
Report of the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods

To: Inner West Area Committee

Date: 9th April 2009

Subject: Area Managers Report

Electoral Wards Affected:

Armley

Bramley & 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

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

3.1 Environment

3.1.2 Field of Dreams

3.1.3 In April 2007 St Bartholomew's Primary School, Armley, applied to the People's Millions, Big Lottery, for a grant to create an informal community garden on designated public space adjacent to St. Bartholomew's Primary School. The application was successful and they were awarded £79,930.

3.1.4 Groundwork Leeds are working on the scheme designs, and Parks and Countryside are to undertake the works and deliver the project. It is envisaged that the scheme will be completed by June 2009.

3.2 Thriving Communities

3.2.1 Worklessness Pilot

3.2.2 The aim of the pilot is to reduce worklessness amongst a number of targeted neighbourhoods across the city, which are Halton Moor, Osmondthorpe, Gipton and New Wortley. The pilot will offer intensive wrap around support to identified families/ individuals to encourage them to address the barriers they face in moving into and staying in work. The pilot is a new person-centred approach to address the needs of individuals and to work in partnership with a broad spectrum of statutory and voluntary sector service providers.

3.2.3 The proposed approach aims to coordinate activity in the neighbourhoods and is intended to demonstrate that there are efficiencies to be achieved by effectively joining up services and responding to the individual needs of people. The pilot is a direct response to the recommendations made in the Shreeveport Report, the individuals need to be the focus of the journey and services need to offer individual tailored advice to meet the requirements of the customer. The pilot will establish a network of Family Mentors to work across the target neighbourhoods to utilise a wide range of sources of support personalised to the needs of the individuals. The support will cover a wide range of elements dependent on individual needs; from signposting to partner organisations to personal development plans and wrap round support.

3.2.4 Integrated Money Advice Pilot

3.2.5 Work is underway to roll out an integrated money advice pilot to be run in two areas in Leeds involving a coordination of services from multiple partners. The areas chosen for the first pilots are South Seacroft followed by Armley.

3.2.6 Partners would include: LCC Welfare Benefits and Rights, Debt Advice Agencies, Housing ALMO's, Social Care, NHS PCT, LCC Corporate Debt Team, Leeds City Credit Union, Customer Services One Stop Centres and Contact Centre, Energy Advice. A report on financial inclusion, the credit crunch and debt, money advice services in Leeds is also a separate item on this agenda.

3.2.7 Armley Town Street Clear Up

3.2.8 The agencies involved with the clean up day on the 12th February included Neighbourhood Wardens, who on the day were supervising Community Pay Back individuals to clean areas of graffiti. They also advised people on subjects such as littering. Environment Action Team officers were in attendance visiting businesses and advising on issues around their responsibilities regarding waste and other issues. The Fire Service were also there to look at any potential hazards.

3.2.9 West Leeds Gateway Update

3.2.10 The West Leeds Gateway is one of the city's key regeneration initiatives aimed at narrowing the gap between the most disadvantaged people and communities in West Leeds and the rest of the city. The council's case for focusing on West Leeds lies not only in the area's high levels of deprivation but also in the realistic opportunities for sustainable intervention by the council and other agencies which will ensure that West Leeds is well positioned to take advantage of anticipated future economic growth in Leeds and across West Yorkshire.

3.2.11 A Strategic Delivery & Investment Plan (SDIP) which will form part of the AAP has been drafted for consideration at the WLG Programme Board on 17 March 2009. The plan sets out the regeneration key priorities and projects over the next 5 years and includes New Wortley, the Gateway sites, Armley Town Centre and Armley Mills.

3.2.12 A new West Leeds Gateway Stakeholders' Advisory Group has been set up, which seeks to establish a more strategic and focused remit capable of aligning the social and economic priorities for West Leeds, in particular, worklessness, skills development and neighbourhood management with the physical work programme.

