



## Report of the Director of Environments & Neighbourhoods Directorate

### South Leeds (Outer) Area Committee

Date: Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2008

### Subject: Area Managers Report

<b>Electoral Wards Affected:</b> Ardsley & Robin Hood Morley North Morley South Rothwell  <input type="checkbox"/> Ward Members consulted (referred to in report)	<b>Specific Implications For:</b>  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

This report details a range of activities taking place within the Outer South Leeds Area, some of which are dealt with in greater detail elsewhere on the agenda.

#### 1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To bring to Members' attention in a succinct fashion, brief details of the range of activities with which the Area Management Team are engaged, and that are not addressed in greater detail elsewhere on this agenda. It provides opportunities for further questioning or the opportunity to request a more detailed report on a particular issue.

#### 2.0 Thematic Partnerships

- 2.1 At the February Area Committee, members supported the principle of future area based partnership working, of nominating Elected Members with an interest and the availability to act as champions for the specific LSP and ADP themes dealt with by the thematic sub partnerships.
- 2.2 A table of the thematic sub-Partnerships and the Outer South Area Committee Member Link is attached at Appendix 1. Nominations are requested for Members to act as a 'champion' and link with the last two remaining themes; Learning and Thriving Neighbourhoods (Employment, Education, Training Partnership) and Health & Well Being. The sub-Partnerships outlined in the table are planned to host a public engagement event before the Area Committee meetings during the next year.

2.3 The first pre Area Committee event by the Children's Leeds Partnership was due to be held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October at 3.30pm. However, due to the evaluation of the Inner South experience, Area Management and Officers from the Children's Leeds Partnership agreed to postpone the first Outer South partnership event. A variety of models are being developed across city and Outer South Area Management want to identify a process of community engagement to operate that is the most effective and worthwhile.

### **3.0 CCTV**

3.1 Further to the report on CCTV considered at the July Area Committee and pending the results of discussions at Executive Board. Members at the September meeting agreed a monitoring form be sent to groups who had existing and planned schemes funded by the Area Committee. The monitoring process will inform the Area Committee on how best to support current and existing schemes to meet the required legislation through training, installation, operation and working with partners. It will establish a baseline position about the current status of existing schemes.

3.2 The monitoring form has been sent to the following groups with a deadline of 7<sup>th</sup> November 2008 for responses:

Drighlington Parish Council  
Churwell Action Group  
Gildersome Action Group

### **4.0 Priority Neighbourhood Worker Post**

4.1 At the September Area Committee meeting, members agreed to continue supporting a Priority Neighbourhood Worker (PNW) post, employed by South Leeds Health For All, to work across the Outer South. This post will be funded for three years, subject to annual Executive Board approval of the delegated Well-being Budget.

4.2 Area Management have been liaising with South Leeds Health For All regarding the recruitment process. The following timescale was agreed:

- Post advertised Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> September
- Closing Date at noon, Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October
- Short listing Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October
- Interviews to be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> October

4.3 Area Management aim to have a PNW in post as soon as possible following the interview process.

### **5.0 Conservation Audits**

5.1 In November 2007 Members approved funding from the additional Wellbeing Allocation to undertake conservation audits in Morley and Rothwell Town Centres. Following the recruitment of a Community Conservation Officer to complete the audits fieldwork, research and community consultation are now underway for the Conservation Area Appraisal for Morley. Work is progressing to establish a community advisory panel for the appraisal.

- 5.2 A presentation, providing an introduction to the appraisal process, was given to the Planning Committee of Morley Town Council at their meeting of 9th September 2008. An exhibition providing an introduction to the appraisal process was staged as part of the Heritage Open Day weekend event at the Town Hall 12<sup>th</sup> - 14th September. The Community Conservation Officer was present on Saturday to answer any questions about the process and discuss conservation issues and opportunities.
- 5.3 On the 9<sup>th</sup> September, the Morley Bottoms Team received an update on the team's progress and delivery of change in this part of the conservation area and to outline the forthcoming appraisal and likely outcomes and opportunities.
- 5.4 Public consultation on a draft of the appraisal is timetabled for mid October / November and adoption of the final appraisal by November / December.

## **6.0 Cleaner Neighbourhoods Sub Group**

### **6.1 The Glutton Cleansing Machine**

- 6.1.1 At the September Area Committee, Members were notified that the Glutton Cleansing Machine arrived on August 19<sup>th</sup>. As a result, Environmental Services have changed the daily routes of the Morley litter picker to cover the main shopping area Monday to Friday, and have an additional block covering the main school routes and side streets each day. This will ensure the school routes are litter picked every week. i.e. On a Monday the litter picker will complete Queens Street, Morley Bottoms and then move on to Corporation street, Bruntcliffe Lane and other streets down to Chapel Hill. In addition, the Glutton Cleansing machine will be used to cleanse the main shopping area on Queens Street and into Morley Bottoms on a Tuesday, Wednesday and a Friday, after he has emptied the litter bins, and before he moves onto his daily litter picking block. As the litter picker becomes more skilled at operating the Glutton, some adjustments may be made to the daily routes.
- 6.1.2 The Environmental Services Principal Officer has completed a number of audits and determined there is a serious cigarette tab end problem in Morley. Enforcement have been notified to help reduce this problem.
- 6.1.3 At present the Glutton is being stored at Dartmouth Park which although acceptable, ideally a location closer to the Town Centre to store and charge the machine would be more appropriate.

