



Report of the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods

Inner South Area Committee

Date: 8th April 2008

Subject: Governance arrangements for South Leeds Intensive Neighbourhood Management (INM) scheme

Electoral Wards Affected:

Beeston & Holbeck

City & Hunslet

Middleton Park

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Area Committee is invited to comment on the proposed governance arrangements for the South Leeds Intensive Neighbourhood Management (INM) Scheme and its Steering Group to change from being accountable to the now disbanded District Partnership to being accountable to the Inner South Area Committee (subject to any amendments to the Council's Constitution proposed in May 2008).

1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 A report came to this Area Committee in December 2007 outlining proposed changes to Area Committee responsibilities and working arrangements that were agreed at the Council's Executive Board in November 2007 but which will require amendments to the Council's Constitution proposed in May 2008.

- 1.2 As part of the proposed changes, Area Committees would have enhanced responsibility for 'Regeneration and Development' including 'Neighbourhood Management Co-ordination'. The initial focus for this will be on the identified neighbourhood management areas which are currently in receipt of Safer and Stronger Communities Funding i.e commonly known as the INM (Intensive Neighbourhood Management area).
- 1.3 Previous to the above proposed change, the INM for South Leeds has been (and continues to be at the moment) managed through a steering group which was accountable to the South Leeds District Partnership. This District wide Partnership has disbanded in preparation for Area Committees proposed to have an increased central role to play with both individual agencies and new partnership working arrangements such as with the thematic sub-partnerships covering South Leeds.
- 1.4 A report outlining the above and the need to revise governance arrangements, went to the most recent meeting of the INM Steering Group on March 5th 2008.
- 1.5 The INM Steering Group considered options for revised governance arrangements, noted the changed District Partnership arrangements and has given an indication that it would prefer that the Steering Group and the INM scheme was governed by this Area Committee subject to further discussion with this Area Committee.

2.0 THE INM STEERING GROUP

- 2.1 The Steering Group's current terms of reference are attached. These would be altered to take into account comments from this Area Committee meeting and following any amendment to the Council's Constitution in May 2008 which may formally allow for relevant Area Committees to have a responsibility for Neighbourhood Management.
- 2.2 The Steering Group has been a small group of arrange of partners which has met quarterly and has effectively achieved the following within its primary Terms:
- Followed an agreed action plan and both overseen and established the INM scheme as a shared programme across the 9 3% worst neighbourhoods in Inner South (2 SOA neighbourhoods in Middleton Park Ward and 7 in Beeston & Holbeck and City & Hunslet Wards).
 - Ensured a co-ordinated approach to tackling issues in the targeted 3% worst neighbourhoods, alongside existing service provision.
 - Made decisions on behalf of the District Partnership on both revenue and capital SSCF resources and implemented a wide range of initiatives.
 - Monitored project progress from agencies and services through presentations and reports and the monitoring of budgets.
 - Consulted residents on both the impact of the INM programme and consulted residents on projects which have consequently been implemented.
- 2.3 The particular advantage of the Steering Group is that it was delegated responsibility for making all key decisions regarding the INM programme. This has enabled each year's programme to get off the ground fairly quickly and enabled the Steering Group to be responsive to changes such as when one project is underspending.

3.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR COUNCIL POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

- 3.1 There may be some implications for any decision taken or preferred option regarding the governance arrangements in relation to the role of Leeds Initiative. This is because the INM scheme had been accountable to the District Partnerships which in turn reported through to the Leeds Initiative and in particular the Narrowing the Gap

Executive. However, should the Council Constitution be amended in May 2008, then this would allow for Area Committees to be part of the governance arrangement.

- 3.2 The Safer Stronger Communities Funding (SSCF) is funding from Regional Government Office which resources the INM scheme. Within Leeds SSCF is managed by Leeds City Council's Regeneration Service on behalf of the Local Area Agreement as overseen by the Leeds Initiative. As such then there is a reasonable argument to support the idea that the Council's Area Committee becomes an accountability and governing body for the SSCF funding.
- 3.3 Should the governance arrangements be through the Area Committee, then It is likely that the Area Committee will need to be in the position of making key decisions (particularly regarding funding of projects in the future). The Steering Group would be in a position to recommend proposals for the Area Committee to approve.

