



Report of the Director City Development

Executive Board

Date: 13th February 2009

Subject: City Centre Vision – One Year On

Electoral Wards Affected:

Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Eligible for Call In

Not Eligible for Call In

(Details contained in the report)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The City Centre Vision Conference was held in January 2008. It began a process to determine the aspirations for the city centre and to identify the means through which they could be realised, working in partnership with all stakeholders and the community as a whole. The overarching message from the conference was that all stakeholders needed to have the confidence and courage to be aspirational and ambitious.
2. The outcomes of the Conference and proposals on the way forward were outlined in a report to Executive Board on 11 June 2008. Executive Board noted the successful outcome of the City Centre Vision Conference and agreed
 - i) that officers investigate the feasibility of implementing the 'Big Ideas' from the Conference;
 - ii) that officers work with and consult the Leeds Initiative and other partnership groups to help develop more detailed proposals;
 - iii) that an annual update on overall progress be brought back to Executive Board in 2009 and that reports on individual projects were brought back to Executive Board at the appropriate time.
3. Executive Board was also informed that a Prospectus would be produced setting out the ambitions for the city centre arising from the Conference. This Prospectus has been produced and is available at <http://www.leedsinitiative.org/citycentre>.

4. The Table in Section 3.0 outlines the ongoing projects identified in the Prospectus and summarises progress against them. Progress has been made on key projects such as the city centre park, improving the legibility of the city centre, the development of the Arena, improving cultural facilities and access to them, improving the public realm and supporting retail and leisure businesses in the city centre.
5. This report recommends that Members note the progress on delivering the City Centre Vision

1.0 Purpose Of This Report

- 1.1 This report updates Executive Board on progress in achieving the City Centre Vision developed at the City Centre Vision Conference in January 2008.

2.0 Background Information

- 2.1 The City Centre Vision Conference was held in January 2008. It began a process through which the aspirations for the city centre could be fully determined and started to identify the means through which they could be realised, working in partnership with all stakeholders and the community as a whole. The overarching message from the conference was that all stakeholders needed to have the confidence and courage to be aspirational and ambitious.
- 2.2 The outcomes of the Conference and proposals on the way forward were outlined in a report to Executive Board on 11 June 2008. Executive Board noted the successful outcome of the City Centre Vision Conference and agreed:
 - i) that officers investigate the feasibility of implementing the 'Big Ideas' from the Conference;
 - ii) that officers work with and consult the Leeds Initiative and other partnership groups to help develop more detailed proposals;
 - iii) that an annual update on overall progress be brought back to Executive Board and that reports on individual projects were brought back to Executive Board at the appropriate time.
- 2.3 Executive Board was also informed that a Prospectus would be produced which would be a short promotional document setting out the ambitions for the city centre arising from the Conference. It would show clearly how the short term actions and major project ideas would contribute to those shared long term aspirations. This Prospectus has been produced and distributed widely; it is available at <http://www.leedsinitiative.org/citycentre>. Copies will be available at the Meeting.
- 2.4 Following the publication of the Prospectus the Yorkshire Evening Post gave week long coverage, interviewing key stakeholders on each of the Prospectus's eight themes and featuring the Prospectus on the front page on the first day. The coverage was largely positive.
- 2.5 The City Centre Area Action Plan currently being produced, will reflect the aspirations of the City Centre Vision.

3.0 Main Issues

3.1 The Table below outlines the on-going projects identified in the Prospectus and how they are progressing. Whilst most of the projects are the responsibility of the Council, others have been delivered or are being progressed by external bodies.

Leeds City Centre 2020 Where we are now.

Prospectus Theme	Project	Progress
Welcoming	Promote the diversity of the city centre through events and education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Welcome Group being established focusing on people feeling welcome and safe with close links to Public Realm work. ▪ Events Group to be established if required following development of Events Strategy. ▪ Santa's grotto introduced on Briggate as part of Festive Leeds 08. ▪ Successful learning programme at cultural venues eg Leeds Grand Theatre, Art Gallery and Crime and Punishment at Town Hall aimed at bringing people to city centre who otherwise wouldn't come here.
	Create new easy to follow maps and signs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Base city centre map being produced by end March 09 and locations for integrated wayfinding units being identified.
	Continue to reduce crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ City Centre Community Safety Partnership tackling range of crimes, Business Against Crime In Leeds membership growing, Street Chaplains operating Friday and Saturday nights. ▪ Taxi marshalling operated in run up to Christmas.
	Increase number of our city centre ambassadors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Three were in post in Jan 08 rising to five by April 09.
	Improve the quality of the public realm and information at key arrival points. (see also Quality Environment)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Property Forum Quality Places and Spaces sub group being formally used as sounding board on Public Realm inc arrival points, maintenance and cleansing. Meetings held and way forward being agreed. ▪ Public Arts Group established; a number of developers have agreed to commission public art as part of new buildings. Success of Accumulator, a new seating commissioned for Albion Place and Art Installation in Howard Assembly Room. ▪ Neville Street lighting scheme due for completion in May 2009
	Improve accessibility to and within the city centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Inner ring road completed; East Leeds link road due to complete early 2009 ▪ Two new pedestrian bridges on the River Aire. ▪ New southern entrance planned for train

Prospectus Theme	Project	Progress
		station.

