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## Report of the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods

### Executive Board

Date: 16 May 2007

Subject: Area Delivery Plans and Area Function Schedules for 2007/08

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#### Electoral Wards Affected:

All

Ward Members consulted  
(referred to in report)

#### Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Eligible for Call In

Not Eligible for Call In

(Details contained in the report)

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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides an overview of the Area Delivery Plans for 2007/08 that were recently agreed by the Area Committees and developed with the involvement of Council Departments and partner agencies. The Plans will guide the work of the Area Committees over the next year and set out service priorities and improvement strategies for each area. They also provide a mechanism for directing resources and a framework for investing Well Being budgets in each of the areas.

Agreed local priorities set out within Area Action Plans form a key part of the Area Delivery Plans and enable Committees to address local priorities which are specific to their area. Appendix 2 highlights the priority areas for action in 2007/08 and shows how priorities emerging from the locally focused work of the Area Committees connect clearly to the themes of the Council's Corporate Plan.

The report also details the updated Area Function Schedules for 2007/08, based on the functions delegated to the Area Committees at the present time. It is anticipated that a further report will be brought to the Executive Board in the near future to outline proposals for the delegation of a number of further functions to the Area Committees.

The report asks the Executive Board to endorse the ten Area Committee Action Plans for 2007/08 and the updated Area Function Schedules.

## 1.0 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To provide an overview of the 10 Area Delivery Plans and updated Area Function Schedules for endorsement by the Executive Board.

## 2.0 Background information

- 2.1 Annually each Area Committee is required to prepare an Area Delivery Plan for endorsement by the Executive Board after the Council's budgets have been set. A key component of these plans is an Area Action Plan which intends to reflect corporate as well as local priorities. Also, each year the Executive Board agrees the functions delegated to the Area Committees and the Council's Constitution is then amended accordingly.
- 2.2 The first Executive Functions were delegated to the Area Committees in September 2004 and covered services relating to community safety, streetscene and children and young people. The Council also gave Area Committees a responsibility to promote the social, economic and environmental well being of their areas and dedicated revenue and capital budgets to support this function. From June 2006, Area Committees also became responsible for the portfolio of community centres vested with the then Neighbourhoods and Housing Department.
- 2.3 As Members will be aware, current area management arrangements are being reviewed by Senior Officers through the corporate Area Management Review Board. Councillor Chapman, Lead Member, has sought views from elected members and has met with the Chairs of the Area Committees. The outcomes of this work will inform a report to the Executive Board in the near future. It is anticipated that this will cover proposals for the delegation of a number of additional functions to the Area Committees.

## 3.0 Area Action Plan Progress

- 3.1 A summary of achievements against Plan priorities in 2006/07 is included as Appendix One. Examples taken from each of the Area Committees give an indication of the breadth of actions undertaken:
- **Inner East:** A year long community engagement arts project culminated in an exhibition of 70 street and house signs in the Thackeray Medical Museum and their subsequent installation on the streets of Harehills.
  - **Outer East:** Around 1,500 Primary School pupils in the area received coaching in a multitude of sports including rugby, netball, football, athletics and racket sports. This culminated in an event, held at the respective High School in each Ward, to celebrate young people and sport. Alongside this the Area Committee provided funding for cricket coaching for 9 to 15 year olds during the summer holidays with coaching provided by Yorkshire County Cricket Club.
  - **Inner North East:** A range of community safety projects were delivered including

fencing to prevent access through gardens, applications for Gating Orders for the temporary closure of ginnels and distraction burglary theatre performances to better inform local residents.

- **Outer North East:** An Environmental Fund was set up to enhance the work of the 'In Bloom' groups and Parish Councils and to encourage other community organisations to become involved in environmental projects. Altogether eighteen groups benefited from grants from the £30,000 fund.
- **Inner North West:** The Area Committee allocated £50,000 for the installation of three CCTV cameras in hotspot crime areas around Hyde Park. Cameras were installed and became operational by the end of March 2007.
- **Outer North West:** 400 hours of additional policing were funded, along with the lease of off road motorcycles to enable parks and woods to be more easily patrolled. Four mountain-bikes were purchased for PCSO's to patrol the areas more effectively. £40,000 was awarded to CASAC to carry out target hardening work to approximately 320 properties.
- **Inner South:** The 'Signpost' multi agency project tackled anti-social behaviour issues with 29 families and 34 young people in Beeston Hill. A mobile youth provision was also launched across Inner South Leeds to provide advice, information and a range of activities for young people. Over 1,000 young people aged 8 to 19 benefited from the provision as did local residents.
- **Outer South:** The Area Committee and Morley Town Council launched the Town Centre Management Initiative for Morley and Rothwell with the appointment of a Town Centre Manager. A major summit was held in both towns which engaged local traders and the public about the future of each town. Improvements began on Marsh Street car park in Rothwell and Morley Bottoms.
- **Inner West:** The 2<sup>nd</sup> 'I ♥ West Leeds' festival was held engaging over 20 local schools and groups across West Leeds and culminating in an event in Bramley Park which was attended by over 3,000 people. A total of 18 bins in the Aviaries and Cedars area of Armley were refurbished, improving the local environment and tackling crime and grime problems caused by their disrepair.
- **Outer West:** Funding was secured through the Town & District Centre Regeneration Scheme to improve Pudsey and Farsley. Work in Farsley has already started whilst work in Pudsey should start on site during 2007/08. A Designated Public Place Order for Pudsey town centre was introduced.

