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## Report of The Director of Environments and Neighbourhoods Directorate

Meeting: Inner South Leeds Area Committee

Date: Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2007

Subject: Area Manager's Update Report

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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 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 Environmental Services' (formerly Streetscene Services) Environmental Pride Team have been carried out during October and November:

- Beverleys

- Sissons
- Cottingley
- Normantons/St. Lukes

As usual, Ward members are invited to suggest specific locations for further intensive clean up operations for the period Jan-March 2008.

**2.1.2** In addition to the above, Neighbourhood Wardens have carried out two environmental projects: Back Lane (Beeston and Holbeck Ward) and the Leasowes (City and Hunslet Ward).

2.1.3 The Area Management Team has sent through a total of 132 referrals to the Environmental Pride Team for rubbish/litter clearing during October and November.

### **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 November, the main achievements of this project in neighbourhoods has been the following:-

##### **Middleton**

- 1,000 bulbs planted on Middleton Park Avenue grass verges - 2 residents and 2 young people helped with bulb planting
- Attended two Aire Valley Homes Leeds (AVHL) walkabouts – 4 residents attended for the first time!
- Supported Middleton Community Group meeting
- Community Group 2008 calendar is currently being printed (thanks to I Love South Leeds Festival for helping make this happen).

##### **Cottingley**

- Second newsletter produced by Tenants and Residents Association in Cottingley (TRAC) has been distributed
- Supported Cottingley in Bloom meeting
- Supported TRAC meeting
- Took part in work on community garden and bulb planting at Dulverton Court

##### **Manor Farms**

- residents helped with bulb planting, one of which was a young person! – 1,000 bulbs planted on grass verges.
- CCTV camera poles are in place just awaiting the cameras
- Supported NIP steering group meeting
- Support to residents group which continues to meet on a regular basis.

##### **Recreations.**

- Committee agreed for the Old Holbeck Residents Association (which is for the terraced housing part of the whole NIP area) and supported meeting of the Residents Association and committee meeting.
- Second newsletter for the NIP area produced and distributed
- Supported NIP steering group meeting

## **Arthingtons**

- Supported NIP steering group meeting
- Drafted the first newsletter for the area
- Attended AVHL walkabout

## **Other work**

- Belle Isle 'youth forum': has met since the last Area Committee meeting. It is due to reconvene in February with the intention of mapping where young people tend to congregate in order that service provision is then effected. At the recent meeting Hamara talked through its youth forum work which not only covers LS11 but has a role to play in LS10.

## **3.2 Community Centres**

- 3.2.1 The next meeting of the Inner South Community Centres Sub Committee is scheduled for February. This meeting will look at the usage pattern of community centres and also the planned maintenance works scheduled to be complete by the end of the 2007/08 financial year.

## **4.0 MORE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE**

### **4.1 The Youth Bus**

- 4.1.1 The latest update report received (and sent to councilors) covers October 2007 (November report not available at the time of writing), the points below outline the main facts and figures :

- 509 young people access the Youth Bus in October – 118 of these were new users and the remaining 391 were young people who had accessed the service previously.
- In the Middleton Park Ward, 159 young people aged 8 – 19 years were worked with in the neighbourhoods of Manor Farms, Belle Isle and Sissons/Throstles area.
- 268 young people accessed the Youth Bus in the City and Hunslet Ward when it visited Hunslet Moor, the Arthingtons and Balmorals.
- In Beeston and Holbeck Ward, 82 young people aged 8 -19 years accessed the Youth Bus when it visited the Cottingley, Parkwoods and Holbeck neighbourhoods.
- Activities provided from the bus included: football, cricket, rugby, basketball, rounders, dodge ball; there were also squash and snacks, music, DVDs, art, jewellery making, cake decorating. In addition Connexions information and information about services was provided.
- St. Lukes Cares delivered activities from the Youth Bus in partnership with LCC Youth Service, Crossroads Youth Project, Garforth Town/Brazilian Soccer School, Leeds Federated Housing Association, Church of the Nazarene, Urban Bar.

- 4.1.2 At the September Area Committee meetings, 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.

- 4.1.3 As usual Members are encouraged to comment on any amendments they would wish to see regarding the Youth Bus in its operation during Jan-March 2008 in order that St Luke's Cares can make preparations for such changes in advance.

## **4.2 Adventure playground**

- 4.2.1 Further to the last Area Committee meeting, discussions have taken place with Middleton Park Ward Members and with representatives of Children Leeds South Play and Leisure sub-group.
- 4.2.2 At the time of this Area Committee meeting, a visit is likely to have taken place with Elected Members to see an adventure playground in Wakefield. Further consideration will then be given to options for sites.
- 4.2.3 Invitations for expressions of interest for managing the adventure playground have gone out to potentially interested organisations. Once the host organization has been identified an outline bid will then be submitted to the Big Lottery Fund by 31<sup>st</sup> December.

## **4.3 DAZL – Dance Action Zone Leeds**

- 4.3.1 DAZL has reported on its Inner South area Committee funded work for July to September. They continue to work with young people at Escape Youth Dance Company (based at Windmill Primary School), Danceaction (based at New Beverley Primary School) and the Community Cohesion Dance Project (based at South Leeds High School). The young people coming to these sessions come from across the Inner South: Beeston and Holbeck Ward (43 young people), City and Hunslet Ward (14 young people) and Middleton Park (53 young people).
- 4.3.2 During the summer DAZL ran two 'I Love South Leeds Shows in a Week' project and they also ran a major dance performance which was a central part of the I Love South Leeds Gala held on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2007.

