



**Report of The Director, Environments and Neighbourhoods**

**Meeting: Inner South Leeds Area Committee**

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

**Subject: Area Manager's Update Report**

<p><b>Electoral Wards Affected:</b></p> <p>Beeston &amp; Holbeck City &amp; Hunslet Middleton Park</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ward Members consulted (referred to in report)</p>	<p><b>Specific Implications For:</b></p> <p>Equality and Diversity <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Community Cohesion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Narrowing the Gap <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Council Function <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Delegated Executive Function available for Call In <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Delegated Executive Function not available for Call In Details set out in the report <input type="checkbox"/></p>

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report identifies a range of activity which has been undertaken in recent months in by the Area Management Team and/or in conjunction with others.

**1.0 PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT**

1.1 This report provides an update from the Area Manager on the work of the Area Management Team since the last Area Committee met. It also enables the committee to raise questions or provide advice regarding the topics contained in the report. As usual this report is largely laid out along the lines of the 07/08 Area Delivery Plan key themes which forms the focus of the Area Management Team's work plan. There is an additional section covering other work activities of the team and other issues and updates for Members to be aware of or consider.

**2.0 CLEANER NEIGHBOURHOODS**

**2.1 Clean ups**

- 2.1.1 The following clean ups led by Streetscene Services' Environmental Pride Team have been carried out during the September and August period:
- Couplands

- Sissons
- Beverleys

As usual, Ward members are invited to suggest locations for further intensive clean up operations.

2.1.2 In addition to the above, Neighbourhood Wardens have organised or participated in smaller scale local community clean ups carried out in the Malverns/St Lukes area, Cardinals youth centre and the Sissons Road area of Middleton. The Area Management Team has sent through a total of 113 referrals to the Environmental Pride Team for rubbish/litter clearing.

## **2.2 Operation Champion**

2.2.1 Operation Champion took place on 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> September in the Stratfords/Woodviews area of Beeston Hill. The main outcomes of the Operation included:

- 183 properties receiving improved security.
- 172 referrals taken for smoke alarms
- 466 domestic inspections carried out by enforcement
- 63 waste in garden letters issued by Environmental Enforcement
- 40 properties referred to HMO team for further investigation to determine if licensable
- 16 items of graffiti removed
- 14 young people returned to school as part of the truancy sweep
- Approximately 50 hours spent by probation completing litter picks and cutting back hedges.
- 67 untaxed vehicles identified by DVLA
- 9 arrests made by Civil Warrants in relation to unpaid fines

2.2.2 During the operation the mobile youth provision spent two days at local shops, schools and community centres. Officers from Safer Leeds, Community Nursing, Smoking Cessation and the HMO (Houses of Multiple Occupation) Licensing team spent time on the bus promoting their service and providing advice to residents. A litter pick was organised with Class 4 from Cross Flatts Primary School in Cross Flatts Park. Due to the nature of the area the operation focussed on dealing with issues in private housing. The HMO (House of Multiple Occupation) Licensing team took part as a means of targeting suspected licensable properties. Environmental Health officers also spent the week identifying all empty properties within the target neighbourhood in order to assess the level of empty properties. It was found that 11% of properties in the Champion area are empty compared to a south Leeds average of 4-5%. A leaflet has been distributed to all properties to provide residents in the target neighbourhood with feedback. Several residents have been contacted by either phone or post to gain their views on the operation. The information gathered from residents will be used to inform future operations.

2.2.3 The operations planned for October and November have been brought together and will take place during week commencing 29<sup>th</sup> October. This week traditionally sees an increase in arson reports, ASB and criminal damage as it covers Mischief night and the run up to Bonfire night. It has been agreed that the first two days will target the Winrose area of Belle Isle and the final three days will focus on the Stratfords/Woodviews area of Beeston Hill. The Fire Service in particular have raised concerns that there are high levels of secondary fires in these areas at this time. Given the high number of empty properties, there are also likely to be greater accumulations of rubbish/furniture in these areas so it is sensible to target the Champion in this area at this time.

## 2.2.4 2007 Champion dates

March	Beeston Hill
April	No Op
may	Holbeck
June	Belle Isle
July	Beeston Hill
August	Middleton
September	Beeston Hill
October	Belle isle
November	Beeston Hill
December	outer
January 08	Middleton
February 08	outer
March 08	Belle Isle

## 3.0 INVOLVING COMMUNITIES

### 3.1 Priority Neighbourhood Development Worker

3.1.1 Following on from the last Area Committee meeting, an update report has been produced by the Priority Neighbourhood Development Worker. Over the period August to October, the main achievements of this project in key neighbourhoods has been the following:-

#### **Middleton**

- I Love South Leeds Calendar project progressing and should be completed by end of November
- Judging of Garden Competition – 11 entries
- Undertaken one clean up on 3<sup>rd</sup> October with Area Management with 4 residents took part and 3 young people helped. Looking at future clean ups working with Aire Valley Homes.
- Bulb planting due later in October

#### **Cottingley**

- Garden Competition judged
- Neighbourhood Awards in Bloom received a Merit Award
- Over 60's exercise class; Walking Group.

