connections to other sites – similar habitats – Dolphin Beck. Improved access controls - to encourage proper use of the site
- **Hedgerows** - as site buffers/ protection. Providing opportunities for community food production/ foraging – berry picking wild herbs etc.

Proposed Intervention

- **Construct** 1200m surfaced footpath (1.2m wide)
- **Plant** 450m hedgerow (Hawthorn, blackthorn, Dogwood, Guelder Rose, Hazel, Field Maple)
- **Install** 900m rabbit proof fencing
- **Construct** 2700m² car park to the North
- **Reconstruct** banks along 300m of river channel
- **Install** 2 footbridges
- **Install** 1 motorbike access control
- **Install** 1 field gates
- **Install** 2 interpretation boards
- **Install** 2 simple benches
- **Carry out** 2 days of litter picking annually
- **Remove** tyres from site
- **Manage** 2ha of bracken stand (mechanically)

Phase 3 connecting Northward alongside, and under the M1 towards Hunslet and the City Centre

Sharp Lane / Throstle Carr Beck

8.16ha site with 5.25ha of new plantation woodland providing greenspace for the New Forest Village development, and communities in Middleton and Robin Hood. Connecting across Sharp Lane with Sharp Lane Plantations to the North. Although newly planted, there is future potential to add value to this site, and to the corridor scheme with a Woodland Improvement Grant for the woodland compartments as match funding for the interventions outlined below.

LCC owned Site Area : 8.16ha

Site area considered for GI development :2.91ha

Biodiversity objectives

- **Meadow creation/ Enhanced buffer strips** in mown areas
- **Enhanced buffer along Throstle Carr beck**

Green Infrastructure and Ecosystem Services objectives

- **Health and Wellbeing** – safe, clean, natural. Green gym (circuit paths for running etc.)
- **Aesthetic landscape value** –added scenic value to local housing projects
- **Recreation** – walking, horse riding, cycling, play, picnics - furniture
- **Education** – biodiversity
- **Pollination** – wildflowers.
- **Biodiversity resilience** – extension of Sharp Lane Plantations. Throstle Carr beck – improved buffer zones for this migration corridor, linking to the woodland plantation
- **Social value** – establish volunteer involvement and friends group. Social interactions for local residents/ site user

Proposed Intervention

- **Create and manage** 1.71ha wildflower meadow around woodland compartments (RE9 farmland mix – British Seed Houses) and spring bulbs along garden fences
- **Manage** 5700m2 enhanced buffer along the beck (selective vegetation management including scrub and invasive species along the beck)
- **Install** 3 simple benches

Sharp Lane Plantation

Occupying an extensive area of open green space between the M1 and a large housing estate, the developing Sharp Lane Plantation is becoming a wonderful asset to this part of south Leeds. Planted in the mid-1980s, Sharp Lane Plantation was created to provide a full range of multi-functional woodland benefits, including a pleasing landscape feature, a recreational and educational resource, valuable wildlife habitats and a sustainable source of timber in the years to come.

Species include beech, sweet chestnut, sycamore, sessile oak and wild cherry.

Full public access with links to adjacent housing estate. A large area of playing fields (football) located centrally. Close proximity to the M1 corridor, while a source of pressure on the site (noise, air pollution etc) and a limit for site connectivity, gives the site added value in terms of green corridor connectivity to the north and south with its motorway embankments. There is potential to add value to this site and to the corridor scheme as a whole with a Woodland Improvement Grant to improve access and facilities in the plantation areas as match funding for the interventions outlined below.

LCC owned Site Area : 20.02 ha

Site area considered for GI development : 3.74ha

Biodiversity objectives

- **Meadow creation** in mown areas/ buffer strips
- **Hedgerow planting** along motorway fencing as buffer/ natural access control and habitat/refuge from urban areas and motorway verges

Green Infrastructure and Ecosystem Services objectives

- **Wellbeing** – maintain safe, clean, natural surroundings for physical and mental benefits. Green gym. Nature on the doorstep
- **Aesthetic landscape value** – open space, views, added summer colour – wildflowers. increased visual beauty for surrounding housing
- **Recreation** – walking, horse riding, cycling, play, picnics. Improve path network, access features, furniture
- **Education** – biodiversity, installing interpretation for informal education

- **Pollination** – wildflowers
- **Spiritual inspiration** – unique character, natural beauty. Long stretches of open space to stroll and contemplate
- **Biodiversity resilience** – connections to other sites and corridors (M1 embankment)
- **Social value** – establish volunteer involvement and friends group. Increased social interactions for people enjoying the space

Proposed Intervention

- **Create and manage** 3.74ha wildflower meadow (RE2 lowland meadow mix – British Seed Houses)
- **Plant** 950m hedgerow (Hawthorn, blackthorn, Dogwood, Guelder Rose, Hazel, Field Maple)
- **Install** 1900m rabbit proof fencing
- **Install** 4 simple benches

Phase 4 Linking East under the M1 through Robin Hood and Rothwell via Rothwell Pastures, following the Dolphin/Oulton Beck.

Ouzlewell Green

3ha of young woodland planted with mixed broadleaves (ash, oak, sycamore, cherry and field maple) and a woody shrub edge of hazel, hawthorn, dog rose and guelder rose. It includes areas of meadow, a water side habitat with a newly planted community orchard and a hawthorn hedgerow bordering a children's playground.

As this woodland develops it will create a significant landscape feature, complimenting the adjacent mature Bushy Cliffe Wood (privately owned) and providing a valuable area for informal recreation in a pleasant rural environment.

Of special interest is the presence of two male native black poplar trees on the banks of Dolphin Beck.

Access and facilities : No public access to young plantation at present. A Public Footpath, however, links Ouzlewell Green village with Bushy Cliffe Wood, passing close to the northern edge of the plantation. Access and interpretation for the plantation have the potential for Woodland Improvement Grant funding as match funding for the proposed interventions outlined below.

LCC owned Site Area : 3.38ha

Site area considered for GI development :3ha

Biodiversity management objectives

- **Traditional orchard management**
- **Enhanced buffer along Dolphin Beck**

Green Infrastructure and Ecosystem Services objectives

- **Community Food production**
- **Wellbeing** – local site ownership, peaceful relaxation
- **Recreation** – walking, play, picnics, install access features
- **Education** – pollination/ reproduction interpretation
- **Pollination** – blossom
- **Spiritual inspiration** – quiet, intimate space
- **Social value** – promote volunteer involvement – local community
- **Biodiversity resilience** – links to river (Oulton beck) and Bushy Cliffe wood ASNW

Proposed Intervention

- **Manage** 0.31ha existing orchard planting as a traditional community orchard
- **Manage** 1000m2 enhanced buffer along the beck (selective vegetation management including scrub and invasive species along the beck)

Rothwell Pastures and disused railway

Rothwell Pastures & Disused Railway (LNA 92) is a 26ha site that includes a variety of contrasting and complementary habitats supporting a wide range of different plant and animal species. Vegetation types include neutral and acidic grasslands; wetlands, stream and pond; hedgerow, scrub and ruderal habitats, including naturally regenerating birch woodland. Of particular interest is the presence of Water Vole *Arvicola terrestris* along the banks of Haigh Beck and the wetland.

Whilst the Rothwell Pastures part of the site supports a locally important mosaic of habitats, the disused railway links a similar variety of often small-scale habitats, providing a locally important corridor feature for both wildlife and public access. The site also includes several features of historical and archaeological importance.

Rothwell Castle was originally an 11th century timber castle or fortified manor house, founded by Ilbert de Lacy. From the 13th century, it was used as a royal hunting lodge, by the kings of England and was once owned by John of Gaunt. Standing high is a rubble core pillar from a rectangular building, with the buried foundations of a range of buildings nearby. In 1487, the ruinous castle was replaced by a timber framed house, which was sadly dismantled in 1977. By the stream is part of a fine masonry grout of the manorial corn mill, with a sluice gate slot. Castleuk.net

LCC owned Site Area : 16.52ha

Site area considered for GI development : 16.52ha

Biodiversity management objectives

- **Reedbed creation/ improvement**
- **Meadow creation in mown areas/ buffer strips**
- **Lowland mixed deciduous woodland improvement**
- **Hedgerows – creation**
- **River habitat improvement**

Green Infrastructure and Ecosystem Services objectives

- **Wellbeing** – maintain safe, clean, natural surroundings for physical and mental benefit
- **Aesthetic landscape value** – open space, long distance views – disused railway.
- **Recreation** – walking, horse riding, cycling, play, picnics, access features
- **Education** – pond dipping platform amongst reedbed
- **Pollination** – wildflowers
- **Spiritual inspiration** – unique character, natural beauty
- **Biodiversity resilience** – connections to other sites Dolphin/Oulton beck. Connecting to existing railway green corridor
- **Social value** – promote volunteer involvement – Friends of Rothwell Country park, Rothwell in bloom
Cultural heritage Rothwell castle 11th century

Proposed Intervention

- **Plant** 900m hedgerow (Hawthorn, blackthorn, Dogwood, Guelder Rose, Hazel, Field Maple)
- **Install** 1805m rabbit proof fencing
- **Install** 2 motorbike access control
- **Install** 1 field gates
- **Install** 2 interpretation boards
- **Install** 4 simple benches
- **Install** 3 picnic benches
- **Create and manage** 0.73ha wildflower meadow (RE9 farmland mix – British Seed Houses, seeding and community plug planting)
- **Create** 0.25ha of new reedbed adjacent to existing (including new planting)
- **Coppice** trees along the beck
- **Carry out** 2 days of litter picking annually
- **Manage** 0.92ha reedbed (existing and new, including selective vegetation management and control of invasive species)
- **Manage** 7830m² enhanced buffer along the beck (including selective vegetation management and control of invasive species)

Phase 5 Running North West to encompass the Middleton Park GI hub in the scheme and its associated communities. It provides opportunities for links to the West.

West wood is an 8.6 ha woodland plantation on the edge of an escarpment overlooking Dewsbury Road. Part of the site is designated as Ancient Semi-natural Woodland (dominated by oak and birch) and a Local Nature Reserve (LNA). Most of the site was planted in the mid-1970s with mixed broadleaves, including Norway maple, alder and larch on the site of a former tip. Work carried out in 1995 involved the first thinning of the plantation trees. This woodland, together with nearby Sissons Wood, provides an important, strong landscape feature within this area of urban fringe. Whilst it suffers greatly from urban fringe pressures, particularly rubbish dumping and vandalism, it remains an important area for wildlife and informal recreation. The South Leeds Heritage Trail runs through this wood and forms part of a greater trail through Leeds.

Sissons wood is a 4.2ha mature Oak and Birch woodland overlooks the Dewsbury Road, nestled in the bottom of the Mill Beck Valley, south-west of Middleton Park. Situated on part of the South Leeds Heritage Trail, the wood links directly with nearby West Wood, helping to strengthen this urban fringe landscape. The main access route is well used by walkers and the woods themselves, have long provided an area for local children to explore and play. Like West Wood, Sissons is exposed to many of the pressures found on the urban fringe, not least fly-tipping and vandalism. Nonetheless, it remains a haven for wildlife and is a delight to walk through at any time of year. An area of relatively open ground, immediately south of the main stand of trees was planted with sessile oak during 1997, with the aim of extending the present woodland boundary. Establishment management continues on this site. This woodland forms part of the South Leeds Heritage Trail.

