



## Report of the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods

To: Inner West Area Committee

Date: 9<sup>th</sup> September 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 against Leeds Strategic Plan and the Inner West Area Delivery Plan.

#### 1.0 Purpose of This Report

1.1 This report informs Members of the progress against Leeds Strategic Plan and the Inner West Area Delivery Plan.

#### 2.0 Background Information

2.1 The Area Delivery Plan is the delivery of the Leeds Strategic Plan in the Inner West area. This report identifies progress against the themes of the Leeds Strategic Plan.

#### 3.0 Main Issues

##### 3.1 Environment

3.2 Clear Ups and Action Days

3.3 Multi agency clear ups have been organised through the Neighbourhood Wardens and Probation Service to clear graffiti, gardens, shrubbery, woodland, ginnels, waste land and public/ community spaces, undertake environmental audits and paint handrails and railings through their painting scheme. Multi agency partners have also

organised days of action in neighbourhoods, and engaged the local community in activities to engender a sense of pride and social responsibility.

#### 3.4 Armley Town Street 'Street Clear Ups'

3.5 As reported at previous Area Committee meetings, the 'Street Clear Ups' are proving a great success. Visitors and residents now understand the message that they can not drop litter and businesses have to keep their waste in order. In accordance with the success of these action days, partners have suggested that the regularity be increased to every 6 weeks. Many parts Town Street are looking much better than before but there are still hotspot areas that need re-addressing. It is hoped that through continuous education, awareness and information that the appearance of Armley centre continuous to improve. With this in mind the Town Centre Manager is looking at to introduce a 'Keep Armley Tidy' campaign in the next few months.

#### 3.6 **Thriving Communities**

##### 3.7 Affordable Housing

##### 3.8 Fairfields, Bramley

3.9 A planning application has been submitted for the Fairfields, there has been an amendment to the scheme, resulting in the number of units being reduced from 134 to 132. The units were lost on site C (A2 apartments). As such a planning submission has been made on 132 units. A planning decision is expected mid September 2009. Accent HA will then commence phase 1 of the development which involves the construction of 32 units all of which are social rent.

3.10 A project group consisting of WNW ALMO, the Affordable Housing Delivery Team, Accent HA, and Firebird has been assembled in order to oversee the development and ensure that the site acquisition, procurement, planning, funding arrangements, decanting and demolition, and consultation exercises are all carried out appropriately.

##### 3.11 The Impact of the Recession on Inner West Leeds.

3.12 The number of investment enquiries coming to the Council continues to fall in Inner West over the last five quarters, from 100 industrial enquires to 30 between May 2008 and July 2009, from 51 office enquiries to 19, from 55 retail enquiries to 29 and 42 land enquiries to 24. There is no evidence yet from these figures of a turn-round in investor confidence in the economy.

3.13 In Inner West Leeds the number of unemployed job seekers allowance claimants has risen again in the month to July 2009 from 2105 to 2123. The good news is that the rate of increase is slowing down; however regional forecasts assume unemployment may rise for some months' ahead (source Leeds Economy Bulletin Spring 2009).

##### 3.14 West Leeds Enterprise Centre (WLEC)

3.15 The West Leeds Enterprise Centre is operated by BARCA Leeds and is based in Suite 2 at the Cubic Business Centre in Bramley. The Centre is part of the Leeds

LEGI programme and is working to support the development of new business start ups in West Leeds.

