
Report of the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods

To: Outer West Area Committee

Date: 19th December 2008

Subject: Area Manager's Report

Electoral Wards Affected:

Calverley & Farsley
Farnley & Wortley
Pudsey

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

The purpose of this report is to inform members of progress on a number of projects in Outer West Leeds as determined by the Area Delivery Plan 2008-11, which is in turn governed by the Area Committees functions and roles as agreed by Executive Board in July 2008.

1.0 Purpose of This Report

1.1 This report informs Members of the progress against Area Committee functions and roles as agreed by Executive Board in July 2008.

2.0 Background Information

2.1 The Area Management Review agreed by Executive Board in November 2007 proposed to further develop the responsibilities of the Area Committees during 2008/9. To this end, Area Committee functions and enhanced roles were agreed in July 2008.

3.0 Main Issues

Area Functions

- 3.1 **Area Well-Being Budgets** - The Area Committees have an annual capital and revenue allocation to support the promotion and improvement of the economic, social and environmental well being of the Committee's area. In Outer West, spending is estimated to be roughly on target as it is anticipated that the full budget will be committed by the end of the financial year i.e. at this Area Committee and February's meeting. Regular reports are submitted to the Area Committee to update on projects which it has supported through its Well Being funding. Monitoring reports are requested after 6 months of a project being awarded funding. It is anticipated that some projects will under-spend and therefore, some funding will be returned to the budget.
- 3.2 **Community Centres** – the Outer West Area Committee has three Community Centres in its Area, Swinnow which is self managed and Calverley Mechanics Institute and Westroyd Annex (directly managed).
- 3.3 Swinnow has not had a management committee in place for some time. However, four meetings have taken place in an attempt to establish a new committee. These have been attended by between 14 to 29 local residents and supported by West Leeds Area Management Team, elected ward Members and partners such as the Police, local school heads and Leeds VOICE. Many residents have expressed a wish to be involved in a new management committee and some have offered their services free of charge, for example, cleaning and caretaking. However, there is reluctance to take up the key roles of Chair, Treasurer and Secretary.
- 3.4 The Area Management Team, together with Park Springs School and two active residents have met to plan an Open Day at the Community Centre. It is envisaged that this would be a day offering a combination of fun attractions and information on services provided in the area, with partners such as the Police, Fire Service, Youth Service and ALMO attending. The aim is to get local residents into the centre to see the facility on offer and potential usage. A new play area is proposed for Swinnow and it is suggested that consultation on these proposals could form a major part of this open event to encourage people to attend.
- 3.5 Repairs to the centre are underway. All guttering has been replaced and steel guards have been fitted; anti vandal paint has been applied and signs fitted; broken gulleys have been replaced and steps / flags have been repaired; broken windows have been replaced and security floodlight fitted; security grilles have been fitted to all windows and steel kitchen door (steel plates are still to be fitted to the other two doors). Outstanding works are the replacement of the entrance doors and inner double doors which will be fitted by 5th December. Roof repairs have been carried out to the higher roof; the lower roof repairs will now be completed now that anti vandal paint has now been applied. Heating engineers have started on site and the heating should be fully operational by 12th December.
- 3.6 Area Management Officers are working with the Farsley & District Arts Club to finalise their lease and will be continuing to support the group in their tenancy of the Westroyd Annexe. It is anticipated that the lease will be in place early in the new year.