LCC owned Site Area :

Site area considered for GI development :

A great deal of potential exists for these sites to add value to this scheme. Woodland Improvement Grants to develop and manage the woodlands, additional habitat creation outside the woodland compartments, and new links between housing areas and Dewsbury road. Housing development adjacent to the woodland (redevelopment of existing housing) would also inform, and benefit from GI improvements here. **Plans for proposed interventions are currently underway, however the following objectives will be realised:**

Biodiversity management objectives (both sites)

Meadow creation in mown areas/ buffer strips

Lowland mixed deciduous woodland improvement/ creation

Hedgerows – creation

Green Infrastructure and Ecosystem Services objectives (both sites)

Wellbeing – maintain safe, clean, natural surroundings

Aesthetic landscape value – open space, long distance views. Landscape feature seen from Dewsbury rd

Recreation – walking, horse riding, cycling, play, picnics, Improve path network, access features

Education – biodiversity, interpretation

Pollination – wildflowers

Spiritual inspiration – unique character, natural beauty

Biodiversity resilience – connections to other sites particularly Middleton Wood

Social value – establish volunteer involvement and friends group

Cultural heritage – ASNW. South Leeds Heritage Trail

LCC owned Site Area :

Site area considered for GI development :

A great deal of potential exists for these sites to add value to this scheme. Woodland Improvement Grants to develop and manage the woodlands, additional habitat creation outside the woodland compartments, and new links between housing areas and Dewsbury road. Housing development adjacent to the woodland (redevelopment of existing housing) would also inform, and benefit from GI improvements here. **Plans for proposed interventions are currently underway, however the following objectives will be realised:**

Biodiversity management objectives (both sites)

Meadow creation in mown areas/ buffer strips

Lowland mixed deciduous woodland improvement/ creation

Hedgerows – creation

LCC owned Site Area :

Site area considered for GI development :

A great deal of potential exists for these sites to add value to this scheme. Woodland Improvement Grants to develop and manage the woodlands, additional habitat creation outside the woodland compartments, and new links between housing areas and Dewsbury road. Housing development adjacent to the woodland (redevelopment of existing housing) would also inform, and benefit from GI improvements here. **Plans for proposed interventions are currently underway, however the following objectives will be realised:**

Biodiversity management objectives (both sites)

Meadow creation in mown areas/ buffer strips

Lowland mixed deciduous woodland improvement/ creation

Hedgerows – creation

Green Infrastructure and Ecosystem Services objectives (both sites)

Wellbeing – maintain safe, clean, natural surroundings

Aesthetic landscape value – open space, long distance views. Landscape feature seen from Dewsbury rd

Recreation – walking, horse riding, cycling, play, picnics, Improve path network, access features

Education – biodiversity, interpretation

Pollination – wildflowers

Spiritual inspiration – unique character, natural beauty

Biodiversity resilience – connections to other sites particularly Middleton Wood

Social value – establish volunteer involvement and friends group

Cultural heritage – ASNW. South Leeds Heritage Trail

Phase 6 Through Rothwell and Oulton, linking to the River Aire in the East and beyond to the Wyke beck corridor, Skelton Lagoon and Temple Newsam Estate.

Springhead Park is a well used, traditional public park, offering a variety of recreational activities within its 22 hectares of formal gardens and open, close-mown grassy slopes. A 10.2 ha Leeds Nature Area straddles Thorpe Road, 2.08ha of which is within Springhead Park, and 8.9 ha within Oulton Hall Estate (109ha leased to Devere Hotels).

In 1996, 1.6 hectares of new woodland were planted with the help of local school children. Species used reflected what is commonly found growing locally. The intention was to strengthen the park's existing, but rather thin shelterbelts by creating a blend of open space, with formal avenues of trees and informal woodland. This is intended to screen the busy A654 road and the surrounding buildings. These young plantations are now establishing well and are already making a strong contribution to the landscape.

Access and facilities : Full public access exists throughout, including car parking and tarmac paths. Facilities include an aviary, skateboard park, tennis courts, bowling green, ornamental lawns and a café.

There is potential here to create new habitat, manage existing woodland under a Woodland Improvement Grant and to introduce features such as a reedbed which will help alleviate some of the problems with flooding that currently exist on site (see Vision, pg 4 - Climate change, flood storage, shade).

LCC owned Site Area : 21.78ha

Site area considered for GI development : 20.18ha

Biodiversity management objectives

- **Reedbed creation/ improvement**
- **River habitat improvement.**
- **Enhanced buffer strips** - riparian
- **Meadow creation** in mown areas
- **Lowland mixed deciduous woodland** creation/ improvement/ shelterbelts
- **Hedgerows** along Leeds road A639 and Oulton Lane A654 to provide habitat and refuge for migration to neighbouring Oulton Park

Green Infrastructure and Ecosystem Services objectives

- **Wellbeing** – safe, clean, increased natural feel. Green gym
- **Recreation** – walking, play, picnics,
- **Education** – pollination, reproduction, interpretation
- **Pollination** – wildflowers
- **Spiritual inspiration** – colour, sounds of nature, running water
- **Social value** – promote volunteer involvement – local and wider communities
- **Biodiversity** resilience – Improved buffers on Oulton beck, cover and habitat along Oulton Lane (A654) linking to Oulton woods.

Proposed Intervention

- **Plant** 350m hedgerow (Hawthorn, blackthorn, Dogwood, Guelder Rose, Hazel, Field Maple)
- **Install** 700m rabbit proof fencing
- **Create and manage** 1.59ha wildflower meadow (RE2 lowland meadow mix - British Seed Houses)
- **Create** 0.4ha of new reedbed (including planting and maintenance – litter, invasive species, reed propagation)
- **Manage** 14640m² enhanced buffer along the beck (including selective vegetation management and control of invasive species)

Rothwell Country Park

A former colliery site, Rothwell Country Park was created in the mid to late 1990s on the site of the former Rothwell Colliery. As part of the landscaping works extensive wildflower meadows were created which have made a contribution towards reversing the long term reduction in wildflower meadows in both the Leeds district and West Yorkshire region. The wildflower meadows are part of a rich habitat mosaic, including ponds, scrub and woodland.

The grasslands provide habitat for a number of high priority ground nesting birds including species of conservation concern Meadow Pipit and UK Biodiversity Action Plan birds Skylark and Grey Partridge.

The diverse number of wildflowers in the grassland provides a great nectar source for a vast number of nectar gathering insects and habitat for many other invertebrates.

Of particular significance are the presence of breeding ringed and little ringed plover on the site. The former species is estimated to have a breeding population in the British Isles of just under 10,000 breeding pairs.

A partnership with Yorkshire Wildlife Trust currently exists at this site. and Sus-trans are currently seeking funding for a link bridge to connect over the Aire-Calder navigation

Phase 7 Ensuring solid connections with the Lower Aire Valley and beyond to the East

Water Haigh Woodland Park

Eshald Wood, Pithead Wood, Fleet Wood, Water Haigh Farm, Fleet Bridge Wood, Swillington Bridge Plantation, Swillington Bridge Millennium Wood, Water Haigh Plantation

This series of new plantations is developing to provide an intimate matrix of small, inter-connected broadleaved woodlands on the site of the former Water Haigh Colliery. Planted between the late 1970s and late 1990s, the aim is to ameliorate and enhance this former industrial landscape, to provide a quality 'natural' resource for people and wildlife. The woodlands and surrounding area are well served by the Public Rights of Way network (Leeds Country Way) and many permissive footpaths and the (Trans Pennine Trail).

Throughout, tree species used have essentially been pioneers, such as birch, alder, oak, rowan, pine and larch.

LCC owned Site Area : 77.5ha

Site area considered for GI development : 21.75ha

Biodiversity management objectives

- **Hedgerows**
- **Lowland meadow** – opportunity to plant varied seed mixes, increasing habitat variety and allowing observation of effects of changing climate
- **Enhanced buffer strips**
- **Traditional orchards**

Green Infrastructure and Ecosystem Services objectives

- **Community Food production**
- **Wellbeing** – safe, clean, increased natural feel. Green gym
- **Recreation** – walking, play, picnics, access features
- **Education** – pollination/ reproduction
- **Pollination** – blossom, wildflower
- **Spiritual inspiration** – colour, sounds of nature, running water
- **Social value** – promote volunteer involvement – local and wider communities
- **Cultural heritage** – traditional fruit species – local provenance
- **Biodiversity resilience** – connecting Oulton beck to the river Aire. Increasing habitat structure and variety. Improving and creating new migration routes

Proposed Intervention

- **Plant** 450m hedgerow (Hawthorn, blackthorn, Dogwood, Guelder Rose, Hazel, Field Maple)
- **Install** 950m rabbit proof fencing
- **Install** 1 footbridge
- **Install** 6 field gates
- **Install** 5 interpretation boards
- **Install** 4 simple benches
- **Install** 4 picnic benches
- **Install** 6 step-over stiles
- **Create and manage** 21.24ha wildflower meadow (Varied mixes to identify future viability: RE1, RE2, RE3, RE4, RE10, WFG15, and a successful mix resulting from observations – British Seed Houses)
- **Create** 0.25ha of new reedbed adjacent to existing (including new planting)
- **Create** 0.51ha traditional orchard (local provenance varieties)

South Leeds Green Infrastructure Corridor

The Ardsley and Robin Hood Nature Park

The first two phases of intervention establish a network of natural places that are currently experiencing severe pressures from developments, isolation and misuse, but are extremely valuable habitats in their own right. It is vital to conserve and enhance the habitats and biodiversity they support. Opportunities exist for improving the quality of life for local residents by creating a 'Nature Park' to serve the community as the first step in developing a green corridor. It is essential that these sites are improved with immediate effect. These improvements will inform and add value to further interventions along the corridor, but will also provide immediate benefits to local life. Connections through and along the M62 / M1 corridors open this scheme up to wider communities, address issues with habitat isolation and resilience and open up a significant tract of land for sustainable transport links in further developments – cycle routes, footpaths and bridleways that people can use as a healthier (for them and the environment) alternative to road networks. Individual management plans for these sites will inform specific interventions.

Phase 1

East Ardsley Fall. Within close proximity of Dolphin Beck has significant value due to its relative size (reducing pressures on other sites) and charming nature. Parts of the site are already under a Forestry Commission Woodland Improvement Grant aiming to increase public awareness and use – with a newly constructed bridleway linking to the route (ROTHWELL 21) that runs alongside Dolphin Beck.

Phase 2

Dolphin Beck Marsh contains one of the few remaining common reed (*Phragmites communis*) reedbeds in Leeds, and as a priority UKBAP habitat, would be a high profile intervention in the overall scheme of this GI corridor. Watervole records exist along this beck (priority UKBAP species) and add further value to biodiversity, whilst also playing an important role in exciting the interest of local people. Surrounded by housing developments (some of which are still underway) the marsh has been identified as having need of immediate intervention to halt the inevitable degradation it will ultimately experience.

Thorpe Wood has been included in this phase due to its importance as an area of ASNW within close proximity of the same developments, and with some severe issues with vandalism and general misuses. Dolphin Beck (Oulton Beck on main river maps) forms the southern boundary of the site and as such connects, in terms of habitat and species (Watervole records exist here too), to Dolphin Beck Marsh.

These sites together form a strong basis for community interest, will be a robust collection of green spaces that will stand strong against urban fringe pressures, and will add ecological and social value to any future development. They will have a joint identity in terms of signage and interpretation, and improved links will ensure they are recognised, used and managed as individual components of a single, unique public space.

The detailed planning of subsequent phases is currently underway.



East Ardsley Fall – Phase 1



Dolphin Beck Marsh – Phase 2



Thorpe Wood – Phase 2

Appendix 1

Core objectives to inform all development

Access for All

Leeds City Council believes that the opportunity to access and enjoy the city's facilities, including its parks and green spaces, should be readily available and relevant to all visitors, including people of all ages, those with physical disabilities or special needs, and members of various ethnic communities. To this end the authority is committed to making appropriate improvements to its facilities and services in order to accommodate accessibility.

Cycling

The West Yorkshire Cycling Strategy and the Leeds Cycling Plan, in harmony with the West Yorkshire Local Transport Plan, recognise and promote the benefits of cycling, not only as a sustainable means of transport, but also for exercise, recreation and enjoyment.

In order to promote the use of these facilities, signage, interpretation, waymarking and advertisement are required.

Making Space for Nature objectives;

(1) To restore species and habitats appropriate to England's physical and geographical context to levels that are sustainable in a changing climate, and enhanced in comparison with those in 2000.

(2) To restore and secure the long-term sustainability of the ecological and physical processes that underpin the way ecosystems work, thereby enhancing the capacity of our natural environment to provide ecosystem services such as clean water, climate regulation and crop pollination, as well as providing habitats for wildlife.