## **5.0 REGENERATING AREAS**

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

- 5.1.1 The Outline Business Case has now gone to Government with a decision expected Jan/Feb 08.
- 5.1.2 Work on the Beeston Hill and West Hunslet Regeneration Plans is still progressing. The consultation has concluded and both plans are expected to go to Planning Board in January 2008 for approval.
- 5.1.3 The next phase of acquisition is underway in Holbeck (Runswicks) with a view to demolition.
- 5.1.4 Group Repair on housing in Beeston Hill continues with planning now happening for phase 4.
- 5.1.5 Planning approval for works on Hird St is now in place with a contractor expected on site in new year.
- 5.1.6 INM capital schemes worth 300k are all underway.
- 5.1.7 The 'Greenhouse' development is concluding its demolition phase in readiness for contractors to redevelop the building internally in New Year.

- 5.1.8 Partners participated in a seminar to be informed about the new European funding programme for 2007-2014. Aspire has formed a collective in readiness to bid for various funding sources and respond to commissions.

## **5.2 Middleton**

- 5.2.1 At the Middleton Regeneration Board on November 20<sup>th</sup>, a presentation was given by Aire Valley Homes on suggested physical regeneration improvements and relocation of community services which could take place in the Central Middleton estate. Further work will be undertaken over the coming months to translate some of the suggestions into firmer proposals as part of improvements to be undertaken through the Middleton Regeneration Action Plan.
- 5.2.2 Thematic sub groups for the Middleton Regeneration Action Plan have been set up – the first meeting of the Health & Well Being group has already taken place, with the key contacts for the other themes meeting shortly. A report on the progress of these groups will be presented to the Regeneration Board.
- 5.2.3 An indicative timeline has also been drawn up to highlight key milestones for the implementation of specific activities and completion of certain tasks towards finalising and delivering the action plan.

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

- a) Manor Farms NIP** – recent meeting progressed the action plan addressing key issues such as refuse collection, flytipping, CCTV cameras to counteract anti-social behaviour, waste in gardens.
- b) Arthingtons NIP** – Three meetings of the steering group have been held. The results of residents surveys (in the ALMO area of the Royals and the Leeds Federated Housing Association's area of the Arthingtons) 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 a report and action plan which is attached to this report at Appendix 1. Members are asked to approve the action plan note that future project proposals may be submitted to the Area Committee. Members are also asked to note that the Old Holbeck Residents Association has been established for the terraced housing part of the NIP area and is meeting regularly.

## **5.4 South Leeds District Partnership**

- 5.4.1 The District partnership met on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2007. Like this Area Committee at its meeting in November, the District Partnership considered and commented on the Draft Leeds Strategic Plan and its proposed thematic priorities.
- 5.4.2 Proposed Changes to Area Based Partnership Working was also discussed with a view to comments being returned to the Narrowing The Gap Executive Board. Further information on proposal on this subject is part of the Area Management Review report elsewhere on the agenda for this Area Committee meeting. The need to consider the changes to area based working 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.

- 5.4.3 The District Partnership also considered closer multi-agency working in neighbourhoods with a proposal for agencies to consider prioritising neighbourhoods to do more joint work in and make longer term impact.
- 5.4.4 The partnership also received highlight reports on some of its sub-partnerships namely:- Health and Well Being Partnership, South Leeds Employment, Education and Training Group

## **6.0 SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS**

### **6.1 Neighbourhood Wardens**

- 6.1.1 A temporary Neighbourhood Warden has been appointed to cover the Bismarcks/Disraelis part of Beeston Hill. This will benefit the whole of the Inner South as the Wardens will be able to spend more time in each of the patches. The new Warden started in post on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2007.
- 6.1.2 As mentioned in the Cleaner Neighbourhoods section above, Neighbourhood Wardens are now carrying out fortnightly environmental projects in local areas. The projects carried out so far have been highly visible and well received by local residents.
- 6.1.3 The acting Senior Neighbourhood Warden has provided an important support and co-ordination role to the neighbourhood wardens especially in the light of the current reduced staffing position.

### **6.2 Operation Champion**

- 6.2.1 As mentioned in the previous report October and Novembers Operation champions were combined so that both took place over the mischief and bonfire night period. This was so that the operation could tackle the problems that are generally associated with this time of year. Special emphasis was placed on providing timer switches and energy efficient light bulbs in order to encourage people to light up their homes to reduce burglary over the dark night period. This was the first operation HM customs had carried out DIP testing, they were so pleased with her results that they will send 2 crews down from Middlesborough for each further operation.

#### **6.2.2 Results from the operation.**

CASAC referrals for free home security checks	104
Timers provided	300
Light bulbs provided	261
Fire safety checks	145
HM customs vehicles checked for red diesel	86
Vehicles fined for using red diesel	3
DVLA untaxed vehicles	82

6.2.3 So far this year, Operation Champions has taken place and is scheduled for the following locations:-

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 – Morley
January 08	Middleton
February 08	Outer
March 08	Belle Isle

## **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:

- a) to note the contents of this report
- b) approve the action plan for the Receptions NIP
- c) make comment as appropriate on any of the items in this report.