3.2.13 The first meeting was held on the 3rd February. Whilst attendance was good given the weather conditions, it was agreed that a further meeting in April would be held to revisit the two workshops on the 1 – 5 yr Strategic Delivery & Investment Plan (SDIP) and West Leeds Gateway governance.

3.2.14 Neighbourhood Wardens

3.2.15 There are 5 Neighbourhood Wardens working in Inner West funded through Neighbourhood Renewal Fund, Safer Stronger Communities Funding, Area Committee and West North West Homes Leeds funding. The wardens are based on the Wyther estate, Broadlea, Fairfield, and New Wortley area.

3.2.16 An application has been submitted to this Area Committee to continue the joint funding of two neighbourhood wardens posts in New Wortley for a further 12 months and to joint fund one post to cover the Wyther and Fairfield area with West North West Homes Leeds.

3.2.17 Recently, the Wardens, have been involved in:

- Clearing and cutting back the Ginnels with Probation Service in the Fairfield's
- Support to a Charity Auction at New Wortley Community Centre
- Support to Wyther Park House Jumble Sale
- An environmental audit in the Little Scotland area

- A leaflet drop in the Bardens and the Little Scotland area
- Support with the development of an action plan for Little Scotland bin yards and an environmental audit of the bin yards to support project work
- A leaflet drop in the Ganners regarding a clean-up
- Support of the Operation Champions in the Avaries area, through an environmental audit, risk assessment work for Probation, attendance at the planning meeting, graffiti removal, a questionnaire at the school, a photo shoot and community engagement work
- A clean-up in the Ganners area
- A clean-up with Probation in the Fairfields area
- A leaflet drop with Probation in the Clydes, Holdforths and Bruces areas
- An environmental audit to support a clean-up in the Bruces, Holdforths and Clydes areas
- A leaflet drop with Probation in Armley
- A leaflet drop in the Coverdale estate
- Support to an Environmental Action Day in the Broadleas
- Support to an evening Tenancy Sweep in the New Wortley area
- Support to a clean-up day in the Avaries
- A clean-up in Ley Lane and the surrounding streets in Armley

3.2.18 PFI Round 6

3.2.19 An Expression of Interest (EoI) has been submitted by the Council to central Government following the announcement of a Round 6 Private Finance Initiative (PFI). The EoI proposes the development of up to 1,100 new Extra Care schemes and Lifetime Homes across the city, complementing existing regeneration schemes such as EASEL, South Leeds Regeneration Area and Holt Park District Centre Regeneration.

3.2.20 The EoI is presently being evaluated by the Homes and Communities Agency (work undertaken in the past by CLG). The Council is expected to hear in April whether it has been successful in progressing to the next stage of bidding for PFI credits, which will involve the development of an Outline Business Case for submission later in the year.

3.2.21 Work is ongoing between the Regeneration section of the Council, Adult Social Care and the Leeds PCT to ensure that the City can put forward as strong a case as possible for the allocation of credits.

3.3 Stronger Communities

3.3.1 Community Centres

3.3.2 There are five community centres in Inner West, these being Moorside Community Centre, New Wortley Community Centre, Fairfield Community Centre, Strawberry Lane/ St. Batholomew's Centre and Wyther Community House. All of these are leased to independent organisations who manage the centres via their management committees. The exceptions are Strawberry Lane/ St Batholomew's Centre, which is vested with Environments and Neighbourhoods Directorate of Leeds City Council and Wyther Community House, which is managed by West North West Homes Leeds.

The Heights Centre, which although located in Outer West, is part of the Inner West Community Centre Consortia group and it is close to the Armley ward boundary.