(3) To provide accessible natural environments rich in wildlife for people to enjoy and experience.

and delivery:

(i) Improve the quality of current sites by better habitat management, informed by management plans.

(ii) Increase the size of current wildlife sites.

(iii) Enhance connections between, or join up, sites, either through physical corridors, or through 'stepping stones'.

(iv) Create new sites.

(v) Reduce the pressures on wildlife by improving the wider environment, including through buffering wildlife sites.

Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard – Natural England

Everyone, wherever they live, should have accessible natural greenspace of at least:

- 2 hectares within 300 metres (5 minute walk) from home
- 20 hectares within 2 kilometres of home
- 100 hectares within 5 kilometres of home
- 500 hectares within 10 kilometres of home
- 1 hectare of Local Nature Reserve per 1000 population.

In developing Policy G3: Standards for open space, sport and recreation, the City Council has achieved the highest standard of Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt), that is possible given the inherent limitations of the district due to the large extent of the urban area. This has included a review of natural greenspace available in the district. The Council aspires to maximise recreation near to where people live, which can help to avoid adverse impact, and the more sustainable use of sensitive conservation sites for recreation. (Core Strategy, Published Draft, Feb 2012)

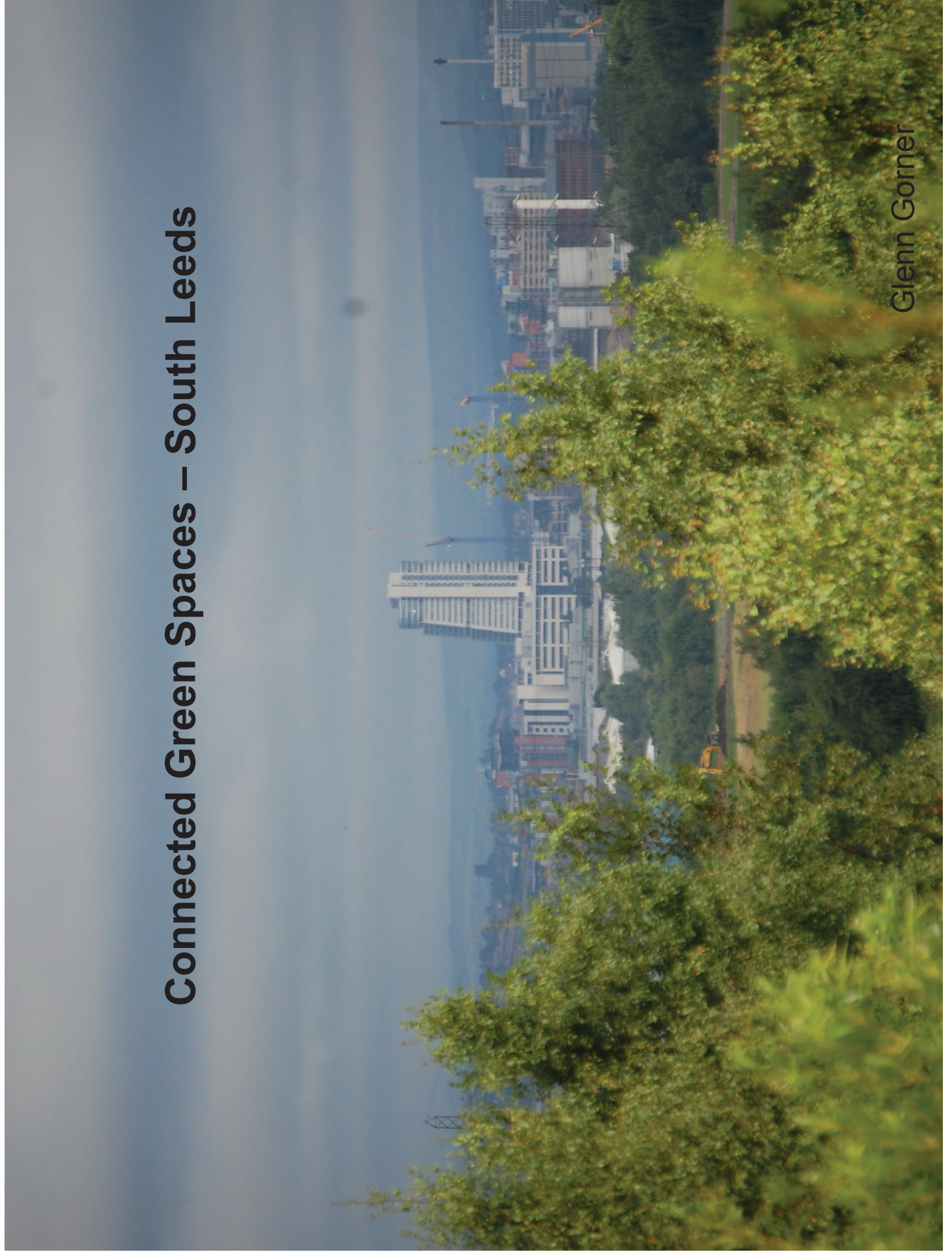
Due to the large urban area of Leeds, the provision of new accessible green space outside the city centre, with green and sustainable transport links, is essential to provide those who live in the centre with a suitable level of functionality outlined in the ANGSt

Woodland trust research recommends that everyone, wherever they live, should have access to at least:

- 2 hectares of woodland within 500 metres of home
- 20 hectares of woodland within 4 kilometres of home

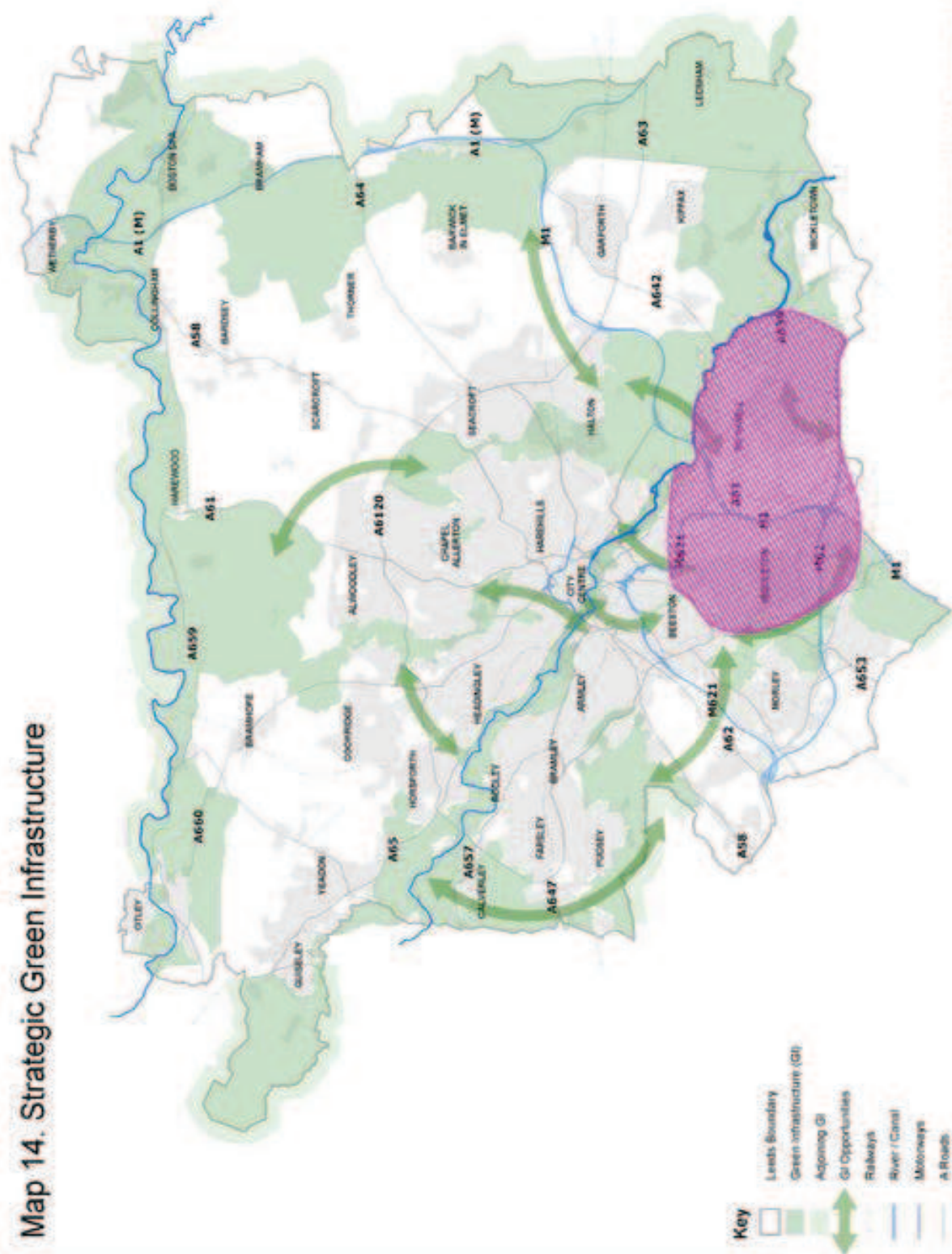
Applying this to the Leeds district would mean an increase in 577 hectares of woodland cover (16.5% increase in current cover).

Connected Green Spaces – South Leeds



Glenn Gorner

Map 14. Strategic Green Infrastructure



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SHARP LANE
plantations

In 2009 Leeds City Council, with funding from the Forestry Commission, started developing this multi functional woodland at the southern boundary of the New Leeds Forest Village housing estate. The woodland has been designed to incorporate Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS), footpaths, bridleways and access to the river. It also provides an important green 'glue' link to the other natural areas in south Leeds (see inset map).

Around 9,000 trees have been planted throughout the plantation including species such as ash, oak, birch, alder and hawthorn. The two balancing ponds which will store storm water from the adjacent housing estate before slowly releasing it into Throeside Carr Beck, are part of a Sustainable Urban Drainage System.

This woodland scheme is being undertaken in partnership with the developers and will make a significant contribution to the quality of the new housing development and to the Forest of Leeds.





WATER HAIGH WOODLAND PARK

Water Haigh Woodland Park is an intimate matrix of small, inter-connected broadleaved woodlands, pasture, hedgerows and wetland that has been created on the site of the former Water Haigh Colliery.

Centred on Fleet Lane and Swillington Bridge, and bordering St Aidan's Washland Nature Reserve, Water Haigh Woodland Park is developing into a 'quality' natural resource for people and wildlife! As well as seeking to restore and enhance the original countryside character of this previously heavily industrialised part of the Lower Aire Valley, the Park also provides opportunities for healthy, outdoor recreation.

Restoration of this 97 ha site began in the late 1970's and continues to this day with additional new woodland and hedgerow creation. The Park provides a natural and continuous link between adjacent projects, such as at St Aidan's Washland Nature Reserve, Rothwell Country Park and Skelton Lake, which together with Fairburn Lodge RSPB Reserve to the south and Temple Newsam Park to the north, form an impressive 'green corridor' through the full length of the Lower Aire Valley, allowing plants, animals and birds to move freely.

A plethora of permissive footpaths, many of them recently resurfaced, allow full access for walkers. In addition, The Leeds Country Way and the Trans-Pennine Trail (a national cycleway) provide convenient access to the wider countryside, nearby towns and villages and Leeds City centre!

The young woodlands are composed of mostly planted tree species, such as silver birch, common alder and whitebark, together with both pedunculate and sessile oak. Conifers, such as Larch and Corsican pine have been used as a 'nurse', to provide shelter for the slower growing broadleaved species. The woodland and associated habitats provide a safe haven to an impressive list of birds and animals, including sparrow hawks, tawny owls, roe deer and foxes, plus diverse number of butterflies, dragonflies and damselflies. During the summer months, marsh harriers, peregrine falcons and common buzzards are frequently seen.

Water Haigh Woodland Park is owned and managed by Leeds City Council's Parks and Countryside Service and has been sponsored by Biffaward, Forestry Commission and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra).