#### **Manor Farms**

- Individuals have come forward to take on role of Chair and Treasurer, but no one identified for secretarial role.
- No constitution officially agreed
- Bulb planting later in October

#### **Recreations.**

- First newsletter produced and distributed
- Assisting residents with a Christmas 'Party'

#### **Arthingtons**

- Consultation undertaken around the Royals for the Arthington NIP – 250 questionnaires sent out over 70 replies received.
- Developing a community group in the Royals and linking in with Leeds Federated Housing Association who are developing a group in the Arthingtons.

#### **Other work**

- Involved with setting up the first meeting of Belle Isle ‘youth forum’ and will be involved with arranging the second meeting.

### **3.2 Community Centres**

3.2.1 Following on from the last Area Committee meeting, the second meeting of the Inner Community Centres Sub Committee has taken place. Each individual centre was discussed and an exercise is being undertaken to find out what lettings are currently in place at each facility. To link into this piece of work, a mapping exercise is also being carried out to look at various community buildings which are both Council or non Council across Inner South Leeds. Once both pieces of work are complete, a clear priority list can be pulled together actions can then be undertaken to make sure we are making best use of community facilities across the area.

3.2.2 The consultation on a draft Pricings and Lettings Policy for directly managed Council community centres in South Leeds has now concluded. Only six responses were received across the whole of the South wedge – a full report will be presented to the next Area Committee outlining the next steps and requesting that the revised schedule of discounts and charging be endorsed by the Committee.

### **4.0 MORE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE**

#### **4.1 The Youth Bus**

4.1.1 St Luke’s Cares has been operating the Youth Bus throughout the Summer, the latest update report received (and sent to councilors) covers August, the points below outline some key facts and figures :-

- 476 young people accessed the youth bus in August – 162 of those were new users and the remaining 314 were young people who had accessed the service previously
- In the Middleton Park Ward, 142 8 – 19 year olds were worked with in the neighbourhoods of Manor Farms, Belle Isle and Sissons / Throstle area.
- 178 young people aged 8 - 1 accessed the bus in the City & Hunslet ward when visiting Hunslet Moor, Arthingtons, Balmorals and Harlech Road
- Through the timetable of activities in Beeston & Holbeck, 120 8 – 19 year olds visited the mobile provision. The bus visited Cottingley, Parkwoods, Normantons & Holbeck areas
- Activities provided on the bus included: football, cricket, rugby, basketball, rounders, and dodge-ball. Squash, snacks, music, DVDs, art, jewellery making, as well as Connexions and information regarding services.
- St Luke’s have also delivered activities from the youth bus in partnership with the following organisations:- LCC Youth Service, Crossroads Youth Project, The Cupboard Project, Church of the Nazarene, Lifeskills, Churches Together, Oasis, Salvation Army and Hamara.

4.1.2 At the last Area Committee meeting, Ward members received proposals from St Luke’s Cares which related to St Luke’s’ use of the Youth Bus during its downtime and the use of it by others. The Committee proposed to defer a decision on this matter, pending the issue being considered further by Members.

## **4.2 Adventure playground**

- 4.2.1 The Play and Leisure sub-group of Children's Leeds South is proposing to submit a bid to the Big Lottery Fund to build an adventure playground in South Leeds. The bid needs to be submitted by 31<sup>st</sup> December.
- 4.2.2 The sub-group has assessed various sites against the criteria for an adventure playground and Middleton Park has been identified as offering the appropriate location for the playground. The sub-group is in the process of inviting expressions of interest from voluntary sector organizations who have the capacity to host this project. (See appendix 2 for further details of the proposal).

## **5.0 REGENERATING AREAS**

### **5.1 Beeston Hill and Holbeck**

Work is still progressing aimed at submitting the Housing PFI Outline Business Case (obc) at the end of October. It is understood that the DCLG have been given resources following on from the Comprehensive Spending review, sufficient to finance the PFI, should the negotiations between Leeds City Council and themselves prove successful. The full scope of this proposed scheme has been sent to Members separately. We are currently involved in developing an approach to communication on the PFI.

Work on the regeneration plans is still progressing. E.g Beeston Hill and West Hunslet Regeneration Plan is nearing its final stage of consultation.