Prospectus Theme	Project	Progress
Cultural City Centre	Develop an Arena, refurbish City Varieties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Preferred and reserve Arena sites selected, operator appointed. ▪ City Varieties refurbishment programmed to start 2009. ▪ Grand Theatre and Assembly Room restoration complete and formal opening on 16th January
	Keep the new Museum invigorated and responsive to changing needs with regular visiting exhibitions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Museum receiving good reviews. Target footfall of 120,000 visitors per year will be exceeded: 108,000 visitors had attended by mid January. ▪ Innovative exhibition plan in place for the museum.
	Improve access to culture for young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Leeds is one of only 10 authorities to gain Find Your Talent funding (£2.5m available over 3 years) to investigate ways to improve young peoples' access to culture, including accessing many of the city centre venues. ▪ New website design for young people due March 2009 to provide information on all cultural opportunities they can access. ▪ New learning officers in major Heritage venues and innovative learning programmes being introduced. ▪ 'Breeze has talent' event discovered some seriously good talent amongst young people who are now being mentored by key artists eg drummer with Embrace.
	Organise the Jane Tomlinson Run for Life, photographic exhibitions, theatre, dance, music and opera.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increased participation in Jane Tomlinson Run for Life, ▪ On going.
	Extend and expand the Art Gallery and Central Library	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The new exhibition gallery held its first major exhibition – Stubbs - which was a great success. ▪ Lyons Gallery refurbished. ▪ Plan to develop the Lecture theatre and the Terrace Bar during 2009
	Maximise opportunities arising from 2012, including becoming a Live site as we build from Beijing 2008 to London 2012.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Culture working group of key opinion formers in the city developing plans. Negotiations ongoing with LOCOG regarding a live site.
Bring new events of national and international significance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Proposals being developed; Arena will also help to deliver this. 	

Prospectus Theme	Project	Progress

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Quality Environment	Encourage high quality design in new buildings and continue to support The Leeds Award for Architecture.	On going
	Continue to refurbish the central pedestrian area to a higher standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Albion Place repaving completed, public art seating and tree installation due Jan 2009 - March 2009. ▪ Refurbishment of Lands Lane and Central Square (outside WH Smith's) programmed for completion by Nov 2010.
	Make Leeds Europe's Cleanest City;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ On going incremental improvements including new litter bins being fitted and chewing gum treatment being trialed.
	Declutter the city centre and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of its lighting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lighting progressed as streets refurbished ▪ Removal of street clutter also being piloted in 3 areas. A full survey of three sites has been carried out. Full report being produced on what can be removed or replaced with different form of 'barrier' such as raised planters? ▪ Large numbers of signs and poles have been removed as a by product of city centre surveys carried out to ensure all parking signs and lines were legal. ▪ Officers are looking innovatively at future traffic schemes to ensure options which could minimise clutter are identified.

Prospectus Theme	Project	Progress
Well Connected	Improve Public Transport and introduce tram-trains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Council and Metro made joint bid for funding under the Government's Transport Innovation Fund. ▪ £150m allocated from the Regional Transport Board to progress New Generation Transport.
	Complete the Inner Ring Road (IIR) and the East Leeds Link (ELL) Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ IIR completed Nov 2008; ELL Road to be completed early 2009.
	Create a southern access to the railway station	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Designs being completed, anticipated completion Summer 2010, subject to planning permission.
	Create park and ride facilities for	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Being progressed subject to site

Prospectus Theme	Project	Progress
Well Connected (cont)	city centre commuters and visitors	acquisition/funding .
	Have more bridges across the river	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ One opened on Whitehall Road scheme, another in place at Granary Wharf.
	Use the internet and mobile phone technology to provide information on where to go, how to get there and what to do.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ LeedsCast mobile phone system using Bluetooth technology in place and more transmitter pods being located. ▪ http://www.citycentreleeds.org website revamped. ▪ BreezeLeeds website being redeveloped for young people to improve their knowledge about what is available for them
	Encourage employers to recruit from surrounding communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ongoing, at present however job losses are more of an issue than recruitment although schemes such as the Arena will present opportunities.