All enquiries should be addressed to Leeds City Council Parks and Countryside, Farnley Hall, Hall Lane, Leeds, LS12 5HA. Tel. (0113) 3957 400





Report author: Light Addaquay
Tel: 3951654

Report of Area Leader – South East Leeds

Report to South Leeds (Inner) Area Committee

Date: Wednesday 15th May 2013

Subject: A Summary Of Key Work

Are specific electoral Wards affected?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	Beeston & Holbeck City & Hunslet Middleton Park	
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:		

Summary of main issues and corporate governance considerations

1. This report details a range of activities taking place within the Inner South Leeds Area, some of which are dealt with in greater detail elsewhere on the agenda.

Recommendations

2. The Area Committee is asked to:
 - a) note the contents of the report and make comment as appropriate.

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To bring to Members' attention in a succinct fashion, brief details of the range of activities with which the Area Support Team are engaged based on the Area Committee Business Plan priorities, that are not addressed in greater detail elsewhere on this agenda. It provides opportunities for further questioning or the opportunity to request a more detailed report on a particular issue.

2.0 Background Information

- 2.1 Members will recall at the June 2011 Area Committee, a revised title and format for this report was introduced based on proposed changes to the Leeds Initiative partnership and planning framework for the city and in an effort to be more focused on current priorities.

3.0 Area Chairs Forum

3.1 Meetings

- 3.1.1 The last meeting of the group took place on the 3rd May with the minutes being approved at the next meeting of the group and reported to a future Area Committee.

4.0 Updates by theme: Children & Families – Cllr Angela Gabriel

4.1 Children & Young People's Sub-group

- 4.1.1 The next meeting of the working group is not yet scheduled but, is expected that discussions will focus on the development of the activities brochure and a review of the terms of reference and membership.

5.0 Updates by theme: Safer Stronger Communities Board – Cllr Adam Ogilvie

5.1 Inner South Environmental Sub-Group

- 5.1.1 The last meeting of the group took place on the 2nd May, the minutes of which were to be approved at the next meeting. The agenda included discussions on service performance, delivery of SLA2 priorities, and timetable for the development of SLA3. The final draft version of SLA3 will be presented at the June Area Committee for consideration and approval.
- 5.1.2 The minutes of the meeting held on the 5th March are attached as **Appendix 1** for noting.

5.2 Community Safety – Cllr Kim Groves

5.2.1 Crime and Grime Partnership

The April meeting of the South Leeds Crime and Grime Partnership was postponed and the new date has yet to be confirmed. The focus of the rescheduled meeting will be looking at the community impact of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and updating the action plan.

5.2.2 Burglary Reduction

Middleton Park ward has experienced a significant increase in burglary offences over the year. An OBA workshop was held in March that was well attended by a range of partners and allowed some good discussions to take place. An action plan is being prepared with one of the key actions focussing on how to encourage residents to respond to crime reduction messages as over a third of burglaries in Middleton are through insecure doors and windows. An update on burglary activity will be presented to the Middleton NIB in June and further updates to the Area Committee at future meetings.

5.2.3 South Leeds Alcohol Harm Reduction Partnership

Members have been advised in previous reports of the partnership that has been established to address the impact of alcohol on community safety and health and wellbeing. A review has taken place of the activity and a summary of achievements is presented at **Appendix 2**. The group has agreed three areas of work for 2013/14 and these are:

- Developing a Local Licensing Policy in south Leeds to reduce the availability of alcohol.
- Reducing the level of alcohol-related domestic violence
- Establish multi agency case conference to identify and support High Intensive Users.

6.0 **Updates by theme: Health and Wellbeing – Cllr Paul Truswell**

6.1 The South East Health and Wellbeing partnership last met on the 23rd March 2013, the minutes are attached as **Appendix 3**.

6.2 **Reducing Smoking rates in Belle Isle**

6.2.1 Following the OBA session a partnership working group has been formed to co-ordinate the work programme of the Reducing smoking rates in Belle Isle action plan.

6.2.2 Actions being progressed include: a new smoking cessation clinic will be open from the 3rd May 2013 every Friday from 1 – 3pm at the Belle Isle Family Centre and promotional activity to engage residents is underway; the Leeds smoke free homes initiative has now been launched in Belle Isle and Middleton area.

6.3 **Health is Everyone's Business Training**

6.3.1 Health is Everyone's Business training has been offered to individuals working in inner South Leeds with the following aims:

- Increase local workers knowledge of health & wellbeing in South Leeds.
- Increase understanding of a workers role in health improvement.
- Increase workers confidence to talk about lifestyle issues through brief opportunistic conversations with people.
- Increase knowledge of healthy living & support services and where to signpost people to.
- An understanding of Public Health's role within Leeds City Council.

6.3.2 Staff from four local children centres and from one extended service school cluster in inner South Leeds have now attended the Health is Everyone's Business training.

6.4 Niche Tobacco Project Update

- 6.4.1 The niche tobacco project was set up to add value to work to reduce smoking related deaths. It is aimed mainly at BME communities known to be regular users of chewing tobacco products and Shishas (water pipes) both with high levels of nicotine content.
- 6.4.2 Awareness raising sessions have now been set up and run at community venues within Beeston for local residents. Also to increase capacity on getting messages out sessions have been run with frontline staff working in this area. The project officers delivering this activity are working closely with the Hamara Centre, and have so far delivered 10 sessions and are waiting for Leeds Smoking Services to work with them in order to support people wanting to stop using a variety of niche tobacco products.
- 6.4.3 West Yorkshire Joint Services are looking to assign Trading Standards staff to visit retailers in the area to raise awareness of what products are sold and the potential health effects of these products. Many of these products are not labelled properly and retailers seem to have little knowledge of exactly what they are selling.
- 6.4.4 A multi agency enforcement meeting has also been arranged for the 25th April to look at other issues relating to niche tobacco use within the community. This is to be attended by Trading Standards, Public Health, West Yorkshire Police, HMRC, Community Safety, Environmental Health and West Yorkshire Fire Service.

6.5 Reducing Infant Mortality

- 6.5.1 Work to engage fathers and fathers to be in antenatal education is underway with support from South Leeds community radio, who are putting together a production of a 6 part radio dramatisation to be aired on local community radio stations. This will involve local men being volunteers to voice the parts which cover topics such as; access to Birth and Beyond antenatal classes and local children's centres; breastfeeding; men's involvement during and after the birth; behaviour change; postnatal depression; and hazardous co-sleeping. The recording will also be available on CD from midwives in South and East Leeds. The work will be launched in June to link with men's health week and father's day. Birth and beyond resources will be used at ESOL classes and many partners will be out and about promoting the resources.

6.6 Reducing Obesity

- 6.6.1 An in depth piece of work on understanding and tackling obesity was undertaken by the south east area health and wellbeing partnership and final report outlining challenges was endorsed in March this year. One of the recommendations was to develop some new approaches and test these within Middleton as a neighbourhood with high prevalence rates.
- 6.6.2 To take this forward a steering group has been established locally and key activities proposed include restricting numbers of take aways around schools; improving access to services through improved referral pathways between providers; increasing take up local

provision such as bodyline subsidised costs to using leisure centres and refreshing childhood obesity programme.

- 6.6.3 At a citywide level in response to the area partnerships review confirmation has been given on addressing gap on adult obesity lead and for this is being actioned by the Director of Public health along with an acknowledgement of the need to strengthen links between children's and adult obesity.

6.7 International Day of Older Persons

- 6.7.1 The International Day of Older Persons is celebrated annually on 1st October, aimed at recognising the contribution older people make to society and examines issues that affect their lives. The Area Committee is asked to consider supporting an event to coincide with this celebration in 2013. It is proposed that the South East Area Support Team will support a small organising group and engage with neighbourhood networks and other interested groups to plan an event. Members are asked to consider ring-fencing £1,500 from wellbeing funds to support such an event.

6.8 Welfare Reform – Public Health Funding

- 6.8.1 Members will know that £20,000 funding has been allocated to address issues around Welfare Reform. The aim of the funding is to engage and support individuals and families in South East Leeds in relation to the promotion of welfare reforms and managing the impact of the welfare reforms on individuals and families. A specification based on the following was developed and circulated to groups that it was felt could deliver projects against it:

- Briefing sessions for frontline staff groups, including the voluntary & community sector working in South Leeds to enable them to better understand the impact of the welfare reforms
- Activity that informs tenants in the private rented sector and in priority Neighbourhood's in South Leeds about the welfare reforms.
- Activities that increase local staff and public awareness in relation to accessing affordable credit and safe savings, how to report an illegal money lender, how to refer to independent impartial money advice and avoiding scams and fraud to reduce the potential impacts of welfare reforms on an individuals/family income.
- Activities that promote signposting and referral through to other services which provide financial support.
- Activities providing budgeting advice and debt management.
- Activities providing budgeting advice and debt management.

- 6.8.1 The South East Welfare Reform Group considered 5 expressions of interest and agreed the following actions:

- Two bids were highlighted for further work. The group felt other bids did not fit criteria or offer best value.
- Public Health to consult further to ensure best value, identify any additional funding and no duplication of service. As part of this process Area Committee Chairs were briefed along with Councillor Truswell Inner Health & Wellbeing Champion. Following this round of consultation the 2 projects highlighted are agreed for implementation:

- 6.8.2 £17,000 has been allocated to West Yorkshire Trading Services to run the Financial Fitness Leeds Project. This project aims to improve the financial health and wellbeing of residents in the South East. A delivery programme will be drafted with Trading Standards and shared with Members before implementation. It is likely that the focus will be on Inner South East Wards. Workshops will be delivered in key community “hubs” providing residents with a better understanding of the potential impacts of the impending Welfare Reforms, increasing knowledge, skills and understanding of banking, budgeting and money management, empowering them to make more informed financial choices, enabling them to become more confident consumers, using preventative concepts to avoid financial difficulties. **Appendix 4** highlights a case study on the programme.
- 6.8.3 Area Committee is asked to consider whether they would like allocate Wellbeing funds to buy-in to this programme of work and establish an enhanced Financial Fitness Project Programme in their respective areas.
- 6.8.4 £3,000 has been allocated to the Aware Group, Aire valley Homes to introduce new free internet access points in Cottingley Towers which will increase engagement with services, especially of those not currently represented as part of a community or voluntary group and build on the capacity of residents to cope with the changes of the Welfare Reform.
- 6.8.5 The South East Area Leadership Team (ALT) and the South East Welfare Reform Group will monitor implementation and provide evaluation of the projects, with updates to Area Committees through Summary of Key Works.

7 Integrated Locality working

7.1 Beeston, Holbeck & Hunslet Neighbourhood Improvement Board (NIB)

- 7.1.1 The latest meeting of the group took place on the 14th January and the minutes are attached as **Appendix 5**. The next meeting of the board is planned for the 24th May 2013.
- 7.1.2 Further to the meeting on 14th January the Area Leader has undertaken a review of this NIB in consultation with the Chair and Ward Members. It was recognised that to date the board has operated with mixed success. This was in part to do with the approach and also the challenges associated with a 2 Ward NIB which has clouded the focus of the discussions with regard to issues in some parts of the Wards. The Area Leader has agreed with ward Members to create separate boards for each Ward. This will be discussed in more detail by the board on 24th May 2013. Further update will be brought to the next Area Committee meeting.

7.2 Cottingley Neighbourhood Improvement Plan

- 7.2.1 The latest meeting of the NIP took place on the 15th March 2013, the minutes will be presented to a future Area Committee.

7.3 Belle Isle & Middleton Neighbourhood Improvement Board

- 7.3.1 The next meeting of the group is planned for the 4th June 2013.

7.4 Priority Neighbourhood Worker

- 7.4.1 A 6 month update to be presented at next area committee in June.

8.0 Localism

8.1 Holbeck Neighbourhood Planning Front Runners Pilot

- 8.1.1 The workshops held at the last Holbeck Neighbourhood Forum meeting held in February (reported on at the March meeting of the Area Committee) have now been written up and developed into an emerging outline of the Neighbourhood Plan. The content of the Plan task group has now met to develop this outline further, which includes both planning and non-planning issues. This outline will be presented to a future meeting of the Forum for discussion to ensure that the Plan meets residents' priorities. The next meeting of the Holbeck Neighbourhood Forum is planned for Saturday 22nd of June 2013.

