



Report of Area Manager

Report to Inner West Area Committee

Date: 18th September 2008

Subject: Area Manager's Report

Electoral Wards Affected: Armley Bramley and Stanningley <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ward Members consulted (referred to in report)	Specific Implications For: Equality and Diversity <input type="checkbox"/> Community Cohesion <input type="checkbox"/> Narrowing the Gap <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Council Function <input type="checkbox"/>	Delegated Executive Function available for Call In <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Delegated Executive Function not available for Call in Details set out in the report <input type="checkbox"/>

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to inform members of progress on a number of projects in Inner West Leeds as follows:

Community Centres
Neighbourhood Wardens
Neighbourhood Management
Regeneration

1.00 Purpose of This Report

1.01 The purpose of this report is to provide members with an update on a number of initiatives and projects within the Inner West Leeds Area Delivery Plan.

2.00 Community Centres

2.01 **Wyther Community House.** There have been major changes to the Wyther Community house over the past few months. The PCT commissioned BARCA to deliver community development work on the estate some months ago. A Community Development Worker is now in post and working directly from the centre. This local presence will hopefully impact positively on some of the issues that are currently affecting the people on the estate.

2:02 Support will be given to the Community Development worker by the new Neighbourhood Warden who has recently been appointed to the post funded by West North West Homes Leeds and this Area Committee. These two members of staff working on the estate can only help and support the work being driven by the Wyther Improvement Group.

2:03 New Wortley Community Centre

2:04 The centre continues to thrive with a profitable community café which is self financing and also contributing to the cost of running the centre. Financial assistance is also received from through a charitable donation from the Chair and also via rental income realised from the adjacent newly built chemists/medical treatment centre.

2:05 The Community Development Officer and Centre manager is financed via the Well Being fund of the Inner West Area Committee and has been vital to developing services at the centre much needed by local people. These include the Job Shop, After School Club, Centre lettings, Table Top Sales, Luncheon Club, base for Neighbourhood wardens, Residents group meetings and Member surgeries, Community Garden Project, Spring Fayre and Autumn Fun day, examples of courses run at the centre are British Sign Language and a First Aid Course.

2:06 Strawberry Lane/St Bartholomew's Centre

2:07 Strawberry Lane/St Bartholomew's centre is the only directly managed centre in Inner West Leeds. This centre is fully occupied by Armley Helping Hands and Park Lane College respectively with a small area currently occupied by Jobs and Skills. The former is a thriving member of the neighbourhood network for older people and is a very successful organisation working closely with many partners to deliver quality services to local older people. It has an excellent working relationship with Farnell inOne a major global company based in Armley.

2:08 The Jobs and Skills Service has recently re-located to the centre from West Leeds Family Centre and is awaiting the installation of a computer server to enable it to assist local people to find and access jobs and training.

2:09 Park Lane College in St Batholomew's Centre is a thriving resource for the community providing many courses together with childcare.

2:10 Moorside Community Centre

2:11 The Centre have a new management committee who are currently developing a business plan for the future running of the centre. They have recently held a summer fayre to raise the profile of the centre, and raise funds, and once the business plan is complete the next piece of work is a feasibility study to look at the work required to upgrade the grassed area at the rear of the centre to a sports pitch.

3:00 Neighbourhood Management

3:01 **The Broadleas Participatory Budget scheme** is one of two pilot schemes established by the Narrowing the Gap Group. The key objectives were to:

- To build on the capacity and confidence of local residents to take action to improve their area through a transparent process that is open and simple to access;
- To build upon and enhance existing neighbourhood working;

- To test the Participatory Budgeting approach;
- To improve community cohesion through effective engagement and participation;
- To build trust in local services / council by giving people experience of key decision making.
- To bring forward new people to engage as citizens;
- To develop the community leadership roles of ward members.

3:02 The following projects were approved through a process agreed with local residents as shown in the video at the June Area Committee.

Broadlea Street / Terrace informal play area

- LEDA report drafted and costings being looked at for the first stages of work around the clearance of the site.