### **6.2 Litterbins**

- 6.2.1 Area Management continue to work with Environmental Services on litterbin provision in the Outer South. As a result of new litterbins being installed in Leeds City Centre, the old city centre litterbins are being refurbished to locate across the wider area. This will provide the Outer South Area Committee with an additional two litterbins per ward. Environmental Services will be coordinating identifying the locations, installation and maintenance of these litterbins. After the installation of all the litterbins funded by the Area Committee and the round of refurbished litterbins, Environmental Services have notified Area Management that the maintenance capacity will be reached and they can not support any further allocations of litterbins to be installed and emptied.

## **7.0 Recycling Bring Sites in Morley and Rothwell**

- 7.1 Members approved the development of recycling sites at Queensway Car Park in Morley and Marsh Street in Rothwell in February 2008. Development works included upgrading signage and recycling bins, providing disabled access to the facility and providing wooden screening around the bins to create a more attractive site. Both schemes were in the main completed in September
- 7.2 The schemes aim to increase usage of the recycling sites and to create more compact facilities. By compacting the facilities, it offers the possibility to increase the number of available parking spaces. Parking Services are therefore undertaking future management of parking spaces in the Marsh Street recycling site. It is hoped that improved facilities, easier access and better signage will encourage more people to recycle which will assist Leeds City Council in achieving their recycling targets. For instance, as a result of the improvements to the Otley bring bank site, glass recycling in the last nine months has already exceeded the total collected in 2006/2007. We expect to see a similar increase in Bring Bank usage for the sites at Morley and Rothwell as result of the improvements.
- 7.3 The Recycling and Waste Officer has confirmed that all work for both schemes, (Appendix 2) has been completed except some littering signs which are due to be delivered and installed during October.

## **8.0 Town & District Centre Regeneration Scheme**

### **8.1 Marsh Street**

- 8.1.1 Following a report to the last Area Committee stating that the necessary approvals have been completed and work has begun on site. Some delay has been caused by a planning approval required for some tree works. The clearance of vegetation has been completed with only a small part of the site remaining to be cleared. The excavation and grading to the pedestrian area is half way through the planned works and edging to the seating area has just been started. The contractor is working from the back of the site so that minimal disruption is caused to the public and to ensure a clear safe pedestrian route is maintained.

### **8.2 Morley Bottoms**

- 8.2.1 The lay-by is nearing completion, however the formal procedure for Highways to formally adopt the lay-by needs to be completed.

### **8.2.2 S215 Enforcement Action**

One property has been renovated and a further two are lodged in court. One of the owners is now in breach and LCC intends to ask the court to take action against them, on the basis of a £50 per day fine. Similar action will be progressed against the other property owner and it is anticipated that this will be by the end of October.

### **8.2.3 Chapel Hill Properties**

A purchase price has been agreed with the property owners on a subject to contract/without prejudice basis.

Leeds City Council has agreed to gap fund the Yorkshire Housing Association scheme. Yorkshire Housing Association are revising their scheme and hope to obtain a formal approval from their Board on 19 October. Once Board approval has been obtained they will apply to the Housing Corporation for funding.

## **9.0 Queensway Car Park Morley**

- 9.1 The objection period has now expired and the TRO is legally operational. All the lines & signs are in and the machines switched on. Explanatory leaflets (Appendix 3) have been left with Morrisons. There will be a 2 week grace period before the start of issuing tickets to those who overstay from Monday 13 October.

## **10.0 Ward Based Briefings**

- 10.1 Following consideration at the last meeting of the Priority Neighbourhood Worker and Neighbourhood Improvement Plans Report, the first ward based, Member Briefing meeting was held on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September for the Ardsley Robin Hood Councillors. The agenda was in part a chance for members to receive an overview from the Area Manager following the recent reorganisation and also to discuss the Ward Based Action Plan and the 2008/11 NIP's programme as agreed at the Area Committee.
- 10.2 Members agreed the Ward Based Action Plan with amendments and to meet again to follow up and to discuss the NIP areas.

## **11.0 Morley Literature Festival**

- 11.1 At time of writing an excellent programme of events has been confirmed for Morley Literature Festival 2008. The Organising Committee were disappointed to be notified by the Arts Council that the funding application for the 2008 Festival was not successful. The Director and Organising Committee have assessed the budget and allocated a maximum expenditure for marketing and promotional activities to increase the income from ticket sales.
- 11.2 Following the recommendations in evaluation report of the last festival, marketing is being targeted in two ways. Firstly at target audiences such as book groups and visitors to Leeds Light Night. Secondly, large scale promotion that will be seen or heard by a larger number of people. Posters advertising the festival will be placed at 9 railway stations across Leeds and adverts on Radio Aire and Magic are expected to reach over 150,000 people. In partnership with the Festival Organising Committee, Chamber of Trade and the Town Centre Management Project, Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October will see a Market Stall, Book Fair and Book Swap in the centre of Morley to promote the festival.
- 11.3 A full evaluation will be presented to members at the next Area Committee meeting.