- 8.1.2 A support group continues to meet to support and guide the Holbeck work. The group includes representatives of the three residents' groups in Holbeck. It is hoped that an Elected Member will attend these meetings in future. Representatives from DCLG have attended a meeting of the Support Group recently. The publicity task group continues to meet to develop publicity to promote the Plan and the Forum. This task group will also promote the Plan to businesses with the aim of having more businesses involved. The acting chair of the Forum is being provided with continuing support by LCC Officers.

8.2 Celebration Event

- 8.2.1 The Celebration Event took place at the Civic Hall on 1st May 2013. The event was hosted by the Inner South Area Committee in partnership with local community groups and Community First panels. It provided an opportunity for Area Committee to say thank you to the organisations and partners for the work that is done in local communities. Over 60 people attended and the groups had the opportunity to meet other community groups, Councillors, funders and voluntary sector organisations to share best practice and find out about services and support available to them. Feedback from the event was generally positive. Members are asked to consider ring-fencing £1,000 from wellbeing funds to support the event.

9.0 Local Updates

9.1 Middleton Skills Centre

- 9.1.1 Through the Middleton Park Ward members meeting, discussions have taken place regarding the transfer of Middleton Skills Centre to Children's Services. A short note is attached as **Appendix 6** explaining the justification for this move. Middleton Park Members supported this action and the note is for information only.

10.0 Corporate Considerations

10.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 10.1.1 Projects are developed to address priorities in the Area Committee Business Plan. The production of this plan is informed by Local Councillors and local residents. All projects developed are in consultation with Elected Members and local communities. Approval for any contribution from the Well being budget is secured at Area Committee.

10.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 10.2.1 Community groups submitting a project proposal requesting funding from the Well being budget have an equal opportunities policy and as part of the application process, complete a section outlining which equality groups the project will work with and how equality and cohesion issues have been considered.
- 10.2.2 Internal and statutory partners are committed to equality and cohesion and all projects they are involved with will have considered these issues.
- 10.2.3 A light touch Equality Impact Assessments is carried out for all projects.

10.3 Council Policies and City Priorities

- 10.3.1 The projects outlined in this report contribute to targets and priorities set out in the following council policies:

- Vision For Leeds
- Children and Young Peoples Plan
- Health and Well being City Priority Plan
- Safer and Stronger Communities Plan
- Regeneration City Priority Plan

10.4 Resources and Value for Money

- 10.4.1 There are no resource implications as a result of this report.

10.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

10.5.1 All decisions taken by the Area Committee in relation to the delegated functions from Executive Board are not eligible for Call In.

10.5.2 There are no key or major decisions being made that would be eligible for Call In.

10.5.3 There are no legal implications as a result of this report.

10.6 Risk Management

10.6.1 This report provides an update on work in the Inner South and therefore no risks are identifiable. Any projects funded through Well being budget complete a section identifying risks and solutions as part of the application process.

11 Conclusions

11.1 The report provides up to date information on key work areas of the Area Committee.

12 Recommendations

12.1 The Area Committee is asked to:

a) note the contents of the report and make comment as appropriate.

Background documents¹

There are no background papers associated with this report

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available for inspection on request for a period of four years following the date of the relevant meeting. Accordingly this list does not include documents containing exempt or confidential information, or any published works. Requests to inspect any background documents should be submitted to the report author.

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Inner South Environmental Sub-Group
 Tuesday 5th March 2013
 4.00 p.m.
 Dewsbury Road One Stop Centre

ATTENDANCE	
Councillor Adam Ogilvie	Ward Councillor
Glen Gerner	Parks & Countryside
Paul Spandler	Locality Team
Mike Holdsworth	Aire Valley Homes Leeds
Tom O'Donovan	Area Support Team

1.0	Welcome and Introductions	ACTION
1.1	Cllr. Adam Ogilvie welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
2.0	Apologies	
2.1	Tom Smith, Steve Ross.	
3.0	Minutes of the meeting held on 15th October	
3.1	The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true record.	
4.0	Matters arising not elsewhere on the agenda	
4.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was understood that Chris Simpson had moved from BITMO and that Simon Hale be invited to future meetings. Tom Smith to inform the appropriate Ward Members on the day if a scheduled cleaning service was not going to run in a Ward on a particular day. Tom Smith to provide figures showing the distribution of litterbins across the area. Tom Smith to update on priority ginnel list and confirm that Back Lane is on the list of ginnels. Enforcement activity: Tom to check why there's not been more activity in Middleton Park Ward. Members to decide priorities for Ward patrols. Dog fouling. Tom is seeking clarification from the Police about why PCSOs won't take direct enforcement action. 	Steve Tom S Tom S Tom S Tom S
Standing items		
5.0	Service Performance	
5.1	Report was tabled by Paul Spandler. Councillor Ogilvie to circulate information to Ward Champions. Noted that drop in service of litter picking in Middleton Park, due to long term sickness. Noted that sickness/holiday absence can have a significant impact on the service. Work to develop the flexibility of the service in these circumstances to be reported back. Similar situation reported regarding mechanical cleaning.	Tom S
5.2	Gulley cleaning has also suffered through lack of cover.	Tom S

5.3	Large number of issues in Inner area noted.	Tom S
5.4	Rejig of staff will see increased enforcement activity in Middleton Park	Tom S
5.5	Low FPN in Middleton Park. It was noted that performance in South East Wedge compared well with rest of the city.	Tom S
5.6	Councillor Ogilvie reported concerns expressed to him about an increased amount of litter around the area. This was particularly so over the last 3 months. Councillor Ogilvie agreed to co-ordinate the collection of photographic evidence from Elected Members and process through AST. Areas to cover Cottingley/Cardinals/St Lukes and Normantons.	Cllr AO/Steve
5.7	Dates in circulation for In Bloom groups and Galas. Programme of support to be put in place.	Tom S
6.0	Delivery of SLA 2 Priorities	
6.1	Priority Neighbourhoods all programmed	Tom S
6.2	Education – one school per quarter to be school links programme.	Tom S
6.3	Partnership working: models of integrated working on environmental services being developed with possible changes being introduced by April 2013. To be reported to next meeting.	Tom S
6.4	Land & open spaces to be mapped by information officer.	Tom S
7.0	Review of Locality Regulatory Service	
7.1	It was confirmed that interviews were complete and JDs agreed. Supervisors were in post. 18 enforcement officers down to 14. Savings invested in frontline cleaning.	Tom S
8.0	Derelict Buildings/Land	
8.1	Summary tabled. The Spotted Cow was highlighted as a particular difficulty.	Mark Mills
9.0	SLA3 – process & priorities	
9.1	Series of workshops to develop previous SLAs should be put in place. BITMO, Parks & Countryside and AVHL should be involved.	Tom S/Steve
10.0	Review of mechanised cleansing routes	
10.1	Paper circulated with agenda. Paul spoke to the paper and summarised. Majority of routes will be swept more frequently.	All
10.2	Member agreement on new schedule, then to Area Committee for approval. Then operational.	Tom S/Steve
10.3	Councillor Ogilvie asked if routes would be publicised to residents. Publicity through AVHL, South Leeds Life et al. Councillor Ogilvie to write a piece.	Cllr AO
11.0	Binyards	
11.1	Enforcement at binyards to be directed to landlords. Will clear in exceptional circumstances.	Tom S
11.2	Recreations – new approach being explored with Councillor Gabriel.	Steve

12.0	Any Other Business	
12.1	Glen Gerner introduced the South Leeds Green Infrastructure Project. Its objective was to join up green space across the city, plant more trees and link to emerging core strategy.	Glen G
12.2	Mike Holdsworth asked for support for a sponsored canoe he and several others were along the Leeds/Liverpool Canal. It was suggested that Mike provide details to be emailed out. Councillor Ogilvie was also encouraged to promote his forthcoming marathon through the same network	Steve/Mike/ Cllr AO
12.3	CCTV Cross Flatts Park some results were reported.	
13.0	Date and time of next meeting. (all Dewsbury Road One Stop Centre – Conference Room)	
	<p>Tuesday 2nd April 2.00 p.m.</p> <p>[Post meeting note: meeting scheduled for 2nd April has been postponed. New date to be sent out shortly]</p> <p>Wednesday 18th September 2.00 p.m.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>Tom S/Steve</p>

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South Leeds Alcohol Harm Reduction Partnership - Achievements

What we did – 2011/ 2012

Partners work together to achieve the Vision for Leeds by tackling the impact of alcohol on local people and communities.

- Established a multi agency partnership in South Leeds that has lead to improved joint working involving a wider range of partners to focus on locality issues around alcohol and community safety.
- Trading Standards and partners delivered a responsible retailer programme in Middleton area which included the education of retailers on the legislative implications of making illegal sales. Impact: failure rate of premises undergoing test purchase is down to 13% from 45%.
- Elected members engaged in reporting and supporting communities to report underage sales – impact: reduction in nuisance calls on problem premises and stronger controls set on license (Kasa)
- Evidence gathering taking place in preparation for application for CIP for LS10 and LS11 once new legislation is in force
- Area partnerships undertaking preparatory work for future representation from health onto licensing panels
- Workshop for staff on 'making a representation' at licensing undertaken involving multi disciplinary professionals

Fewer people experience alcohol related violent crime and anti social behaviour in communities.

- OBA session involving wide range of partners lead to action plan being developed to address alcohol related domestic violence
- Alcohol treatment services engaged in Leeds MARACs and MARAC co-ordinator linked into Leeds Alcohol Management Board.
- Domestic Violence training developed and delivered by Platform and DV Team around alcohol and safe relationships for staff working with young people.
- Reciprocal training between ADS and Domestic Violence team delivered.
- ADS have achieved the DV Quality Mark.
- Police undertook operation in Rothwell, Middleton and Morley to identify and offer support to underage drinkers causing anti-social behaviour problems.

Fewer people experience alcohol related ill health.

- Developed a Case Conference approach to supporting high intensive users of hospital services. Identified 20 patients living in LS10/11 that use A & E on 5 or more occasions a year for alcohol related issues and set up process to offer ADS support to them.
- Alcohol service provision reviewed and re-commissioned to target key practices.
- Directory of Leeds Alcohol treatment services developed and circulated widely including information on GP practices where brief advice is available locally.

What we did – 2012/13

Partners work together to achieve the Vision for Leeds by tackling the impact of alcohol on local people and communities.

- Reviewed and aligned action plan to fit with Citywide Alcohol Harm Reduction Plan
- Developed draft licensing framework for south to reduce availability of alcohol in LS10/11 areas
- Improving representation at licensing panel through responsible authorities undertaking collective responses to future applications for LS10/11.
- A series of events delivered including Radio Aire campaign, “Meet the Corkers” website, open day for professionals at Armley Resource Centre and frontline workers briefing in Beeston.

Fewer people experience alcohol related violent crime and anti social behaviour in communities.

- Delivered training to Safeguarding officers and set up referral process into alcohol treatment service for low to medium risk DV victims/perpetrators
- Joint awareness raising delivered to promote Alcohol Awareness Week and 16 Days of Action during November 2012.
- DV awareness sessions delivered to staff in JESS Cluster and DV Champions now identified in each school. Ongoing support to be provided to develop schools responses to DV issues.
- Leeds DV Team developed and piloted DV and alcohol training session which was oversubscribed
- Inner South Area Committee funded Women’s Health Matters to run support group for women experiencing domestic violence. Funding identified to extend WHM project to Outer South during 2013/14.
- Morley Cluster delivered workshops to pupils around domestic violence during the year.

Fewer people experience alcohol related ill health.

