



Report of the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods

Inner West Area Committee

Date: 12th February 2009

Subject: Update on New Wortley Local Action Management Plan (LAMP)

Electoral Wards Affected:

Armley
Bramley and Stanningley

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 details the current situation in the New Wortley neighbourhood regarding current deprivation facing the community and which is addressed via the New Wortley Local Action Management Plan. (LAMP). The report seeks renewed support and direction for future initiatives to address these issues.

1.0 Purpose of This Report

- 1.1 To update the Inner West Area Committee regarding the New Wortley neighbourhood and its current position in the Indices of Deprivation (IoD) issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government. Details of successes to date and views of local people are reported plus the opportunities for continued improvements, and the potential barriers to achieving them.

2.0 Background Information

- 2.1 A Local Action Management Plan for the neighbourhood was first drafted over 3 years ago in response to the 2004 Indices of Deprivation. The New Wortley LAMP multi-agency officer group was formed to deliver this plan and reported to the West Leeds District Partnership and the Area Committee who supported it. To ensure progress is made regarding the LAMP, the group meet every 10 weeks. The group receive an update on what is happening in the neighbourhood from the tenants and residents group and from each agency who are delivering projects locally. There is good attendance to the meetings and a commitment to deliver enhanced services from those agencies attending.

- 2.2 In the IoD figures for 2004 the average position of the neighbourhood was 1063 out of 32,482 placing it in the bottom 4% of deprived neighbourhoods in the country. The main issue causing this deprivation was Crime and Disorder which ranked the neighbourhood 768 from the bottom.
- 2.3 Following concerted action by the New Wortley Residents Association and the officer group led initially by West Yorkshire Police and then after 6 months by Area Management, an action plan was drafted and Crime and Disorder was addressed. In the revised IoD figures published in 2007 the ranking for crime and disorder had improved from 768 to 4,707 taking the neighbourhood out of the bottom 10% of worst neighbourhoods for this indice. This, together with a significant improvement in the reduction to Barriers to Housing Services, resulted in the community improving by 25 places. (see table below) Today, local people state that from a community safety perspective the neighbourhood is quiet and stable with the exception of sporadic youth nuisance.

Statistics for New Wortley				
	SOA Position	2004	2007	Change
Average	3.3%	1,063	1,088	+25
Income	5.6%	1,975	1,829	-146
Employment	1.8%	1,412	609	-803
Health/Disability	3.8%	1,580	1,251	-329
Education/Skills/Training	3.2%	846	1,056	+210
Barriers to Housing Services	6.8%	13,927	22,380	+8453
Crime & Disorder	14.4%	768	4,707	+3939
Living Env't	26%	8,866	8,458	- 408
Deprivation affecting Children	8.5%	2,942	2,755	- 187
Deprivation affecting Older People.	15%	2,393	4,853	+2460

3.0 Progress and Achievements

3.1 There has also been other significant progress in the neighbourhood, examples of which are listed below, and these have contributed to the sustainability of the community such that according to the neighbourhood housing manager turnover amongst local authority housing stock is low. This is substantiated by the facts that over 200 tenants have lived in the area for over 8 years. There are currently 22 empty properties in the neighbourhood but some of these are unlettable at the moment (such as the T Blocks) and therefore the true level of void properties is lower.

- Demolition of the Liberal Club which was a blight on the area.
- Installation of a Multi-Use Games Area
- Successful regeneration of the New Wortley Community Centre and the services delivered from the site including 2 social enterprises such as the After School Club and the Community Café.
- Commencement of the decency works programme for local authority owned properties.
- Development of an Area Action Plan for regeneration of New Wortley and the development of the LAMP partnership group.
- Provision of the Wortley Children's Centre providing family support and crèche facilities for local parents seeking return to work and training.

- Operation Champion July 08

4.0 Challenges

- 4.1 However, even though considerable improvements have been made in some areas the neighbourhood still remains in the bottom 4% in the country after 3 years. It is noted that in those areas which are key to improving the life chances of local people – employment and health, - the situation in the neighbourhood has worsened.
- 4.2 It is difficult to be certain of the true picture in the neighbourhood as the IoD data is 3 years old and therefore is not the most up to date information, but it does suggest that it may be an improving situation as the Education, Skills and Training domain has improved by 20% in the past 3 years which is testament to the hard work undertaken by the local High Schools and Jobs and Skills service. It may be that if success in this area continues with further projects and initiatives, then the employment prospects and improved health of local people can be secured for the longer term. However, this does have to be considered in the light of the current economic situation. Discussions are currently taking place with *NHSLeeds* regarding specific health issues affecting the community and what types of health initiative can be delivered to address these.
- 4.3 With regard to improving educational attainment, although some progress is being made it is slow. The success rate for achieving 5+ GCSEs A*-C grade in 2005 was 18.18% for New Wortley¹ compared to the figure of 56% for Leeds.² (This figure increases to 23% and 24% respectively for Wortley High School and West Leeds High School for 2007)³ Discussions have been held with the head of the Extended Schools Cluster regarding working with the cohort of excluded pupils or those not engaging with the main stream curriculum, but funding for 'Out of School Opportunities' initiatives is scarce, and programmes although successful are difficult to maintain. Similarly there is evidence that parents of children at local High Schools are wanting to engage in supporting their education. but funding remains an obstacle to making progress.

5.0 Next Steps

- 5.1 It is considered that the future role of the LAMP should focus on health and education and skills whilst keeping a watching brief on community safety and the environment, improvements in which need to be maintained in order to keep community confidence which will allow the purpose of the LAMP to be re-aligned.
- 5.2 A presentation on the New Wortley LAMP was recently made to senior officers of the West North West Partner Network and it was agreed that attention should focus on;
- Link Extended Schools Initiative to Jobs and Skills.
 - Partnership Management should continue.
 - Community Safety support should be mainstreamed.
 - Devise an environmental action plan in partnership with LCC in terms of financial support to the West North West Homes Leeds for additional work.

¹ Source: Education Leeds 2005

² One Year. Education Leeds Annual Report 2006/07

³ <http://education.guardian.co.uk>

6.0 Implications for Council Policy and Governance

- 5.1 The role of the LAMP in New Wortley is to support the Narrowing the Gap agenda so that life opportunities for local people are improved and the neighbourhood continues to thrive and be sustainable. This is significant for both older people and children as crime, jobs, and neighbourhood renewal impacts on all residents in the community. The LAMP is managed by officers of West North West Area Management Team. Engaging with the community is a delegated function of the Area Committee.

6.0 Conclusions

- 6.1 Significant work has been achieved through multi-agency working in New Wortley neighbourhood and improvements have been made. However increased activity is required to improve the health and educational prospects of local people and this has resource implications.

7.0 Recommendations

The Area Committee is asked to:

- 7.1 Note the contents of the report and provide comments.

Background Papers

None