



Report of the Director of Environment & Neighbourhoods

Inner South Area Committee

Date: 18th September 2008

Subject: Inner South Neighbourhood Improvement Plans 2008-2011

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

Executive Summary

This report outlines the Neighbourhood Improvement Plan (NIP) programme for 2008-2011. It provides details of the areas to be targeted, how the plans will be structured, composition of the steering group, community engagement structure and outline Terms of Reference and an action plan template. Members are asked to endorse this method of managing the NIPs for the next three years.

1.0 Purpose Of This Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to present detailed proposals on how the Neighbourhood Improvement Plan programme for 2008-2011 will be taken forward in priority neighbourhoods.

2.0 Background Information

2.1 In September 2004, the Inner South Area Committee agreed to address a number of priority neighbourhoods through Neighbourhood Improvement Plans (NIPs). The main rationale behind NIPs were to address the fact that there are a number of neighbourhoods across Inner South in which levels of deprivation are comparatively high, and in which there are a number of recurring issues of significant concern to local people, such as anti-social behaviour, environmental issues like litter and overgrown and ill maintained gardens, and relatively high turnover rates of properties.

- 2.2 The initial list of priority neighbourhoods stood at 23. In the period 2005 – 2008, NIPs were implemented in Cottingley, Manor Farms (twice), Central Middleton, Beeston Hill, Recreations and Arthingtons. It was recognised that a list of 22 priority neighbourhoods for action plans to be delivered in over three years was extremely ambitious, due to the complexity of some of the issues which came up through consultation.
- 2.3 To lead on the development and implementation of the NIPs, the Area Committee agreed to fund a Priority Neighbourhood Development Worker (PNDW) who would work with local community groups and residents to build their capacity to engage with the regeneration of their neighbourhood. The PNDW has been in post since July 2006 and has been an integral part of the successful delivery of the NIPs listed in point 2.2 above.
- 2.3 Following on from the release of the Indices of Deprivation 2007 statistics, the initial list of neighbourhoods have been reviewed and a list of areas in order of priority have been produced. Those that score highest in terms of deprivation are prioritised for action in 2008/09. Some of the areas which have already been targeted through the NIP programme in previous years still remain in the lowest 3 and 10 percent. These areas are also benefiting from external funding investment including SSCF, Regional Housing Board funding and PFI credits. As a result, to ensure all parts of the inner south area benefit from some sort of investment the NIP schedule reflects this.
- 2.4 It is also suggested that a number of standard actions are replicated in each new NIP to get the plan up at running as soon as possible, recognising that many of the issues highlighted as priority are similar in each area. Specific actions to address neighbourhood issues will also be incorporated into the action plan to ensure local problems are dealt with. The sections below outline these proposals in more detail.

3.0 Programme of Inner South Neighbourhood Improvement Plans 2008-2011

- 3.1 In the Area Manager's Report presented to Area Committee in June, 12 priority neighbourhoods were presented for consideration, the full list of these are attached at Appendix 1. The Area Committee agreed to this schedule.
- 3.2 The priority neighbourhoods were based upon the 2007 Indices of Deprivation statistics, which outlined specific domains where each neighbourhood was in either the lowest 3 or 10 percent. These domains included the living environment, income deprivation, crime, education, skills and training and health & disability. The neighbourhoods have been mapped and are attached at appendix 2.
- 3.3 Community consultation is a key exercise to ensure that local people's issues and views are fed into the NIP process. A consistency of consultation methods for NIP areas is proposed. In order to do this, it is suggested that the 'Big Issues, Big Ideas' postcard used for the Area Delivery Plan is adapted to include a message from the chair of the NIP steering group about what the NIP intends to do in that area and how local people's views are important to this process. The postcard would be distributed to every household in the area. This will also assist with establishing a community group in the area, if one doesn't already exist, as it will provide an indication of the number of local people wanting to get involved.
- 3.4 As done for all previous NIPs, a multi agency steering group will be established. It is proposed that only representatives from organisations and agencies delivering

services in the area attend the steering group, the views of the community will be fed into the NIP via the Priority Neighbourhood Development Worker and/or Ward Councillors who attend the meetings. This will allow the steering group to focus on more strategic interventions to address issues in the area rather than focusing on detailed problems which would be better placed being sent direct to the responsible agency. It is also felt a Councillor should chair each NIP steering group and is requested that the chair for each of the four NIPs for 2008/09 is nominated by the Area Committee at this meeting. If the Councillor who will chair the meeting cannot attend, the Area Committee is requested to agree that the Area Management team officer present act as the deputy chairperson.

- 3.5 As there will be two NIPs in operation that cover the City & Hunslet Ward, it is suggested that there should be one steering group to cover both of these, as the majority of agencies representatives will be the same people covering both the neighbourhoods. The meeting would be structured whereby it is split into two sections focusing on both areas. There could also be the opportunity for some joint projects that could target both areas in one go.
- 3.6 With previous NIPs, there have been varying formats of action plans, newsletters and varying levels of community consultation. It is proposed that for the future NIPs there should be some standard elements all targeted neighbourhoods are offered. These will include:-
- A newsletter to be distributed to all households in the NIP area on a quarterly basis
 - A intensive clean up will take place in the area
 - Support will be given to establish a resident group or support an existing one
 - A small scale community consultation event and/or household survey (following same format of Area Delivery Plan Big Ideas, Big Issues postcard) will take place to find out community views and key issues
 - A multi agency steering group will be established and chaired by a Councillor – a standard set of Terms of Reference have been drawn up to keep actions focused
 - A targeted piece of work, whether that be information distribution or a small project, will be carried out in each NIP area to address a key issue such as training and employment, health, financial inclusion or fuel poverty.
- 3.7 The NIPs will be developed to cover five main themes of Cleaner Neighbourhoods, Safer Neighbourhoods, More for Young People, Involving Communities and Regenerating Areas. It has been suggested to structure the NIPs in this way as main issues that usually come out of community consultation are around these particular areas. These themes will also link into specific and more strategic actions and outcomes in the Area Delivery Plan and Leeds Strategic Plan.
- 3.8 Each NIP will last around nine months and will have an exit strategy in the form of a Neighbourhood Pledge. The Neighbourhood Pledge will ensure that the community has a clear idea of what to expect from agencies operating in their area and how to get in contact if there are any problems in their area. A standard template for this will be drawn up and discussed at the steering group, to ensure that all agencies involved are clear of their roles and remit.
- 3.9 To support the NIP process, the Area Committee is requested to consider allocating up to £5,000 Well-Being Funding towards each NIP action plan. This funding would be used to implement specific actions in the plan, for example environmental improvement projects, additional youth activities, community events, etc. Any funds

that are not spent on the first phase NIPs in 2008/09, would be rolled forward to the 2009/10 phase 2 programme.

4.0 Implications For Council Policy and Governance

4.1 There are no direct implications associated with Council Policy and Governance as a result of this report.

5.0 Legal and Resource Implications

5.1 There are no direct legal implications associated with this report. Area Committee may decide to allocate its Area Well Being funding resource to support the delivery of some of the actions outlined in the NIPs at future Area Committee meetings.

6.0 Recommendations

6.1 The Area Committee are requested to:

- a) note the contents of this report
- b) nominate a chair for each of the four Phase 1 NIP Steering Groups
- c) Consider if they wish to allocate Well-Being Funding of £5,000 for each of the four NIP areas in 2008/09, giving a total of £20,000 contribution from the 2008/09 Well-Being Fund allocation.

Background papers – There are no background papers.