- Area partnerships undertaking preparatory work for future representation from health onto licensing panels
- Presentation to Alcohol Management Board to progress development of case conference approach involving gaining consent of HIU and sharing police information about high risk individuals with GP practices.
- Informing commissioners of local need for additional treatment support eg detox nurse & GP engagement.
- Supporting take up of health programmes e.g. health checks to reduce alcohol related activity

Minutes of South East Leeds Health and Wellbeing Partnership 28th March 2013

Attendees:

Shaid Mahmood (Chair) – Area Leader
Bash Uppal – LCC Adult Social Care
Cllr Paul Truswell – Inner South Elected Member Health Champion
Councillor Shirley Varley – Outer South Elected Member Health Champion
Tom Smith – Locality Manager
Emma Stewart plus PA – LINK
Pat McGeever – VCFS rep
Jade Cicone – Minutes

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

SMh thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Michelle Atkinson, Dave Mitchell, Martyn Stenton, Debra Gill, Marissa Carroll, Ruth Middleton, Julie Bootle, Gerry Shevlin, Victoria Eaton and Aneesa Anwar.

2. Minutes and Matters Arising from Meeting – 24th January 2013

Agreed as an accurate record.

3. Matters arising

Item 4 - SMh asked if the presentations from mental health colleagues had been distributed, BU is sure this has been circulated to the group.

Action: Bash to check with Aneesa. Confirmed papers have been circulated previously.

Item 5 - There is a meeting to discuss the issue of mental health, this is taking place at 10am on 4th April at Merrion House.

Action: BU to send note to the group to inform them of the meeting on 4th April.

SMh asked if Catherine Ward would still be available to run a workshop, one has been run in the West.

BU confirmed she is meeting with Catherine regarding looking at planning a workshop and looking at hotspot areas within the SE.

SMh also informed the group a key issue for Cllr Wakefield is mental health as well as poverty and inequality.

As yet SMh has not heard anything from Bernie Bell regarding use of council buildings.

Action: BU to check with AA if notes were sent onto Bernie.

BU confirmed the meeting with Marissa regarding links to alcohol activity is still pending.

Obesity ICE Feedback

BU and SMh attended the ICE meeting on 26th March but were unable to give a full update due to the agenda having been brought forward in their absence.

Feedback had been received from Dr Ian Cameron that action is being progressed to appoint a lead for adult obesity and acknowledgement of the need for stronger links between children's and adults obesity activity.

One of the key questions for the partnership was about using our approach to influence commissioners – unfortunately that didn't get discussed at ICE. Andy Harris (CCG CEO) has suggested our item go on the agenda again for discussion.

Action: BU to liaise with Ian Cameron and Rob Kenyon regarding attending a future meeting of ICE to discuss

BU updated on work progressed on Middleton locality as agreed at the last meeting. There are five priorities, one of which is focusing on reducing the number of take aways within the area. Planning are leading on this. The Birmingham model and Leeds Let's Get Active will also link in with this work.

Action: BU to share action plan for Middleton once confirmed.

Action: BU to circulate list of leisure centres in the 'free swim and gym' programme with minutes.

4. Review of Partnership Priorities

BU gave a presentation, outlining the role and responsibilities of the Area Health & Wellbeing Partnership, along with terms of reference and updated membership list. Also shared was a summary of work achieved against existing priorities.

SMh praised BU and her team for the work they have done so far. SMh confirmed that a great deal of work has been done to get to this stage.

TS gave feedback on recent discussions at senior management team with Public Health colleagues within Environment and Neighbourhoods directorate was cited as an example of differing cultures and ways of working. There was a lack of local focus. The approach aimed more at delivering national messages. No mention of localities in relation to delivery of strategies. The suggestion was for a proper induction for Public Health staff to LCC required.

PM expressed concerns at prescriptive approach to commissioning by health.

Cllr Truswell expressed concerns on volume of priorities in the city strategy. There are 15 priorities in the Leeds joint health and wellbeing strategy. Some priorities apply more than others in certain areas. It was suggested that what was needed was an audit across the city of all that is being done to tackle the 15 priorities.

Cllr Truswell also felt public health resources targeted at citywide level with a lack of capacity at local level to deliver this agenda.

PM suggested we need to have 3 obsessions. Outlined a recent event at which the voluntary sectors were proposing social isolation and poverty.

Concerns were also expressed about how the city strategy lacked a locality view. It needs to be more focussed on evidenced work linked to Leeds rather than national campaigns. More needs to be done to consider best practice from elsewhere and bringing that learning into Leeds.

Cllr Varley shared her concern that CCG's generally don't seem to be 'gelling'. The boundary differences were problematic, with Morley sitting in West CCG whilst other parts of the local authority areas sat in SE CCG.

Also outlined was the need for partner agencies to own the health agenda. The need to shift from a silo working approach. Proposed the area partnership took on more of a scrutiny function.

A general consensus that the partnership needed to move away from receiving updates and presentations, to having meaningful discussions and brokering linkages between agencies, on joint agendas.

The need for clarity from health and wellbeing board, on area partnerships role and accountability. The Area Leads role will be much more about challenging and questioning.

SMh thanked the group for their contributions within this discussion. A further meeting has been arranged with the partnership reps from the CCG and Public Health.

Action: SMh and BU to pull together forward agenda plan.

5. Any other business

None.

6. Next meeting – frequency to be agreed

BU asked about future meetings and the general view was that we needed to meet more frequently whilst setting out future direction.

Action: AA to put together a schedule and circulate.

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Financial Fitness Case Study - Newsome Ward

Working with tenants, residents and front line workers across Kirklees, the Financial Fitness project aims to provide participants with a better understanding of the potential impacts of the Welfare Reforms, increasing knowledge, skills and understanding of banking, budgeting and money management, empowering them to make more informed financial choices.

Practical, hands on, engaging workshops enable participants to become more confident consumers, using preventative concepts to avoid potential financial difficulties. There has been overwhelming evidence from the start of the Financial Fitness pilot, that in the current economic climate this project has been considered incredibly timely and an appropriate method of support, relevant for Kirklees residents across the district.

Workshops include:

Banking and Budgeting

Exploring the financial situations of different characters all at key life stages, some facing challenges which could affect their likelihood of slipping in to unmanageable debt. Comparing methods of saving and borrowing money, participants explored the various APRs of high street, doorstep and high cost lenders, discussing loan sharks and typical behaviour of illegal lenders. As an ice breaker, participants wrote down everything that they could recall spending money on in the past seven days, most of the group were surprised when they added up the total spend for the week and as a result top tips from the session included:

“If I take one thing away with me today it will be looking more closely at my spending habits to save cash!”

“Be wise when spending money, check bank statements to see where savings can be made and shred it afterwards!”

After the session 72% of participants said that they would be checking their bank statements more closely over the coming week to identify potential savings. Anita, one of the group participants, highlighted the importance of checking bank statements when she told the group of how she was being charged twice for her satellite TV contract due to an error. Natasha agreed and reinforced this message with her recent experience of identity fraud. Two of the learners realised that they were spending £15 per month on the same magazine subscriptions and agreed that they would pay half each and share the magazines, a simple way of saving £7.50 each per month!

Scams and Fraud

The scams and fraud session explored practical examples of real life common scams, identity fraud, phishing scams and bogus prize draws, how to spot them and stop them, enabling participants to increase their knowledge and awareness, look out for others and say no to common scams.

Participants took part in an exercise which involved writing down scams they had come across in the past, either themselves or via friends and family members, as a group 17 different scams were identified. Amongst them the following were identified:

- Text messages advising the recipient that they had been awarded money
- Rogue tarmac and roof repairers (possible bogus traders)
- International lottery wins, Cyprus, Hong Kong, Spain and Netherlands
- Car insurance claims offering huge sums of money for bogus accidents
- Royal mail scam, note from postman unable to deliver my parcel

One of our participants was becoming increasingly concerned about doorstep callers and as a result of the session was interested in exploring Cold Calling Control Zones as a preventative measure.

“Give me my Money Back!” - Consumer Rights

Learners examined a range of counterfeit goods, seized by Trading Standards Officers. Participants at the session said admitted that in the past they had purchased counterfeit goods such as earrings and handbags from local markets, learners were shocked to discover that counterfeit operations were often linked to serious organised crime and were encouraged to think about where they might draw the line when it comes to buying fake merchandise. GHD estimate that 7% of goods online are counterfeit, this came as a surprise to participants and the group agreed that the risks involved in buying counterfeit electrical items are not worth the chance. Top tips from the session included: *“Be careful on the web and if it seems too good to be true check it!”* Participants also said: *“Check returns policies and always keep receipts!”*

One of the younger mums in the group, surprised herself when getting most of the answers right on the consumer rights quiz and said;

“Look how well I did on that [quiz], I could work in a shop!”

One of the ladies in the group, Carole, had recently had her car serviced, this had lead on to numerous repairs and problems which were still unresolved. Following the session Carole said that she would be seeking advice from the CAB Consumer Helpline, the number given to her during the session, and stated that she would definitely act differently in the future if car repairs were not effective.



Participants inspecting GHD hair straightening irons, comparing the counterfeit to the real deal

Healthy lifestyle and shopping on a budget

The final workshop on the course coincided with the annual Scout Hut Christmas party and participants celebrated with a visit from Santa and a Christmas themed Taste Test Challenge! Branded and non branded versions of the same product were testes in a blind taste test with some surprising results (see appendix 1).



66% of participants preferred own brand cereal bars and 100% preferred non branded Christmas cake!

At the start of the session, participants were asked if they regularly checked the labels in the supermarket when filling their shopping trolleys. Only one member of the group said that she did regularly check labels, but that was only because of an allergy.

88% of the group said that they would be checking labelling more carefully in the future.

Top tips from the session include: *"Store brands can be just as tasty as own brands"* and: *"I'll be looking at ingredients lists in the supermarket and trying cheaper brands because you can't always tell the difference"*

By the end of the Financial Fitness Course at Newsome Scout Hut, 76% of learners said that they would be exploring volunteering opportunities to enhance their involvement in community life.

Loan Sharks - Mug Competition

To complement the workshops being delivered to parents of the local primary school, Hillside primary's year five a six took part in a school assembly to learn about money lending, where money comes from and where people borrow from if they need some extra cash. In partnership with the Illegal Money Lending Team, the children were invited to take part in a design a mug competition, putting pencil to paper to create an eye catching design, featuring the Stop Loan Sharks reporting



STOP LOAN SHARKS CAMPAIGN - DESIGN A MUG COMPETITION

Pupils at Hillside Primary took part in a Design A Mug competition, the winning design will be printed in to 500 mugs and taken home to parents



hotline. The winning design chosen from the 60 submissions will be printed on to 500 mugs using the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) funding, the children will then be given a mug to take home to their parents or guardians, reinforcing the messages delivered in community workshops and spreading the Stop Loan Sharks number. The local children's centre, who will be holding a course of workshops in May 2013, are interested in displaying posters featuring the winning and second place designs. The Huddersfield Examiner attended the school assembly presentation, delivered by WYTS, and featured the competition as part of their Neighbourhood News section.

Training sessions have been developed and delivered to front

line staff across the district to complement the Financial Fitness work being carried out in communities, in partnership with the Financial Inclusion Steering Group. Feedback includes:

"I have a much clearer understanding of welfare reforms impact now and how the changes will affect my clients. The hand-out book provided will be really helpful as I can keep it as a handy reference for any arising issues"

"It's been very informative and eye opening"

"The information will help me in my role in terms of safeguarding, giving client's information / warnings about scams in particular"

Tenant Reps – Consumer Champion Training

Working in partnership with Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing (KNH) and Citizens Advice Kirklees, tenant reps from local Tenant and Residents Associations were invited to attend training sessions, delivered over the course of a day, providing an overview of the Welfare Reforms, banking and budgeting advice and Scams and Fraud awareness, with an intention of creating Community Champions, the eyes and ears of the local community.



Ian collected an incredible number of newspaper clippings relating to scams and frauds

TRAs from Newsome, alongside Representatives from other Kirklees Wards, attended a session delivered at Dewsbury Town Hall. Ian, part of the group, was invited through Kirklees Federation of Tenants and residents (KFTRA) to attend. In preparation for the session, Ian spent two weeks researching scams and frauds through studying local and regional news papers. Ian collected an incredible number of newspaper clippings relating to scams and frauds, from articles about cloned bank cards to phishing and PPI scams, and brought these along to the session for facilitators and other participants to learn from. When asked about the reasons behind collection all of this evidence Ian said; *"I knew the workshop was coming and I*

knew the topic, so I thought I would do my homework... I was surprised by how much I was able to collect!"