- 3.7 **Neighbourhood Wardens** – Outer West Area Management is supported by two Wardens (one Senior), who are funded through the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund and Well-Being Funding.
- 3.8 Initiatives in Farnley and Wortley area have included the Unpaid Service Team focusing on project work clearing ginnels and footpaths in November. A multi-agency action day took place on the Tong estate on 2nd December where local residents were given crime prevention packs and advice on how to stay safe and avoid being a victim of crime over the Christmas period. The local warden for the Heights and Gamble Hill areas attended a ‘market stall’ event at Greenhill Primary school on the 27th November, organised by West North West Area Management Team. The wardens have been working with the Anti-Social Behaviour unit staff in relation to complaints of ASB on the Nutting Grove area in Farnley.
- 3.9 **CCTV** – the Outer West area continues to support 10 (overall) Closed Circuit Television Cameras CCTV in Farnley, Farsley and Pudsey. This on-going support does have quite a heavy impact on the revenue part of the well-being budget, particularly as CCTV contracts are entered into on a five year basis.
- 3.10 However, given the widespread use of CCTV across the City, early discussions are taking place which may result in Area Management only being asked to fund half the CCTV costs in the future, with mainstream funding being provided for the remainder. Clearly this could have a large impact on the wellbeing budget.
- 3.11 Due to recent damage to the play area floor covering in Pudsey Park, the costs of installing CCTV to cover that area are being investigated. The bus station development will include CCTV which could potentially cover the play area, but this is a longer term scheme and a more immediate solution is required.
- 3.12 **Neighbourhood Management Co-ordination** – this covers the identification of priority neighbourhoods across the Area that require more intensive resources to drive service improvements and better local outcomes. This includes improving the co-ordination of key services across the Council, and local partners.
- 3.13 Two Neighbourhood Management Co-ordination schemes or Neighbourhood Management Initiative (NMI) Schemes exist in Outer West, the Bawns NMI, and in response to the Indices of Deprivation figures 2007, the Gambles and Heights NMI, who are in the bottom 10 and 5 per cent of neighbourhoods respectively.
- 3.14 Area management are working towards and exit strategy on the Bawns NMI for 09/10 (due to the fact that the area is no longer in the bottom 10% of deprived areas). However, in the meantime, West North West Homes are suggesting that an environmental improvement “masterplan” of the area is drawn up in conjunction with Groundwork Leeds. If this goes ahead, this work would serve as a visual reminder that the estate has progressed and is a safer and more pleasant place to live.
- 3.15 A multi-agency action day took place on the Tong estate on 2nd December. Partner agencies included the Police, Environmental Action Team, Anti-social Behaviour Unit, Neighbourhood Wardens, Street Scene, West North West Homes Leeds and West Yorkshire Fire Service. The purpose of the action day was to provide reassurance and

crime prevention advice on the estate. Local residents were given crime prevention packs and advice on how to stay safe and avoid being a victim of crime over the Christmas period.

4.0 Area Roles

- 4.1 Area Committees were recently given enhanced roles in relation to a number of services. It is intended that this report (which is a regular item on Area Committee agenda) will provide an update on any particular services/areas where relevant to the Area's work programme at that point in time.
- 4.2 **Community Engagement** – At the last Area Committee, Members agreed a Community Engagement Strategy for 2009. A report elsewhere on this agenda sets out further detail on the community engagement events and calendar of activities for next year.
- 4.3 The Farnley and Wortley Forum was held in the Gambles area of the Ward in November 2008. It was decided that rather than holding a normal forum a “market place” style event would be held, where all of the agencies involved in the Gambles and Heights Local Area Management Plan (LAMP) e.g Neighbourhood Policing Team, Environmental Action Team, Streetscene (recycling), Anti Social Behaviour Unit, Leeds Healthy Living Network, The Heights Café and Street Lighting, would hold stalls, providing information about their work, and specifically the interface with the LAMP.
- 4.4 The event was advertised through “pupil post”, posters in local shops, invites to regular forum members, and personal invites to households on the estate from the Ward Councillors. However, unfortunately only eight members of the public attended the event.
- 4.5 Obviously, there are always issues with holding evening meetings in terms of when is the best time to hold it (this event was held between 5-8 p.m.). However, the fact remains that unless there is a “burning issue” within a community, attendance at such events will remain low. This analysis will be borne in mind when planning the future “What’s the Big Idea” consultation events i.e we need to make sure that the issue we are consulting on is topical for the community.