- 3.16 The Centre launched its services in January 2009 and currently has 2.2 staff and 53 clients registered. Clients have the opportunity to use the facilities, internet access, computers and photocopier as well as access the wider LEGI support programme. The Centre has clients who are obtaining support from amongst others, Construction Leeds, UnLtd, the Leeds Chamber of Commerce and Leeds City Credit Union.
- 3.17 Clients include individuals who have experienced redundancy and are taking up the opportunity to use their skills and experience to start their own business. Also included in the Centres client base are individuals who have completed training but have been unable to obtain employment and so have opted for the route of self employment as well as those who need to supplement the family income by turning a hobby or interest into a small business and the long termed unemployed.
- 3.18 The Centre is heavily engaged in outreach activities and maintains a presence at local events as well as regularly holding business development courses.
- 3.19 A series of workshops are planned for September these include:
  - Book Keeping 8th September at WLEC.
  - Running a Business from Home, Working from Home 21st September at Wyther House.
  - Marketing 22nd September at WLEC.
  - Talking Trades 25th September at New Wortley Community Centre.
  - HM Revenue Custom Assessment 30th September at WLEC.
- 3.20 These have being planned following the success of the workshops held over the last quarter.
- 3.21 For further information visit the Centre's website [www.westleedsenterprisecentre.co.uk](http://www.westleedsenterprisecentre.co.uk).
- 3.22 Integrated Money Advice Pilot
- 3.23 Work has been underway to roll out an integrated money advice pilot in two areas in Leeds involving a coordination of services from multiple partners. The areas chosen for the first pilots are South Seacroft (which commenced in February and is ongoing), followed by Armley.
- 3.24 Partners include: LCC Welfare Benefits and Rights, Debt Advice Agencies, Housing ALMO's, Social Care, NHS Leeds, LCC Corporate Debt Team, Leeds City Credit Union, Customer Services One Stop Centres and Contact Centre, Energy Advice.
- 3.25 Leeds Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) has been funded to provide 'Debt First Aid' training to front line staff across the different partner groups. Debt First Aid is a new training programme developed by Leeds CAB to provide very basic understanding and advice to staff on how to approach an individual who contacts them with money and debt problems. To date 87 front line intermediary staff from the following

organisations have received this training; Leeds City Credit Union, Seacroft and Armley Leeds City Council One Stop Centres, Children Centre Staff, Wardens, Money Advice Volunteers, Housing Benefit Welfare and Benefit Home Visit Officers, Family Outreach Workers, Fuelsavers, Wildfire at Barnados, WY Police, National Loan Shark Team.

- 3.26 The mailing for Armley started on 30th June, and will include 28,000 households from Bramley to Lower Wortley. It is anticipated that the mailing will be conducted over a maximum period of 19 weeks. A report will be taken to the Narrowing the Gap group in autumn which will outline the findings of the pilots.
- 3.27 Credit Unions
- 3.28 Leeds City Credit Union has collection points in most primary schools in the area. These include Bramley, Castleton and Armley Primaries and Armley Moor Children's Centre.
- 3.29 Children's Centres – Offering accounts from 0-adult and providing information about Low Cost Loans versus Loan Sharks.
- 3.30 Schools Project – Savings clubs in schools across the City with the opportunity of parental involvement both as volunteers and savers.
- 3.31 Prison Project – Since the project started in 2008 over 399 accounts have been opened for offenders at Armley and Whealston Prisons. Offenders are offered a Membership Account to enable them to save whilst in prison and the services of a Debt Adviser are made available for the prisoners and/or their families should this be requested.
- 3.32 Educating adults to understand the difference between low cost loans and the high interest charges that are applied by doorstep lenders.
- 3.33 Budget Accounts – Educating members to pay their household bills through our Budget account on time and catching up with any arrears that they may have.
- 3.34 Partnerships – Working together with Leeds City Council, ALMOs and various housing associations along with a number of funding providers supporting us to provide products and services across the city to financially excluded people.
- 3.35 Affordable loans- Approximately £53081 in low cost loans have been allocated in the Armley area in the period April to June 2009. This has a benefit to the community of approx £87583 in save interest over doorstep lenders.
- 3.36 In the 3 months from April to June 2009 a total of 139 membership accounts and 63 current accounts were opened. In the majority of cases these were to financially excluded individuals.
- 3.37 Between April 09 and the end of June 09 across Leeds the credit union had an additional 1,084 new members on low incomes accessing their services.

### 3.38 Neighbourhood Wardens

3.39 There are four 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.

3.40 Warden report – a full report on the future proposals for neighbourhood wardens is due to come to the October Area Committee meeting.

3.41 Recently, the Wardens, have been involved in:

- Support to clean up activities, Action Days, drug action weeks and community events.
- Support in the roll out Smart Water.
- Support to the Chill Out Night in New Wortley, the Painting Project and Dream Scheme (bowling with young people).
- Leaflet drops regarding a ginnel closure, flytipping and needle awareness, and distribution of information packs.
- Support to 'Your Community Your Priority' event and Street Athletics event in the Wyther neighbourhood.
- Graffiti removal, clearing gardens, shrubbery and public/ community spaces, environmental audits, handing out and undertaking surveys and painting handrails and railings.
- Support to Operation Champions, Drug Action Week and Operation IMPACT.
- Delivery of Distraction Burglary Talks to Lunch Clubs.