- 3.3.3 The community centres are a valuable asset in engaging with residents in deprived communities. They offer many services and facilities, as well as being a local focus from which partner agencies can deliver initiatives, such as worklessness and health. However within the next 12 months most of the community centres (with the exception of Strawberry Lane/ St Batholomew's) will run out of funding. Consequently a Community Centre Consortia group has been convened to address the impending funding issues and deliver a more sustainable management model.
- 3.3.4 To date a proposed business model has been drawn up as to how the community centres can be managed. This involves a lead organisation taking responsibility for managing the centres and co-ordinating the day to day running (recruitment, legal issues such as health and safety, organisation of staff etc.), which will free up community centre staff and volunteers to engage with local people and to develop and deliver programmes of work. A similar model exists in Huddersfield and has proved to be very successful; a visit by the Community Centre Consortia group has taken place.
- 3.3.5 To address the lack of funding a bid is currently being developed for submission to a consortia of funding organisations including the Tudor Trust, HBOS, and the Getty Foundation. A visit to these funding bodies to sound them out on this proposal is planned for the new year. The bid seeks funds to finance key staff, maintenance and capital issues for a three year period. The bid is at Stage 1 and if successful will move to Stage 2 with a final decision being made in early 2009.
- 3.3.6 On the 25th February Area Management and BARCA-Leeds attended a conference at the invitation of BARCA-Leeds who are a key member of the third sector in Leeds. The conference was organised by the British Association of Settlements and Social Action Centres, and enabled networking opportunities with grant givers, such as Tudor Trust and Capacity Builders, which it is hoped will positively assist with the funding bid submissions.
- 3.3.7 New Wortley Community Centre
- 3.3.8 Interim funding for the Community Development Worker/ Centre Manager was secured in October 2008 from the Inner West Area Committee and NHS Leeds (formerly Primary Care Trust). This amounts to £20,000, and will ensure the continuation of services until September 2009. A further bid for interim funding has been submitted to the Area Panel of West North West Homes Leeds for £5,000 to continue to fund the centre manager's post until January 2010. It is hoped that by this time the funding bid to Tudor Trust and others will have been successful. The centre offers a wide variety of services including an After School Club, Community Café, Job shop, Older Persons Luncheon Club, No Smoking Group, Construction Services Certification Scheme Training (CSCS), Stay and Play and Connexions. A drop in youth service is planned for the new year.

3.3.9 Strawberry Lane Centre/ St Bartholomew's Centre

3.3.10 A Cultural Diversity event called 'Spring Together' for the Armley ward took place on Saturday 21st March 2009 at Strawberry Lane/ St Bartholomew's Centre, with Armley Helping Hands being the host organisation. The event involved a wide range of organisations, communities and all age groups from the community living in and around Armley. Armley Helping Hands, Leeds Voice, Area Management and Healthy Living Network Leeds co-ordinated this event.

3.3.11 Moorside Community Centre

3.3.12 Moorside continues to provide services to the local community. Although funding has been provisionally allocated for the installation of a sports pitch the community association wanted to undertake public consultation to clarify local need in the new year. This consultation is now complete and the consensus from the community is that a garden area would be more beneficial. This will engage both old and young residents in learning the benefits of growing their own food. Members are asked to note that this is a change in the original request for funding towards a feasibility study for a sports pitch, and comments are sought on the plans for spend following the consultation. It is hoped that Groundwork Leeds will still be able to undertake the designs for a garden area with the funding provided to them from Inner West Area Committee in the new financial year.

3.3.13 Wyther Community House.

3.3.14 The Community Development worker has been working extensively with partners to develop a range of projects that specifically target the needs of the locality. Regular events are now held with the unpaid service team, which have led to improvements both to the centre but also to the estate as a whole. The girls group, which was funded through WNWHL Area Panel, is now on week four of their baby reality programme with a good number of attendees. The baby reality scheme is aimed at enabling young people to get an experience of how life would be with a baby.

3.3.15 The A2E worker for the estate, who is based in the Wyther Community House, is getting established on the estate and working with a number of people not claiming benefits and not engaged in support services and programmes. Thus far successes have been small but over time it is hoped that more people will take advantage of such initiatives as the Construction Industry Council (CIC) cards and signposting opportunities being offered.