5.0 Area Based Regeneration Schemes and Town and District Centre Projects

- 5.1 **Lower Wortley Road Improvement Scheme** – Plans are currently being submitted to Planning for final approval for this scheme, with the intention of starting work on site in the New Year. It is also hoped to be able to include plans for moving an existing bus stop on Lower Wortley Road to a more user friendly location on the same road. If this goes ahead, it is to be welcomed as joined up thinking, as originally plans were in place to move this stop after the improvement scheme had ended. This would have resulted in temporarily displacing the new shop forecourt surface, running the risk of it being replaced in a less than satisfactory manner.
- 5.2 **Pudsey Town and District Centre Scheme** – Much of this scheme has now completed on site; namely Leisure Centre car park and Lidget Hill car park re-modelling, town hall architectural lighting and market re-furbishment. In addition,

planning permission was secured during August 2008 for a new £2m bus station. Metro's architects and the Council are currently finalising the detailed design work for the proposed new bus station and associated highway works. Issues raised at Plans Panel which still need resolving include materials, disabled parking bays and cycle storage. Work on the bus station is currently programmed to start in Spring 2009 and will take around 11 months to complete. The first tier of consultation on the proposed new Traffic Regulation Order is now underway. Metro and Council officers will meet with the local business community during January 2009 and will also update the Pudsey & Swinnow forum.

- 5.3 There is also ongoing investment in Pudsey Park, comprising a new playground (£210,000), Pets corner/new build West Leeds Country Park Visitor Centre (£190,000) and Bandstand (£52,000). The playground and bandstand are complete and work is ongoing at the Visitor Centre. These were funded through the Parks Renaissance scheme. The skatepark was funded utilising S106 monies.
- 5.4 Funding has been secured for new public toilets to replace the existing free standing facilities adjacent to the park. However, this work is on hold pending agreement of plans to update and re-model the Leisure Centre. It is anticipated that new public toilets would be provided as part of the proposed Leisure Centre re-development plan. Ward Members will be presented with plans for this scheme by the end of the year.
- 5.5 Legal agreements are currently being drawn up to secure funding from developers of the Cemetery Road site for the creation of a bus lay-by and footpath improvements on Lidget Hill. However, the current economic climate has had an impact on the timescale for this work.
- 5.6 A new Town Centre Manager for Armley and Pudsey has now been appointed and started in post on 3rd November. A full report on his achievements so far and priorities for the year ahead will be presented to the Area Committee in February 2009, but a brief summary is attached at Appendix 1.
- 5.7 **Farsley Town and District Centre Scheme** - The main work in Farsley is now complete, including fencing, cobbled 'gateways' on Back Lane and Prospect Street, Library improvements, memorial gardens upgrade and some new heritage style bins. In addition, CCTV was installed two years ago. The only outstanding area of work is the ginnel opposite the toilets. This is to be re-surfaced with turf and the area tidied. In addition, some additional work around the Cenotaph and some further street cobbling is to be combined with the Private Street Works Programme on High Street.
- 5.8 The Town & District Centre Scheme across the city is being entered for a regeneration award and the Pudsey scheme together with those in Kippax and Wetherby are being showcased as good examples of best practice within the scheme.

5.9 Leeds – Bradford corridor

- 5.10 The post of Senior Project Manager to oversee the work identified by the Leeds Bradford Sub groups (Transport, Jobs, Skills and Enterprise, Employment Land, Housing, Connectivity) has been re-advertised, and recruitment is underway with a view to having someone in post by Spring 2009.
- 5.11 A new governance structure is proposed for the Leeds – Bradford project which would see the current Officer Steering Group with its five ‘workstreams’, plus the quarterly Members meeting, replaced with a new Programme Board with responsibility for providing an executive steer on the Leeds – Bradford programme. This would be a much smaller group made up of officers, key Members and external partners. The Board would focus primarily on physical regeneration, housing, economic development, transport and commercial developments.
- 5.12 The new Senior Project Manager will facilitate and support the new Programme Board. The new arrangements will be developed in line with project management fundamentals.
- 5.13 A suggested way forward is to establish a new Stakeholders’ Advisory Group with a more strategic and focused remit, capable of aligning the social and economic priorities for Leeds – Bradford in particular, worklessness, skills development, business health and community safety with the physical work programme. Spatial planning for the area will be developed that will enable evidenced strategic funding bids to be placed with the new Housing and Communities Agency and the Yorkshire Regional Housing Board.

