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**Report of the Director of Environments and Neighbourhoods**

**To the Inner South Area Committee**

**Date: Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2007**

**Subject: I Love South Leeds Festival 2007**

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**Electoral Wards Affected:**

Beeston & Holbeck  
City & Hunslet  
Middleton Park

Ward Members consulted  
(referred to in report)

**Specific Implications For:**

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Council  
Function

Delegated Executive  
Function available  
for Call In

Delegated Executive  
Function not available for  
Call In Details set out in the  
report

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This cover report refers to the attached report prepared by the manager of South Leeds Health for All. The manager's report provides an overview and evaluation of the I Love South Leeds Festival 2007 and suggests improvements for I Love South Leeds Festival 2008 should the Area Committee wish to pursue this.

This cover report written by the Area Co-ordinator asks the Area Committee to determine the future of the Festival taking into account what has worked well and what hasn't worked well and the ways forward for improvement indicated by the report from South Leeds Health for All.

Some options for the next steps have been proposed in this cover report for the Area Committee to consider.

**1.0 BACKGROUND**

**1.1 AIMS OF THE FESTIVAL**

The aim of the I Love South Leeds Festival 2007 was to develop community cohesion, particularly between different ethnic groups, different geographically–

greater harmony and understanding between people and places (particularly young people and over the summer period). The Festival aimed to also celebrate Inner South Leeds communities – what’s great about living here particularly in its diverse faiths, cultures, history, differing geographical communities, key features etc

## **1.2 ORGANISATION OF THE FESTIVAL**

Following a tendering process, on behalf of the Area Committee, it was decided at the time to put together two of the successful applicants to co-ordinate the Festival as they both had complimentary skills and experience: Consequently South Leeds Health For All was appointed to manage the Festival whilst an experienced arts worker was appointed as the part time Festival co-ordinator who organised all the various elements of the festival.

## **2.0 MAIN EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES**

The attached report details the main events and activities including:

- 56 creative arts workshops involving approx 600 people. 120 responses to an evaluation of the workshops were very positive. A couple of projects that emerged have continued.
- Arts Circus Road show supporting 6 local festivals (estimated 2,000 people attended) and 6 activity days spread across each ward (40 to 150 participants).
- ‘Stars in their eyes’ – a children’s talent competition involving 70 performances, 650 participants and their families from 10 primary schools across inner south).
- A Festival Grand Finale with 250 to 500 people attending and includes 120 local young people putting on a show with DAZL.
- A website established, publicity in the local press and radio, and the final Festival brochure/leaflet delivered to a wide range of community venues.

## **3.0 EVALUATION AND WAY FORWARD**

The attached SLHFA’s report details what is believed to have worked well, what’s worked less well and suggests ideas for improvement should such a Festival be developed in the future.

## **4.0 NEXT STEPS**

The Area Committee are asked to take into consideration the attached report and determine the future of the Festival. Some options for consideration are as follows:

**Option a)** If Members wish to build on the strengths and the momentum of the Festival and to develop it as a better one in 2008 then it is proposed that an

organisation should be appointed again to manage the Festival which would run again at the same amount of 50k (approx up to 15k in 07/08). The organisation (in close conjunction with Area Management Team) would then be responsible for appointing and managing a Festival Co-ordinator (this post should be advertised) to carry out the direct work of liaising with community organisations, recruiting arts workers and ensuring a spread of activity across Wards etc. Within this proposal there are two options for appointing an organisation to run the Festival in 2008:

**i) Carry out competitive tendering (as for the 2007 Festival)**

- *Arguments for:* This would ensure there were a range of organisations put forward proposals/approaches on how to run the Festival

- *Arguments against:*

There is a very limited range of organisations that are locally based in Inner South Leeds and have the organisational capacity to appoint and manage a Festival Co-ordinator and a Festival of the size and goals it has had.

The tendering process takes a considerable amount of time.

**ii) Continue to appoint South Leeds Health For All without competitive tendering.**

- *Arguments for:*

This would enable a Festival Co-ordinator to be appointed soon to start the preparation work and have a long enough lead-in time for running the Festival.

The organisation can build on the experience it has gained during the 2007 Festival.

The organisation runs South Leeds Press and will be able to produce high quality and appropriate publicity.

- *Arguments against:*

Another organisation may have the appropriate skills to manage the Festival.

**Option b)** To continue the Festival as for above option a) but just focus on involving the wider community/families and children aspect of the Festival but separate out the work with teenage young people (ringfence approx 15k). The latter could be delivered either

- i) by the Area Committee commissioning youth organisations covering the area
- ii) or to facilitate all provision for young people through Children Leeds South/Children Services and in particular through the Extended Services/Schools cluster groups (made up of agencies and community representatives).

- *Arguments for option b):*

builds on the strength of the Festival this year which has uncovered a potential wider interest within the community.

Enables the Area Committee to engage with groups and residents who may not usually become engaged.

May ensure that the Area Committee engages teenage young people in activity by giving a separate focus on provision for them.

Could help greater co-ordination of activity.

*- Arguments against option b):*

May not enable youth and community cohesion goal of the Festival be across the generations.

May not enable youth and community cohesion goal of the Festival be across LS10 and LS11 but just in separate areas and with organisations doing their own thing unrelated to improving youth and community relations.

Could end up with some organisations only thinking of their own patch and not a co-ordinated approach across the wider area and for each Ward.

**Option c)** The Area Committee may prefer not to have an I Love South Leeds Festival at all and suggest an alternative approach.

*- Arguments for option c)*

Well-being funds 'saved' and used on something else.

*- Arguments against option c)*

Misses out on the opportunity to build on some of the successes of the Festival.

Could disappoint those local residents, local groups and galas who had been involved and benefited from what the Festival had offered and looking forward to another one.

Possibly nothing offered to help contribute to youth and community cohesion across and within LS10 and LS11.

## **5.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR COUNCIL POLICY AND GOVERNANCE**

**5.1** There are no direct implications for the above as a result of this report.

## **6.0 LEGAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

**6.1** Legal implications as a result of this report will be reflected in any subsequent Funding Agreements and Contracts to Tender that arise if the I Love South Leeds Festival 2008 is funded again by the Wellbeing Budget.

**6.2** Resource implications will be that the balance of the Wellbeing Budget for Revenue will be reduced by the funding for the Festival.

## **7.0 CONCLUSIONS**

**7.1** The report provides information about the achievements of the I Love South Leeds Festival 2007, an evaluation of the Festival and suggested way forward.

7.2 The Area Committee is encouraged to decide about the next steps for the Festival at this meeting in order that better and more advance preparations for next year can be done should the Festival go ahead.

## **8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

8.1 To note and make comment on this cover report and the attached report from SLHFA regarding the I Love South Leeds Festival 2007.

8.2 To determine the next steps for the I Love South Leeds Festival taking into consideration options a), b), c) outlined in section 4.0.