"Creative Money Management and Make Do & Mend" at Edale Sheltered Housing Complex

An event planned in partnership with Newsome Timebanking and Kirklees Council for 8th May 2013, will give older residents at Edale Sheltered housing complex an opportunity to share their skills, pass on their knowledge and inspire others in the community to save money, make food go further and reuse, up cycle and refurbish every day objects. The event will incorporate practical, engaging workshops with reminiscence and skills sharing opportunities, which will give participants the opportunity to learn, develop skills and pass on their own knowledge and practical advice to others.

Appendix 1

Results: taste test challenge

Product	Preferred Branded	Preferred Smart Price
Strawberry cereal bars	4	6 - saving 17p per bar
Cheese Puffs	4	3 - saving 19p per bag
Salt vinegar sticks	3	3 - saving 19p per bag
Ginger Nut Biscuits	3	5 - saving 80p per pack
Christmas Cake	0	5 - saving £1.40 per cake
Mince Pies	4	5 - saving £1.20 per pack

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Aims	Objectives
1. Increase awareness of the Welfare Reforms amongst South Leeds residents and front line workers, including practical examples of the impacts of the benefit changes and how impacts can be mitigated.	Residents and front line workers demonstrate an increased awareness of the changes to benefits which will be impacting communities in the near future. Learners will better understand how the changes will affect them, and their communities and will have enhanced skills which can be used to mitigate the impacts. 80% of learners will feel better prepared for the challenges which lie ahead.
2. Improve the financial capability and confidence in money management in South Leeds residents.	Increase in residents knowledge, understanding and skills in budgeting and money management, promoting financial inclusion, assisting them to manage their household budget and tenancy effectively. 80% of learners will report feeling increased financial confidence and will have developed skills to prepare themselves for the changes which lie ahead.
3. Increase awareness of and confidence in dealing with cold calling, scams and frauds, increasing residents resistance to falling victim and ultimately parting with money.	Residents have increased awareness and are more confident in identifying and dealing with scams and frauds, protecting themselves from rogue traders' fraudulent activities. Build community resilience to rogue traders, scams and frauds by awareness raising with front line workers and partner agencies, providing sustainable community support.
4. Improve health and wellbeing of South Leeds residents	Residents better equipped to make healthy choices on a budget, identifying best shopping deals, becoming more knowledgeable on food labelling and composition. 80% of learners will report increased knowledge, awareness and understanding of food labelling and links to health to enable them to make healthier lifestyle choices on a budget.
5. Increased confidence in residents ability to source the best utility deals	Increased feeling of financial wellbeing amongst residents by developing comparison and analysis skills to identify best deals for their circumstances.

in the market place.	80% of participants will report a positive effect on their lifestyles and wellbeing due to increased confidence.
6. Create more confident, knowledgeable consumers, more aware of their rights and responsibilities	Residents will be more informed and confident shoppers, making better choices and able to get a fair deal when shopping in the home and on the high street. 80% of learners will report increased awareness and knowledge of consumer rights, feeling more empowered as consumers, able to interact confidently with traders.

**Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 14th January 2013
At Leeds City College, Beeston Centre, Burton Avenue (Room G12)**

Present

Cllr Angela Gabriel (Chair)	LCC - Leeds City Council
Neil Diamond	Aire Valley Homes Leeds
Al Garthwaite	South Leeds Community Radio/Vera Media/Aspire To Succeed
Shaid Mahmood	LCC – Customer Access and Performance
Matthew Walker	Leeds Federated Housing Association Ltd
Ann Eveleigh	Leeds City College
Martin Hackett	LCC – Customer Access and Performance
Gerry Shevlin	Leeds Community Safety
Liz Lawrence	LCC – Employment and Skills
Paul Akerman	West Yorkshire Police
Tom O'Donovan	LCC – Customer Access and Performance
Simon Betts	Job Centre Plus
Dennis Kitchen	Holbeck Community
Joanne Loft	LCC – Adult Social Care
Tom Smith	LCC – Environments and Neighbourhoods
Ashley Dublin (Minutes)	Aire Valley Homes Leeds

Apologies

Cllr Mohammed Iqbal	LCC – Leeds City Council
Cllr Adam Ogilvie	LCC – Leeds City Council
Ali Iqbal	Unity Housing Association
John Statham	LCC – Housing Partnerships
Mahboob Nazir	Abu Huraira Masjid – Hardy Street Mosque

1.0 Introductions and Apologies

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed all to the meeting, introductions were made around the table and apologies were noted.

2.0 Minutes of Board Meeting on Monday 10th September 2012

- 2.1 These were passed as being a true and correct record.

3.0 Matters Arising - Board Meeting Monday 10th September 2012

- 3.1 There were no matters arising.

4.0 Welfare Reform (Tom O'Donovan)

- 4.1 Frontline staff briefing sessions were held in November to which over 150 members of staff were invited. There were around 60 attendees in total.
There is evidently still a need for more staff sessions.
There may be similar briefings for the 3rd sector if a need were identified.

Action

- 4.2 Regular discussions are held with Steve Carey (Chief Officer Revenues and Benefits) to help co-ordinate small working groups across the 3 Wedge's. Among other things, these working groups are exploring engaging with employers to raise awareness of welfare reforms and the potential impact on their employees. They will also look to address high interest lenders and loan sharks.
- 4.3 Through AVHL there is targeted marketing of the Credit Union budget account (and other available budget accounts) would help to prepare residents for Universal Credit. The Credit Union is a key partner with the ALMO going forward.
- 4.4 A new lead officer has just been appointed to head the 'Get IT Together' digital access scheme. Vic Berry now in post.
- 4.5 Mapping work is being done with Aire Valley Homes Leeds to identify areas of greatest need and vulnerability.
- 4.6 Shaid Mahmood suggested that work around getting people into employment will be key.
- 4.7 Matthew Walker stated there needs to be training for housing staff on how to advise tenants and where they can be signposted to. Although letters have gone out to tenants there has been a low response rate. A vast majority of tenants won't be ready for the impacts of welfare reform and will no doubt head to housing offices seeking help.
- 4.8 Neil Diamond stated it is not yet clear who falls into the 'vulnerable' category. One million people are currently using payday loans to pay rents and mortgage obligations. This looks set to increase significantly.
- 4.9 Finally, Tom O'Donovan stated that he was co-ordinating a small team of colleagues from AVHL, Advice Leeds, Health and other agencies.
- 5.0 NEET (Tom O'Donovan)**
- 5.1 Through its Development & Improvement Plan, the Area Leadership Team has asked that a NEET Reduction Plan is produced. This section of the plan is led by Anne Marie Spry from Leeds City College. Following some exploratory work with TSLs and other colleagues a NEET OBA event is planned for the Thursday 28th February. The main objective of the event will be the production of a plan.
- 5.2 A date at the end of February is to be published soon for the OBA event at which a sustainable NEET reduction plan will be developed. A NEET reduction plan should be in place by the end of Spring.
- 5.3 With regard to the practitioners meetings, Ann Eveleigh offered to help with accommodating meetings at the college.
- 6.0 Employment and Skills Board (Martin Hackett)**
- 6.1 Martin Hackett stated the Employment and Skills Board is inviting a representative from the 3rd sector.
- 6.2 A series of 3 events funded by the Inner Area Committee are to take place. The market place event planned at Cockburn that was due to take place in November was cancelled.

AE

Further market place events are scheduled for Middleton (24th January at 1pm -5pm) and Hunslet with a variety of organisations and employers involved.

- 6.3 A bid will be submitted to Job Centre Plus for the work club at St George's Centre (Middleton). Aire Valley Homes and Igen have offered to provide support, Employment and Skills can offer ½ a day while Union Learn could offer ½ a day to 1 full day. Further negotiations with partners are on-going to ensure all days are covered.

- 6.4 Tom Smith asked if it would be worth reporting to the Area Committee on the work experience scheme that local environmental services previously ran with prisoners (on licence). It was agreed that this could be part of the Summary of Key Work report.

TS/TPO

7.0 Locality Worklessness Update (Liz Lawrence)

- 7.1 The next set of data (up to the end of December) is currently being collated.

- 7.2 35 job vacancies were available at the new Iceland on Dewsbury Road. 27 of these jobs went to people from the South Leeds area.
Liz Lawrence will confirm whether these are all permanent positions.

LL

- 7.3 Shaid Mahmood asked if there was a way to identify particular skill shortages in certain areas in order to target work that would address needs.

LL

- 7.4 Liz Lawrence to find out if data can be published with a greater level of detail and check to ensure the wards are correct.

LL

- 7.5 The Point at the White Rose Centre has 55 people registered in the job shop. 12 of these people are aged 16-18 years old.
So far there have been 3 job outcomes since 7th January 2013.

- 7.6 In the past there has been an issue with the promotion of The Point through the White Rose Centre. The new manager of the White Rose has agreed to put up banner stands and stalls to help promote The Point.

8.0 Health and Wellbeing: Niche Tobacco (Joanne Loft)

- 8.1 The Niche Tobacco Project is funded by the NHS and Adult Social Care. Niche tobacco products such as; shisha and various chewing tobacco's are smokeless and so, awareness around the harmful effects of these products is low whilst their usage is high.

- 8.2 There are many retailers in the Beeston Hill area especially, selling and promoting the use of niche tobacco. There is a need for awareness to be raised in such areas.

- 8.3 Two project officers are training frontline staff on the dangers of the use of niche tobacco products. The project started in December and is a 1 year venture.

9.0 Prostitution (Gerry Shevlin and Insp. Paul Akerman)

- 9.1 Local residents have raised concerns about the problem of prostitution over the years. In response, Operation Dairy was developed to tackle this problem.

- 9.2 Work is being done to try and engage with women and help them into support. Also, trying to raise awareness in local areas without tarnishing the community's image.

- 9.3 There is a city wide approach to addressing the overall problem of prostitution. A steering group which consists of elected members is in place.
- 9.4 Dennis Kitchen raised concerns over male and female members of the community being approached either offering or being offered sex. This could lead to the Police arresting people who may be innocently sitting in their cars.
- 9.5 Al Garthwaite suggested that work in schools and other youth services should take place in order to reduce the risk of grooming and young people becoming involved in prostitution.
- 9.6 Shaid Mahmood noted that communities tend to be sensitive about this issue and so it may not be addressed properly because of this. Difficult conversations need to be had in order to progress.
- 10.0 Holbeck PFI**
- 10.1 Financial close is expected to be 26th January, after this there will be a 3 month mobilisation period. This would mean starting on site at the end of spring/early summer.
- 11.0 Area Committee Updates (circulated)**
- 12.0 Any Other Business**
- 12.1 Cllr Gabriel asked the group to consider the future of this Board, its geography, and its remit.
- 12.2 Shaid Mahmood suggested the Middleton Park Ward NIB model is working well. It was timely after a year to review the set-up of this NIB and revisit it, with a greater focus on actions.
- 12.3 Matthew Walker stated that the focus of this Board should move from information sharing to partnership working and actions.
- 12.4 Cllr Gabriel has become concerned that the Beeston Ward is being overlooked due to a much needed focus on the City and Hunslet ward.
- 12.5 It was agreed that the next steps for the Board should be progressed.
- 13.0 Dates of Future Meetings**
 22 April 2013 – 1:00 – 2:30
 26 August 2013 – 1:00 – 2:30

All

Cllr.
G/SM/
TPO

**Middleton Skills Centre – Transfer to Children’s Services / FM
Member briefing February 2013**

The Middleton Skills Centre is one of the centres which forms part of the community centre portfolio that is delegated to the inner south Area Committee.

As part of the community centres review, led by an advisory board that is chaired by Neil Evans, Middleton Skills Centre has been identified as an asset that would sit better with another directorate as it is not a building that is open to the community for lettings.

Three user groups currently occupy the centre – Children’s Services, NACRO and Connections Health and Social Care.