5.14 Conservation Area Reviews

- 5.15 The Pudsey appraisal will be completed by Christmas and be circulated for internal consultation in early January. This will be followed by public consultation including a 6 week display in Pudsey library and a drop-in meeting in late January, possibly on a Saturday morning in Pudsey Leisure Centre.
- 5.16 The Calverley appraisal is also now being circulated for internal consultation for two weeks. It will then go out to wider public consultation and then to Planning Board.
- 5.17 Ward Members are being closely involved with this review process.

5.18 PCSOs / NPTs / Champion

- 5.19 Initiates taken place over the last six week period by the NPT in Outer West include, staff from Pudsey Police Station took part in a ladies football match with pupils of Farnley High school on Farnley Rec. A number of youths have been arrested from the Farnley area for an offence of robbery against other youths. Three youths have been charged; with the other youth on police bail whilst further enquiries are being made.

- 5.20 The NPT responded to information from the local community resulting in a drugs warrant being successfully executed on the heights Estate, which resulted in two arrests.
- 5.21 Operation Clean Sweep, is a NPT initiative to track down and arrest offenders who are wanted for serious offences such as burglary. This has included increased patrols and over 200 crime prevention leaflets being handed out by the NPT staff in Calverley and Farsley ward on the run up to Christmas.
- 5.22 The Home Secretary Jackie Smith and Justice Secretary Jack Straw came to Calverley for the unveiling of the Calverley/Woodhall policing pledge. The pledge which will be rolled out to all neighbourhoods within Outer West, outlines the clear minimum standards of service the police need to deliver to tackle local issues. The NPT are working with ward member and partner agencies to address concerns from Calverley residents in relation to car speeds on Woodhall Road. Officers are now patrolling the area and will prosecute speeding motorists.
- 5.23 The NPT attended the Christmas light switch on for Pudsey and Farsley; both events ran smoothly with no incidents.
- 5.24 The NPT are concentrating on the lead up to Christmas in the DPPO (Designated Public Places Order) area of Pudsey to tackle any public order and alcohol related crime. The NPT with staff from West North West homes Leeds have been conducting crime surveys in Farsley around the Owlcotes Road, Inghams and Waterloo Estate to assist in identifying, tackle and reduce ASB in these areas.

6.0 Implications for Council Policy and Governance

- 6.1 The Area Delivery Plan for Outer West is administered through the West Leeds Area Management team.
- 6.2 Well being projects are derived from West Leeds Area Management's Area Delivery plan and developed via consultation with Area Committee Members. This Plan helps to fulfill the Council's Corporate Plan objectives by aiming to create better neighbourhoods and confident communities.

7.0 Legal and Resource Implications

- 7.1 In order to meet the Area Committee's **functions**, funding is available via Well Being budgets, the Community Centres Budget and Neighbourhood Renewal Funding.
- 7.2 In order to meet the Area Committee's **roles**, funding is in the main supplied by other Leeds City Council Departments mainstream budgets, and external partner agencies e.g. the Police and Primary Care Trust, which is in turn reflected in the fact that the Area Committee's role here is only to influence, develop and consult. However, wellbeing funding has resourced some projects here e.g. community engagement, area based regeneration schemes and conservation area reviews.

8.0 Conclusions

8.1 The functions and roles of the Area Committee aim to:

- Improve the quality and value for money of Council service delivery
- Improve the quality of democracy and find new ways to facilitate citizen participation in local government through the development of links between Ward Members and their communities.
- To co-ordinate policy and service delivery between the local service providers.

9.0 Recommendations

9.1 Outer West Area Committee members are invited to note the contents of the report and to comment on any aspect of the matters raised.

Background Papers:

Executive Board Report July 2008 'Area Committee Roles 2008/9'

Indices of Deprivation Figures 2003-7