#### 4.0 Area Action Plan Priorities for 2007/08

- 4.1 Appendix Two highlights the priority areas for action in 2007/08 for each Area Committee and identifies links to strategic themes in the Corporate Plan. All three core Area Committee service areas continue to be reflected in the priorities: community safety, streetscene and children and young people. Other priorities covering the regeneration of specific priority areas, improvements to community facilities, support for

older people and health are included. Better service co-ordination, community engagement and partnership working are also included reflecting part of the wider function of Area Committees.

- 4.2 The plans for 2007/08 are being linked to relevant Local Area Agreement outcomes. This should help to strengthen local service improvements and actions within the context of agreed corporate priorities. It will also help improve linkages with the District Partnership action plans and the work of other key local partners.
- 4.3 Area Committees will receive regular progress reports on the Area Action Plans over the year and the plans will help direct how the Committee's resources are deployed.

## 5.0 Area Function Schedules for 2007/08

5.1 Schedules, detailing the functions currently delegated, are attached as Appendix Three of this report. They cover:

1. **Youth Service** – an updated schedule for the Youth Service is covered. A separate report will be presented to the Executive Board on the future of the Youth Service in Leeds shortly.
2. **Community Centres** – an updated schedule for the portfolio of centres previously delegated is covered. Further work is being completed on the portfolio of centres which are transferring from the former Learning and Leisure Department. This involves analysing 2006/07 actual budgets in order to ensure that accurate budgets at a centre level are put together. It is anticipated that this work will be completed prior to the first meetings of the Area Committees in the new municipal year.
3. **CCTV Cameras** – an updated schedule is included.
4. **Neighbourhood Wardens** – the updated schedule is based on the Council and external resources (mainly NRF) secured for this service for 2007/08 and reflects the current pattern of deployment of wardens across the City. In addition a number of areas are funding extra wardens with Area Committee / ALMO contributions.
5. **PCSOs** – an updated schedule is included which reflects the increase in resources in order that 5 PCSOs can now be deployed in each Council ward.
6. **Waste Management – Recycling Banks** – an updated schedule is included.
7. **Public Conveniences** – an updated schedule is included.
8. **Well Being Budgets** - the revenue well being allocation reflects a 2% inflationary uplift on last year's figures. The total capital allocation is £1mn per year for the next three years and the figures represent the allocation for 2007/08. As with previous years, it is anticipated that any unspent revenue and capital balances at the end of March 2007 will be carried forward into the current financial year. In addition to these figures, the Executive Board agreed a £500,000 one off release of General Fund Reserves at its meeting in April to accommodate a further £50,000 allocation for each Area Committee on a non recurring basis.

5.2 Subject to Executive Board approval of the delegated functions, information will be provided to Area Management Teams to allow them to report the information to each of the Area Committees.

5.3 The Authority to exercise these functions will continue to be held concurrently by the Executive Board, Area Committees and relevant Directors (within their scheme of delegated authority). Any proposed changes to area committee budgets relating to these services would need to be made in consultation with the relevant service Director(s) and with the agreement of the Area Committee and Executive Board where appropriate.

## **6.0 Implications for council policy and governance**

6.1 The work described in this report and the recommendation fits with existing Council policy and governance arrangements.

## **7.0 Legal and resource implications**

7.1 Work to date has been based on an understanding that the main resource implications for the Area Delivery Plans will be met through existing resources by improving mainstream services. New schemes and priorities will be met largely from Well-Being revenue budgets in 2007/08 and the three-year Well Being capital allocation. In addition, at its last meeting the Executive Board agreed an additional one off allocation of £50,000 per Area Committee from General Fund Reserves to support local priorities, particularly in relation to resident parking facilities.

8.2 External funding is also being sought to drive Area Delivery Plan actions across some areas, including funds such as the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund, National Lottery, European Funding and the West Yorkshire Sub Regional Investment Plan. Area Management Teams will also work closely with Town & Parish Councils, Voluntary Groups and District partners in order to deliver priorities and resource actions.

8.3 There are no new resource or legal implications arising from the updated Area Function Schedules.

## **8.0 Recommendation**

8.1 The Executive Board is asked to endorse the ten Area Committee Action Plans and the updated Area Function Schedules for 2007/08.