3.3.16 Fairfield Community Centre & Fairfield LAMP

3.3.17 West Leeds has again been successful with the Community and City Pride awards. The Fairfield's Dreamscheme was successful in winning the Small Area Improvement Project of the Year for their works on the grounds of the community centre with the young people of the estate. The Fairfield Community Partnership were instrumental in supporting the Dreamscheme, the model involves the youth people gaining points for hours worked in the community which can be converted into fun activities. The scheme is having a significant impact on both the environment of the Fairfield's and also the children who are involved in the scheme. This is a fantastic success for the

Dreamscheme, which is supported by Area Management and Groundwork Leeds, and delivered by West North West Homes Leeds.

3.3.18 The Fairfield Community Partnership were also instrumental in supporting Shane O'Brian, both for his work with the Dreamscheme and also as a trainee gardener, he won the Under 18s Individual Contribution of the Year.

3.3.19 Spring Together' event

3.3.20 The cultural diversity event, 'Spring Together', took place on Saturday 21st March at Strawberry Lane/ St Bartholomew's Centre. The event involved a wide range of organisations, communities and all age groups from the community living in and around Armley. Armley Helping Hands, Leeds Voice, Area Management and Healthy Living Network Leeds co-ordinated the event. It is estimated that it attracted 600-700 people, who participated in activities such as 5-a-side football, mask making, henna hand painting, tight rope walking, face painting and gardening, and a Russian puppet show, Sikh Drummers and the Fire Service displays, with food from around the world.

3.3.21 Community Engagement

3.3.22 Partnership events – themed discussions

3.3.23 Under the new arrangements for Area Committees to scrutinise partnership working, the first themed event with Inner West Area Committee took place in September around the theme of Children and Young People.

3.3.24 The second themed event took place in October around the theme of Community Safety, with a particular focus on drugs. December's themed event prior to the Area Committee focused on business and economy.

3.3.25 A review of the outcomes and performance to date of the themed meetings took place at the February Area Committee and it was agreed to pilot the health themed meeting through the Bramley and Armley Forums, after the 'Your Community Your Priorities' events. The outcomes of these events will be discussed at a future Area Committee meeting.

3.3.26 'Your Community - Your Priorities'

3.3.27 The 'Your Community Your Priorities' community engagement events follows on from last year's 'What's the Big Idea' community engagement events and will be held on dates when there would normally have been a community forum. The Bramley event, 26th March, was held from 4.00pm-8.00pm at the Fairfield Community Centre and the Armley event, 21st April will be held from 4.30pm-8.00pm at Armley-One-Stop-Centre. The marketplace style layout will include stands reflecting the ADP themes, including Jobs and Skills, Environment, Community Safety, Older People & Health, Children and Young People. Each service will be able to consult visitors on their key priorities to implement the Leeds Strategic Plan and Inner West Area Delivery Plan in 2009/10.

3.3.28 The Area Management Team will prepare a stand which displays information about projects that have been funded by the Area Committee and with which the Area Management Team have been closely involved. It is also proposed to trial a system

of theme prioritisation which has worked successfully elsewhere. There will be questionnaires for residents to complete, 'take action' cards to record resident issues and face-to-face discussions at the themed stands with partners.

- 3.3.29 It is important to attract as many people as possible to the 'Your Community - Your Priorities' community engagement events to ensure a representative range of views are heard from all parts of the community especially, for instance, young people. The events will be promoted well in advance and enhanced with extra attractions, including refreshments, and locally provided musical entertainment by the children from both Bramley Primary School and Castleton Primary School.

3.4 Health and Wellbeing

3.4.1 Fresh 'n' Fruity

- 3.4.2 Fresh 'n' Fruity is a 3 year project set up to enable people in communities in Leeds to make healthier food choices. They do this by increasing access to affordable fruit and veg and information on healthier lifestyles.