- Children’s Services occupy office space at the moment and in future intend to host Family Group Conferencing at the centre, which will require more space to be made available to Children’s Services.
- NACRO occupies office space as well as some space to deliver targeted work to young people engaged in their service. NACRO do not pay any charges for the four rooms they occupy.
- Connections Health and Social Care, who occupy office space, is an organisation that provides care services to older people. Connections pay for the space they occupy.

Discussions are taking place with Children’s Services and Facilities Management regarding where the building would be most appropriately vested. Children’s Services cover the running costs of the building. If the building transfers to Children’s Services it will have no impact on their budget. If it transfers to Facilities Management, they will recharge Children’s Services for the running costs, again, having no impact on their budget.

The transfer of the building to a different directorate will have no impact on users as business will continue as usual.

A report will be presented to Area Committee in due course.

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Report author: Light Addaquay
Tel: 3951654

Report of Assistant Chief Executive (Customer Access and Performance)

Report to South Leeds (Inner) Area Committee

Date: Wednesday 15th May 2013

Subject: Wellbeing Report

Are specific electoral Wards affected?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	Beeston & Holbeck City & Hunslet Middleton Park	
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number:		
Appendix number:		

Summary of main issues

This report provides Members with:

1. Confirmation of the 2013/14 revenue allocation and the 2012/13 carry forward figure.
2. An update on both the revenue and capital elements of the Wellbeing budget.
3. Details of revenue funding for consideration and approval.
4. Details of revenue projects agreed to date (**Table 1**).
5. Members are also asked to note the current position of the Small Grants Budget.

Recommendations

Members of the Inner South Area Committee are requested to:

- a) Note the contents of the report.
- b) Note the position of the Wellbeing Budget as set out at 3.0.
- c) Consider and make decisions on proposals raised in 3.1.5.

- d) Note the Wellbeing revenue projects already agreed as listed in Table 1.
- e) Note the Small Grants position in 6.0.

1.0 Purpose of this report

1.1 This report provides:

- (a) Confirmation of the 2013/14 revenue allocation and the provisional 2012/13 carry forward figure;
- (b) An update on both the revenue and capital elements of the Wellbeing budget;
- (c) Details of revenue funding for consideration and approval;
- (d) Details of revenue projects agreed to date (**Table 1**)
- (e) Members are also asked to note the current position of the Small Grants Budget.

2.0 Background information

- 2.1 Each Area Committee has been allocated a Wellbeing Budget which it is responsible for administering. The aim of this budget is to support the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of the area by using the funding to support projects that contribute towards the delivery of local priorities.
- 2.2 Wellbeing funding cannot be paid retrospectively. An application form must be submitted and approved by the Area Committee before activities or items are purchased.
- 2.3 Members are reminded that due to the timescales required for submission to Area Committee the deadline for receipt of completed documentation is at least seven weeks before an Area Committee to allow for processing the necessary paperwork.

3.0 Wellbeing Budget Position

3.1 Revenue funding available for 2013/14

- 3.1.1 The revenue budget approved by Executive Board for 2013/14 is £224,520 and is the same as 2012/13.
- 3.1.2 **Table 1** shows the projects funded by the Area Committee up to and including the March 2013 meeting. The carry forward figure for 2013/14 will be finalised with central finance and reported to the June Area Committee.
- 3.1.3 These figures have been taken into account as part of the 2013/14 Budget summary later in this report. If members request any changes to these figures they will have an impact on the amount of budget available for new schemes.

3.1.4 **Table 1** shows the impact of the allocation of £106,020.00 to the Children and young people projects to be delivered in 2013/14. Members will note this has resulted in an overspend against Middleton Park's allocation. However the position is adjusted for 2013/14 and outlined in **Table 2**.

Table 1

Project	Total £	B&H £	C&H £	MP £
Allocated Budget 2012/13	224,520.00	74,840.00	74,840.00	74,840.00
Carry Forward	219,337.41	83,654.36	90,342.80	45,340.25
Available Budget	443,857.41	158,494.36	165,182.80	120,180.25
Projects carried forward from 2011/12	110,786.26	39,183.54	37,662.40	33,940.32
Available budget for 2012/13	333,071.15	119,310.82	127,520.40	86,239.93
Small grants	6,567.00	3,217.00	2,225.00	1,125.00
Skips	1,750.00	153.33	1,573.33	23.34
Communications budget	2,550.00	859.32	668.51	1,022.17
Festivals 2013	17,000.00	5,500.00	5,500.00	6,000.00
Environmental Budget	3,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Community Safety Budget	27,000.00	9,000.00	9,000.00	9,000.00
Children & Young People Budget	60,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00
Holbeck Gala (additional funding)	500.00	333.33	166.67	
Bands in the Park / Dog Show (additional funding)	300.00	150.00	150.00	
Middleton Craft, Flower and Produce show (additional funding)	2,080.00			2,080.00
South Leeds Superstars	8,112.13	2,537.71	3,203.71	2,370.71
South Leeds Life	9,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Marlborough Green Roofs	5,995.00		5,995.00	
Hunslet Library	1,300.00		1,300.00	
Priority Neighbourhood Worker	13,601.58	13,601.58		
Middleton & Belle Isle Christmas Lights	2,230.00			2,230.00
Middleton Gala	3,879.23			3,879.23
Cottingley NIP	3,000.00	3,000.00		
Hamara – Enhance learning & employment	12,370.00		12,370.00	
Market place events	3,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Atha Street Bollards	790.00	790.00		
Middleton Park Bins	7,000.00			7,000.00
Children & Young Peoples projects 2013/14 (commitment from 2012/13)	106,020.00	31,992.00	27,014.00	47,014.00
Celebration event	1,000.00	333.33	333.33	333.34
Community First Contribution to Celebration event	-478.00	-159.33	-159.33	-159.34
2012/13 projects approved	297,566.94	96,308.27	94,340.22	106,918.45
Total remaining balance 2012/13	35,504.21	23,002.55	33,180.18	- 20,678.52

3.1.5 Members are asked to consider the proposed ringfences set out in **Table 2** below for 2013/14. . If members request any changes to these figures they will have an impact on the amount of budget available for new schemes. In making these suggested allocations, officers have in mind the following points:

- § The small grant allocation to remain ring fenced at £10,000. This is based on the 2012/13 spend being £5,153.26
- § It is proposed to retain the communications budget at £3,000 for 2013/14.
- § £1,650 was spent on Community Skips in 2012/13 and it is proposed that the skip budget is ring fenced at £3,500 for 2013/14.
- § The Celebration Event took place in 2013 and £1,000 was allocated for 2012/13. It is proposed that £1,000.00 be ring-fenced for an event in 2013/14.

3.1.6 Based on the allocation of funds last year and the decisions previously made at Area Committee the following table details the funding available per ward for 2013/14.

Table 2

Project	Total	B&H	C&H	MP
	£	£	£	£
Revenue Wellbeing Budget 2013/14	224520.00	74840.00	74840.00	74840.00
Remaining approved balance b/f 12/13*	35504.21	23002.55	33180.18	-(20678.52)
Available budget	260024.21	97842.55	108020.18	54161.48
Small grants–proposed ringfence	10000.00	5000.00	3000.00	2000.00
Skips–proposed ringfence	3500.00	1500.00	1000.00	1000.00
Communications budget –proposed ringfence	3000.00	1000.00	1000.00	1000.00
Celebration Event–proposed ringfence	1000.00	334.00	333.00	333.00
Festivals 2014	18275.00	5984.00	4816.00	7475.00
Community Safety Budget	24791.00	8263.67	8263.67	8263.66
Priority Neighbourhood worker -Beeston & Holbeck	13601.58	13601.58		
Neighbourhood Improvement Officer - C&H/MP	32228.22		16114.11	16114.11
NIP Budget	3000.00	3000.00		
Belle Isle & Middleton Christmas Lights	4826.15			4826.15
Cross Flatts Park - Play Area	50000.00	25000.00	25000.00	
Cross Flatts Park - Improvements/Watsonia	10000.00	5000.00	5000.00	
Total potential spend	174221.95	68683.25	64526.78	41011.92
Total remaining balance 2013/14	85802.26	29159.30	43493.40	13149.56

* This amount is based on the agreed allocations in 2012/13 and will be finalised with central finance and a more accurate figure reported to the June Area Committee. Consequently, the amount of available funds may change.

4.0 Capital

- 4.1 Of the **£700,000** capital funding allocated to the Area Committee for 2004/10 a total of **£700,300** has been committed to date leaving an overspend of **£300**.
- 4.2 Members are asked to note the capital allocation by Ward. The spend broken down by Ward is as follows:

	Beeston & Holbeck	City & Hunslet	Middleton Park
Total Allocation 2004-11	233,333.33	233,333.33	233,333.34
Allocation to date	230,951.99	232,120.28	240,551.42
Balance	2,381.34	1,213.03	0.00

- 4.3 Members are asked to note that as the capital expenditure report (Appendix 2 in previous reports) has not changed significantly of late and is therefore not included with this report or future reports. Copies of the document are available on request.

5.0 Wellbeing Projects for approval

- 5.1 It is possible that some of the projects in **Table 1** may not use their allocated spend. This could be for several reasons including the project no longer going ahead, the project not taking place within the dates specified in the funding agreement or failure to submit monitoring reports. Due to this the final revenue balance may be greater than the amount specified.
- 5.2 Members are asked to note that the deadline for receipt of completed application forms is seven weeks before an Area Committee to allow officers to appropriately scrutinise schemes and confirm that they adequately meet the priorities as set out in the Area Committee Business plan. This scrutiny may involve discussion at appropriate working groups and with relevant partner agencies to make sure that the projects presented to Members have all of the necessary information to allow decisions to be made.
- 4.3 No projects have been received for consideration at this meeting.

6.0 Small Grants Approvals

- 6.1 No small grants have been approved since the last Area Committee meeting.

7.0 Corporate Considerations

7.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 7.1.1 Projects are developed to address priorities in the Area Committee Business Plan. The production of this plan is informed by Local Councillors and local residents. All projects developed are in consultation with Elected Members and local communities. Approval for any contribution from the Wellbeing budget is secured at Area Committee.

7.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 7.2.1 Community groups submitting a project proposal requesting funding from the Wellbeing budget have an equal opportunities policy and as part of the application process, complete a section outlining which equality groups the project will work with and how equality and cohesion issues have been considered.
- 7.2.2 Internal and statutory partners are committed to equality and cohesion and all projects they are involved with will have considered these issues.
- 7.2.3 A light touch Equality Impact Assessments is carried out for all projects.

7.3 Council Policies and City Priorities

- 7.3.1 The projects outlined in this report contribute to target and priorities set out in the following council policies:
- Vision for Leeds
 - Children and Young Peoples Plan
 - Health and Wellbeing City Priority Plan
 - Safer and Stronger Communities Plan
 - Regeneration City Priority Plan

7.4 Resources and Value for Money

- 7.4.1 Resource implications will be that the remaining balance of the Wellbeing Budget for revenue will be reduced as a result of any projects funded.

7.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

- 7.5.1 All decisions taken by the Area Committee in relation to the delegated functions from Executive Board are not eligible for Call In.
- 7.5.2 There are no key or major decisions being made that would be eligible for Call In.
- 7.5.3 There are no legal implications as a result of this report.

7.6 Risk Management

- 7.6.1 This report provides an update on work in the Inner South and therefore no risks are identifiable. Any projects funded through wellbeing budget complete a section identifying risks and solutions as part of the application process.

8.0 Conclusions

- 8.1 The report provides up to date information on the Area Committee's wellbeing Budget.

9.0 Recommendations

- 9.1 Members of the Inner South Area Committee are requested to:
- a) Note the contents of the report.
 - b) Note the position of the Wellbeing Budget as set out at 3.0.
 - c) Consider and make decisions on proposals raised in 3.1.5.
 - d) Note the Wellbeing revenue projects already agreed as listed in Table 1.
 - e) Note the Small Grants position in 6.0.

Background Documents¹

There are no background documents associated with this report.

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available for inspection on request for a period of four years following the date of the relevant meeting. Accordingly this list does not include documents containing exempt or confidential information, or any published works. Requests to inspect any background documents should be submitted to the report author.

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