There may be constitutional matters which may either allow for the INM Steering Group to make decisions autonomously or at least up to a threshold especially since the INM scheme is not solely a Council nor an Area Committee scheme but a partnership scheme under the broader umbrella of Leeds Initiative/Narrowing the Gap.

The Steering Group have a responsibility to ensure funds are spent within the financial year especially if one initiative is underspending and funds require moving to new initiatives which are needed to be put in place speedily. Some delegated responsibility would greatly assist the Steering Group achieve its objectives especially at those times when decisions are needed quickly regarding funding of projects and an Area Committee meeting is too far away to wait.

It is important to note that there are currently Ward representatives as members of the Steering Group with a Ward Member chairing the Group on a rotational basis.

4.0 LEGAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Legal implications as a result of this report will be reflected in any subsequent Funding Agreements and Contracts to Tender, where there are any, with projects being funded by the scheme.
- 4.2 There are resource implications in that the INM scheme is resourced by SSCF. Should allocations be delegated (subject to confirmation of the continued availability of funding) to relevant Area Committees for local schemes, they would need to meet local neighbourhood improvement plan priorities, linked to grant criteria.
- 4.3 There are no direct implications for Area Committee Well-being funding or wider Council funding except where additional funds are put into INM projects by the Area Committee.

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Area Committee is recommended:

- a) to note and consider the contents of this report
- b) to make comment on the proposed governance arrangements for the South Leeds Intensive Neighbourhood Management (INM) Scheme and its Steering Group ie to change from being accountable to the now disbanded District Partnership to being accountable to the Inner South Area Committee (subject to any Constitutional amendments in May 2008).

Original Terms of Reference as agreed 10th May 2006 by South Intensive Neighbourhood Management Steering Group.

Intensive Neighbourhood Management in South Leeds

Terms of Reference for a Steering Group of the *South Leeds District Partnership* to oversee the Intensive Neighbourhood Management Programme

Aim of the Steering Group

To ensure the successful implementation and delivery of the South Leeds Intensive Neighbourhood Management programme, as approved by the Regional Government Office and the *South Leeds District Partnership*.

Primary Tasks

- To ensure that the scheme, along with its various constituent parts, is established and delivered according to approved timescales and budgets.
- To agree an annual action plan.
- To approve a resident consultation project as a key element of the scheme.
- To approve appropriate mechanisms for liaising with residents to monitor the impact of the programme.
- To monitor the performance of the various strands of the project and refer any recommendations to the *District Partnership*.
- To ensure that the programme is shared appropriately across the relevant target neighbourhoods.
- To approve any relevant revenue and capital expenditure and to monitor programme budgets.
- To ensure that the project is co-ordinated with existing service provision.
- To make decisions on behalf of the *District Partnership* on any significant amendments to the programme.

Other Tasks

- To ensure that the scheme brings additionality and is not used as replacement for mainstream or existing services.
- To review the use of other external or mainstream funding to support the project.

Proposed Membership

It is proposed that the steering group consists of one representative from each of the following:-

- An Elected Member from one of the three wards to benefit from the programme (on an annual rotational basis)
- The voluntary and community sector (Groundwork Leeds)
- Leeds South Homes

- City Services Department
- West Yorkshire Police
- South Leeds Area Management Team
- Leeds Federated Housing Association
- Belle Isle Tenant Management Organisation

Relationships and Procedures

- To meet regularly as required but on at least a quarterly basis
- To receive at least one detailed presentation per annum from each constituent element of the project
- To elect a Chair for the steering group at its first meeting
- To report in writing to the *South Leeds District Partnership* at each of its full meetings
- To ensure links are maintained with other appropriate bodies such as the Beeston Hill and Holbeck Regeneration Partnership Board
- Any written papers to be distributed at least four working days before each meeting wherever possible