- 3.4.3 Part of the project is working to take good quality fresh fruit and veg to areas of Leeds where it is difficult or expensive to obtain. To do this they've set up various market style stalls. They also do some deliveries and aim to support other similar projects where they can.

- 3.4.4 A crucial part of the project is training and awareness through a team of Community Health Educators (CHEs) who after successfully completing training are paid to do various demonstrations and events as well as a variety of sessions based around healthy eating and lifestyles with all sections of the community - passing on tips on healthy eating, cooking, ways to get your '5 a day' and various other health and food related subjects.

- 3.4.5 The project is run by Healthy Living Network Leeds and is one of two Lottery funded projects in Leeds which are part of the 'All together Better' group of projects doing similar work across the region. The project is currently running in two areas of Armley, at the Wyther Community House and Whingate court. This is due to the current available funding and staffing levels at the moment. It is hoped that the new Community Health Educators recruitment round, which is currently open for people to apply at the moment, will allow more work to be developed in the LS12 area.

- 3.4.6 The second scheme the project has developed is 'cook and eat sessions' which are informal learning for small groups around healthy eating. On the whole the scheme is still in development and further funding will mean that more development can take place.

3.5 Enterprise and Economy

- 3.5.1 Armley Town Street Town and District Centre Regeneration Scheme (TDC) and Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI)

- 3.5.2 Work to progress Phase 2 of the Armley Town Centre improvement scheme is now underway. Presently this includes working with local businesses with regard to the

public realm works and working through the tender being Let. This scheme seeks to improve the vitality and viability of Armley town centre for workers, residents and visitors, reverse the physical decline and increase the popularity of the area as a desirable place to work and shop. This work will also contribute to improving the general appearance of Armley town centre and is an element of the West Leeds Gateway Regeneration Programme (WLGRP).

- 3.5.3 Two THI officers have been appointed; Jessica Ashton is in post, with the second officer in post in April. The two posts will be split between Chapeltown and Armley covering the two THI schemes.

3.6 Culture

3.6.1 Summer Bands

3.6.2 The following summer bands have been booked:

- Tenderloin Ragtime Orchestra to perform at Armley Moor on Wednesday 22 July as part of the Armley Fun Day 2pm - 4pm
- Stanley Newmarket Colliery Band to perform at Bramley Park on Sunday 14 June 2.30pm - 4.30pm
- Linthwaite Band to perform at Bramley Park on Sunday 28 June 2.30pm - 4.30pm
- Knottingley Silver Band to perform at Armley Moor on Sunday 21 June 2.30pm - 4.30pm

- 3.6.3 The preparation work for Armley Fun Day is currently underway. As is the organisation of activities that will enhance the Summer Band performances on the 21st June, this may include fairground rides for small children, a healthy eating van selling jacket potatoes and healthy drinks, fruit juices etc and a dog show.

4.0 Implications for Council Policy and Governance

- 4.1 The Area Delivery Plan for Inner West is administered through the West North West Leeds Area Management Team.
- 4.2 Well-Being projects develop from Inner West's Leeds Area Delivery Plan and through consultation with Area Committee members. The plan helps to fulfill the Council's Corporate Plan objectives by aiming to create better neighbourhoods and confident communities.

5.0 Legal and Resource Implications

- 5.1 In order to meet the Area Committee's functions, funding is supplied via Well Being budgets and the Community Centres Budget.
- 5.2 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 by the fact that the Area Committee's role here is to influence, develop and consult. However, wellbeing

funding has resourced some projects here e.g. area based regeneration schemes and conservation area reviews.

6.0 Conclusions

6.1 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.

7.0 Recommendations

7.1 Inner West Area Committee members are invited to:

- note the contents of the report and comment on any aspect of the matters raised
- suggest items for inclusion on future agendas

Background Documents:

Executive Board Report July 2008.