### **5.2 Middleton**

- 5.2.1 A member of the South Area Management Team was part of the interview panel for the new Middleton Partnership Manager– Vinetta Holness has been appointed and started in post on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Vinetta will now lead on the further development and implementation of the action plan and regeneration strategy for Middleton.
- 5.2.2 Area Management and Re'new are working in partnership to establish the Middleton Neighbourhood Panel – this panel will involve residents and other key local people such as businesses, to form a consultative mechanism for proposals and developments linked to the Middleton Regeneration Action Plan. It is planned for the group to be fully functional by March 2008.
- 5.2.3 Further proposals are also being drawn up with regards to marketing, promotion and branding for the regeneration strategy and action plan. Again, Area Management and Re'new are working closely together on this project and it is hoped that a final brand / logo can be developed prior to the end of March to be launched in April – an update report will be presented at the next Middleton Regeneration Board to how this is progressing.

### **5.3 Local Enterprise and Growth Initiative**

Support for the development of a bid to this initiative has continued between Area Management and South Leeds Health For All. A presentation by the Development Trust Association has asserted and inspired the requirement for the organization running a catalyst centre to become a Development Trust. A business plan is currently being worked up.

Tiger 11 (the Development Trust based in LS11) have now raised sufficient funds for refurbishing the Hillside centre and a provisional launch of the centre is for July 2008. Tiger 11 has launched its membership appeal enabling people and organizations to buy shares.

#### **5.4 Regional Competitiveness and Economy Programme 2008-13**

Despite a recent changes to the ERDF programme several partnership proposals have been put to the Council's Regeneration Resources Team regarding enterprise and knowledge economy activity.

#### **5.5 Neighbourhood Improvement Plans - NIPs (see also Priority Neighbourhood Development worker)**

**a) Manor Farms NIP** – The first NIP steering group, chaired by Councillor Driver, has taken place. A draft action plan was discussed at the meeting and a finalised plan is attached at appendix 1. A newsletter is now to be produced and distributed before the end of the year to inform residents that the plan has been developed and an indication of what changes will be taking place in 2008.

**b) Arthingtons NIP** – Two meetings of the steering group have been held. The results of a residents survey have been analysed and used to inform the development of the action plan.

**c) Recreations NIP – the steering group, chaired by Councilor Gabriel**, has continued to meet regularly and has now drafted an action plan which will be brought to the Area Committee. Old Holbeck Residents Association has now been set up for the terraced housing part of the NIP area and is meeting regularly.

#### **5.5 South Leeds District Partnership**

The District partnership was due to meet on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2007. However, as this was after the submission of this report, the outcome of the meeting was unknown at the timing of writing. The agenda was as follows:

- Consultation on Draft Leeds Strategic Plan
- Proposed Changes to Area Based Partnership Working
- Multi-Agency Working in Neighbourhoods
- Highlight report - Health and Well Being Partnership.
- Highlight report – South Leeds Employment, Education and Training Group
- Organisational and Other Sub Partnership Updates

As previously reported the potential future scope and structure of all district partnerships is being considered by the Council, its partners and the Leeds initiative. An initial report was discussed at the Narrowing The Gap Executive Board at the end of September, and the issue will be raised with Leeds City Council Executive Board as part of a report concerning area management. The need to consider the changes has arisen from a range of factors including the reduction in the organisational boundaries of key partner agencies, proposed changes to Area Management, and the desire to ensure that ward members and Area Committees play a full and strategic influencing role in partnership working. A detailed report on these issues will be presented to all Area Committees during the December cycle, and following consultation with committees and other agencies, firm proposals will be discussed with the Executive Board of Leeds City Council and the Leeds Initiative Narrowing the Gap Executive early in the new year.

## **6.0 SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS (See also Operation Champion in Cleaner Neighbourhoods)**

### **6.1 Neighbourhood Wardens**

- 6.1.1 The team has continued to have a high level of absence. The Wardens have responded well to requests to cover patches where colleagues are absent. The Senior Warden in particular has been rigorous in deploying staff to ensure a minimum level of service is maintained across all seven patches. A proposal to use underspend within the INM budget to appoint a Temporary Warden to cover the Beeston Hill area is being progressed. This will benefit all areas as it will ensure that Wardens can fully return to their patches, that the key regeneration activity in Beeston Hill is fully supported and will allow the Senior Warden to concentrate on developing his role.
- 6.1.2 The Senior Warden has introduced a new system for Wardens to track their activity in relation to reports of environmental issues. It was introduced in October 07 and will provide more detailed information about how actions are addressed by Wardens and other services. A more detailed update on how the system is working can be provided to Members at the next meeting if requested.
- 6.1.3 The Wardens team have been unable to carry out many focussed projects due to the staff shortages. However, they have been involved in three clean ups (see Cleaner Neighbourhoods above). The Wardens have also continued to support the Operation Champions (details of the most recent Champion are elsewhere in the report).

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

- 7.1 No specific issues are identified

## **8.0 LEGAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 No specific issues are identified

## **9.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 9.1 The Committee is asked to note the contents of this report and make comment as appropriate.