## **12.0 Robin Hood Dispersal Order**

- 12.1 A new measure has been put in place to help tackle anti-social behaviour and youth nuisance in Robin Hood. From 20th October 2008, a Dispersal Order will cover most of the village from the Castlefield and Kingsfield neighbourhoods in the north, to the Sherwood Industrial Estate in the south. The Order gives a uniformed police officer or PCSO the authority to tell a group to leave the specified area. It can also be applied to an individual not living in the area, who can be told to leave and not return for a specified time up to 24 hours.

- 12.2 Between 9pm and 6am, the Dispersal Order gives the police the power to return home any young person under the age of sixteen who is not accompanied by a parent or responsible person.
- 12.3 Anyone asked to leave the area who does not do so can be charged under Section 30(4) of the Anti Social Behaviour Act 2003 which carries a fine of up to £5,000 and 3 months in prison. The Dispersal Order will be in force until 19th January 2009, and was approved by West Yorkshire Police and Leeds City Council after reports that youth nuisance and anti-social behaviour by large groups had been causing great distress to local residents.

### **13.0 Morley & Rothwell Town Centre Management Project**

- 13.1 The Outer South Area Committee at its meeting in September 2005 agreed to establish a Town Centre Management project for Morley & Rothwell. The project part funded by Morley Town Council was agreed for a three year period. The project formally started with the appointment of the Town Centre Manager in August 2006, a Town Centre Management Board (TCMB) was created by the Area Committee to include representation from traders and Morley Town Council to oversee the project with line management through Area Management. The project was in the main guided by an action plan for each town. The Area committee has received bi annual reports detailing the work of the scheme. TCMB and Area Committee have welcomed the progress made through these action plans.
- 13.2 The post holder is now in year three of a three year temporary contract and the Area Committee is asked to note the following information and make comment prior to receiving a more detailed report at a future meeting.
- 13.3 The situation currently is that should the Area Committee not agree to extend the life of the project beyond August 2009 then the post holder would be placed into the Managing Workforce Change Procedure for up to a period of 12 months. Although supernumerary to our structure his salary will remain the same and be drawn from the Wellbeing Budget. During the period of his redeployment HR will work with the post holder to find him a substantive role within the Authority. Should the Area Committee agree to extend the life of the project and agree some specific actions then at sometime in the future then the same process of redeployment would be employed.

### **14.0 Participatory Budgeting**

- 14.1 As a result of the successful 2008 Participatory Budgeting (PB) pilot in Drighlington, Area Management and Drighlington Parish Council have been contacted by the national Participatory Budgeting Unit and the Information Service Tenants: Empowerment and Participation (InSTEP) to discuss and promote the 'Big Spender' pilot as a case study for implementing PB principles.
- 14.2 The Chair of the Area Committee represented Leeds City Council in Manchester on the 15<sup>th</sup> September at the national conference for Participatory Budgeting to hear Hazel Blears announce Leeds as one of the 15 areas piloting the PB initiative. Organised by the Participatory Budgeting Unit, the conference explored the use of PB in supporting and developing communities. Following this, Area Management Team have been approached by the PB Unit to deliver a presentation at a PB seminar on the 6th November at the International Centre for Participation Studies, Bradford University.

- 14.3 The InSTEP conference for Yorkshire and Humberside planned for October 2008 where Area Management and Drighlington Paish Council were invited to deliver a workshop on the South pilot, has been postponed. We are awaiting to hear the rescheduled date for the conference but 'Big Spender' will still have a place on the agenda.
- 14.4 Further work is ongoing within Leeds City Council to consider the future development and wider applicability of PB within community engagement and decision making processes.

## **15.0 Recommendations**

- 15.1 The Area Committee is asked to note the above information and make comment as appropriate.
- 15.2 Agree the Thematic leads as listed in Appendix 1 and make the two final nominations for the Learning and Thriving Neighbourhoods (Employment, Education, Training Partnership and Health & Well Being Theme as requested in 2.2.)
- 15.3 Note the update on the Town Centre Management Project and agree to receive a further report to a future meeting.

## **Background Papers:**

- CCTV, 7<sup>th</sup> July 2008
- Well being Report, 1<sup>st</sup> September 2008
- Area Manager's, 1<sup>st</sup> September 2008
- Marsh Street Car Park, February 2008
- Queensway Car Park, 17<sup>th</sup> December 2007
- Conservation Area Reviews, 10<sup>th</sup> September 2007
- Morley Literature Festival Evaluation Report, 17<sup>th</sup> December 2007