Prospectus Theme	Project	Progress
Legible	Create new easy to follow maps and an improved signage system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New base walking map to be created March 2009, signage and maps on streets to be improved during 2009/10
	Improve the quality of streets, by repaving and maintaining them and taking away unnecessary clutter.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Refurbishment of pedestrian area ongoing, pilot removal of street clutter ongoing.
	Put in more benches and trees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Five new sculptured benches and trees in Albion Place 2009 and more seating and trees planned for Land's Lane.
	Improve access to and from the train station	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feasibility of reducing traffic lanes outside the station being investigated, southern entrance being designed and planned. • A draft proposal has been agreed between the Council (Urban Design, UTC and Highway Development) and Metro. • Metro are currently undertaking the preliminary design work. • It is anticipated that a draft scheme, together with estimated costs, timescales and funding will be prepared by February 2009.

Prospectus Theme	Project	Progress
Liveable	Create a city centre park.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Report on feasibility and funding

Prospectus Theme	Project	Progress
Liveable (cont)		being made to Council's Executive Board in February 09; if approved consultation with key stakeholders Easter 2009.
	Plant more trees on our streets.	On going
	Continue working with partners on the River Aire to improve accessibility, develop a stewardship scheme and encourage more activity on the waterfront.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ First waterfront festival organised in the summer 08. ▪ Shopping Week finale with Channel Four's Gok Wan drew large crowds to Clarence Dock in Oct 08. ▪ Waterfront Association and Aire Action Leeds now well established with good representation.
	Increase the range of activities, and facilities (eg Arena, Museum, Waterfront festival).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Preferred and reserve Arena sites chosen. ▪ Museum been a great success with footfall higher than expected, ▪ 2nd Waterfront festival planned. ▪ Annual programme of Events planned and funded.
Encourage a broader mix of housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ongoing through the planning process, however due to the economic downturn some new schemes being put on hold or redesigned to remove housing element. 	

Theme	Project	Progress
Business Friendly	Promote Leeds at national and international trade shows and conferences including MAPIC, (retail) MIPIM (property) and elsewhere	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Leeds in Milan in October 08, Leeds at MAPIC and MIPIM in 2008.
	Provide sector support eg. promoting Leeds as a financial centre, striving to encourage more independent retail in the city centre, helping businesses to source local labour, supporting creative industries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ongoing through Shopping Week, development of the Retail Academy, work of Marketing Leeds (eg Leeds Week in Milan) and other initiative proposals.
	Hold Shopping Week, Festive Leeds and Taste food festival each year to help retailers and restaurants promote their offers, to draw more visitors to the city centre, to encourage repeat visits and to increase dwell time.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Shopping Week and Festive Leeds offers both expanded, first Taste festival held. ▪ Shopping Week nominated for an Association of Town Centre Managers' award.
	Provide useful and timely intelligence to businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ongoing through Leeds Initiative, the Chamber and Council services. This is becoming increasingly important as the

Theme	Project	Progress
		economic downturn deepens.

Theme	Project	Progress
Sustainable	Improve the local authority's own environmental performance in the city centre and encourage others to do so to address climate change and reduce running costs; eg building to a BREEAM excellent standard.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ On going ▪ Draft climate change strategy has been out to public consultation. As part of this a successful climate change adaptation workshop with key partners was held in December.
	Improve public transport.	See above
	Address flood alleviation in ways that minimise costs and functional disruption while maximising benefits.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ On going. The Environment Agency will hold public consultations in Spring 2009 on the proposals prior to them going to the EA's National Review Group Meeting in September 2009. Depending on the outcome, DEFRA / Treasury Approval would be sought in 2010 with construction commencing on site in 2010/11.
	Work with the Environment Agency and others to improve biodiversity on the river and canal and remove barriers to fish.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval by Executive Board in January 2009 that contributions towards the provision of fish passes be sought from appropriate developments and that support for the provision of fish passes be included within the relevant Area Action Plans.
	Develop local decentralised energy solutions to the city centre's power, heating and cooling needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Feasibility work ongoing
	Create a city workshop and room to enable investors, the community and other stakeholders to work together to promote the sustainable development of Leeds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ City Room created at Wellington Place (between Wellington Road and Whitehall Road) is being well used.

4.0 Implications For Council Policy And Governance

4.1 None

5.0 Legal And Resource Implications

5.1 Any Legal or resource implications will be highlighted in separate project specific reports.

6.0 Conclusions

- 6.1 Work is ongoing to deliver projects that will help to realise the Vision for the City Centre set out at the Conference. The Vision will continue to evolve and new projects will be identified over time.

7.0 Recommendations

- 7.1 It is recommended that Members note the progress on delivering the City Centre Vision.

Background Papers

Executive Board Report 'City Centre Vision Conference and Follow Upon' 11 June 2008

Leeds City Centre 2020 A Prospectus for our future