Broadlea Hill roundabout / environmental improvements

- Options appraisal completed but design needs to be approved by the residents group

Bluebell Woods Improvements / Friends group development

- Support network fully in place and two sessions planned with community

Broadleas Youth Steering Group environmental improvements

- Matching funding application being developed but will still be delivered by the end of the financial year.

3:03 Each of the projects is being progressed with various partners and local residents to make a big impact on the estate. Increased numbers of residents are now involved in the Tenants and Residents group which will help and support the current members of the group to make a real difference on the estate.

3:04 **Fairfields Intensive Neighbourhood Management** work continues following confirmation of funding for 2008-09, of the final element of SSCF funding for the area. This is in accordance with the original proposals that were approved at the 9th February 2006 Inner West Area Committee. Work is currently on-going in the Community Centre to deliver a wide range of activities for all ages ranging from parent and children groups to a very successful Over 60's group. The newly formed 'Champ de Fete' catering service will hopefully provide some long term sustainability for the centre.

3:05 **New Wortley Local Area Management Project group** continues to meet every 10 weeks and is well attended by all agencies and local representatives. The problem of Crime which was the leading cause of deprivation in the neighbourhood has fallen by 74% over the past twelve months through the co-ordinated actions of relevant partners. However a surgery staffed by officers from all the partners still serves the local community from the community centre. Local people now have the confidence and the contacts to maintain the good work that has taken place. The group are now focusing on Health and Well Being and Educational Achievement through renewed work with the Primary Care Trust and their Public Health Specialist and also through working with Educational Welfare and the recently opened New? Wortley Children's Centre.

4:00 **Regeneration**

4:01 Townscape Heritage Initiative. A report was submitted to the July meeting of the Council's Executive Board on the successful outcome of the Council's application for funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund to implement two Townscape Heritage Lottery Fund to implement two Townscape Heritage Initiative Regeneration Schemes in

Armley and Chapeltown and to seek approval to the injection of £1,090,319 into the capital programme from Heritage Lottery.

- 4:02 The Townscape Heritage Initiative will have a dedicated officer, and recruitment of this post will take place over the next few weeks. The officer will be line managed through the City Projects Team, and will be have an office base at Armley One Stop Centre.
- 4:03 Armley Leisure Centre: financial close on the New Leaf leisure centre project has now been achieved. Initial works have already commenced to install a new electricity sub station in preparation for the first phase development of the new Armley Leisure Centre which will begin week commencing the 18th August 2008. The plan is to erect fencing around the rear car park and the green space adjacent to the current Armley Leisure Centre, which will become the main construction site. Unfortunately the secure building compound will mean a reduction in the amount of car parking spaces available in the short term.
- 4:04 These developments are a necessary part of the phased progression towards the construction of the New Leaf PFI Armley Leisure Centre. Some disruption to access will inevitably take place; however it is the intention of the Sport and Active Recreation department to continue to provide facilities at the present Armley Leisure Centre until early Summer 2009, with a finalised closure date to be issued near the time.
- 4:05 During this period, we will be working with our existing users to identify possible options for relocating activities during the period of closure, until the new centre opens in the early Summer of 2010.
- 4:06 Healthy Communities Challenge Fund: during July 2008 the opportunity arose for Leeds to submit a bid to the Healthy Communities Challenge Fund for a Healthy Town Initiative. Up to £5 million was available. Armley was selected as the bid from Leeds and an expression of interest was submitted by the Council and the PCT to create a project focused on physical activity and healthy eating. Unfortunately the expression of interest was unsuccessful, however officers from the PCT and the council will continue to work with the voluntary and community sectors to develop health initiatives.

5.00 Implications for Council Policy and Governance

The updates in this report concern actions in the Area Delivery Plan for Inner West which is administered through West and North West Leeds Area Management team and contributes to the Leeds Strategic Plan 2008 – 2011

6.00 Legal and Resource Implications

- 6:01 The Area Delivery Plan is administered through West Leeds Area Management team and forms part of the delivery of the Leeds Strategic plan 2008-11.

7.00 Recommendations

- 7:01 That members note progress on and confirm their continued support for the projects outlined in the report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

THI Executive Board Report 16 July