## 4.0 Harmonious Communities

### 4.1 Youth Provision

4.2 Leeds City Council Sports Development Unit, Community Sports - Between December and January ninety New Wortley young people residents aged between 8–45 took part in Dance Mat sessions held at New Wortley Community Centre. The sessions are currently continuing through funding from Sports Unlimited. In April of this year thirty young people from Armley and Bramley took part in a Cross Agency/Wedge five a side football tournament at Royal Park. In June a Wyther Park Street Athletics and Multi Agency Event took place, in total sixty young people took part in the street athletics with around one hundred and twenty local residents being present. Between June and July casual football sessions at Castleton Primary School have been held in partnership with the Youth Service and Leeds United Football in the community on average twenty to thirty young people aged 11 to 19 boys and girls took part. The session will hopefully continue with a bid to the Youth Opportunities Fund by the participants. In August Summer Holiday Sports Programmes in Bramley and Armley Wards have been held between the 4th to the 6th August, 10th to the 13th August, the 17th to the 20th August, and the 24th to the 27th August.

4.3 Venues in Bramley are Hollybush Primary School, Stanningley Rugby Club, and Bramley St Peter's C of E Primary School. The Sports Development Unit have been working in partnership with Bramley Phoenix Junior Football Club, Stanningley Rugby Club, Extreme Cheerleaders and Primary Sports Multi Sports Coach Jim Pedley, and

extended services who assisted with the hire of the school venues and distribution of the leaflets.

- 4.4 In Armley a four week camp at Whingate Primary School was held on the same weeks as above, the clubs involved were Wortley Football Club, West Leeds Rugby Union Club, with support from Jim Pedley the Primary Sports Multi Sports Coach, the Extreme Cheerleaders and Extended Services.
- 4.5 In total around three hundred and ninety five residents in Inner West Leeds have took part or are still taking part in activities and programmes set up and/or run by Community Sports.
- 4.6 BARCA Leeds - Young people have been out on an outdoor education themed week including climbing pen y ghent, scrambling at Brimham rocks, climbing and abseiling at Ilkley Cow and Calf, bush cooking and zip lining at Post Hill. They have also been raft building at Yeadon Tarn, ice skating and swimming at Doncaster Dome, Dj'ing and MC'ing and lazer tag sessions. There are further activities planned over the summer months including waterskiing, scuba diving, horse riding, football, graffiti sessions, off road bmx'ing, Alton Towers, Barge trips and more.
- 4.7 Youth Services – Youth Services have run a 'Play in the Park', Green Wednesdays, for the six weeks over the summer. This has included DJ workshops, hair braiding, face painting, coconut shy, wet sponge and a football shootout. They have run Urban Arts workshops at Wyther House with a very hard to reach and engage group of young people. They have run four weeks of DJ workshops with young people from the new school amalgamation (Swallow Hill), to assist in the transition for the young people. They have run five trips on the Barge from the Lazer centre and supported the Street Athletics event at Wyther House. The girls group at Wyther House ran a successful street festival, which raised money for the British Heart Foundation. They have also run two activities at Herd Farm, six Urban Arts taster sessions over the summer period and supported the Friday Night project.
- 4.8 They have used their mobile vehicle at these events and have supported community fun days and the local Breeze events.
- 4.9 Extended Services - The holiday playschemes included sessions run by community partners and external organisations, such as libraries, museums, circus skills, biking and sports activities. The Cluster also booked places at the Lazer Centre. Whingate Primary School hosted this year's Community Sports Development camps - with children taking part in four weeks of multi-sports activities.
- 4.10 The High School activities focussed on transition years and bringing together September's Year 7 intake and the children who will be on the Lower School site. The activities were based on the West Leeds site and there was an article in the Yorkshire Evening Post. Older children went on a residential to Herd Farm.
- 4.11 This summer in Armley, the Cluster received the Extended Services Disadvantage Subsidy fund as part of the Leeds' pilot for this funding stream. The aim of the funding is to subsidise economically disadvantaged children into activities after school and in holiday time. The funding is received based on the number of free school meals children attending schools in the Cluster - Armley has 1024 children receiving free

school meals, with half of these attending the High Schools. Each school ran activities with a range from day trips and events to places on holiday playschemes.

- 4.12 Castleton Primary School also held a Family Fun Day attended by fifty people, which was run by the Family Support Worker, Karen Briggs.
- 4.13 An Armley based summer booklet was produced and distributed to schools to promote activities in the area over the summer. With a tight deadline not everything made it in, but the majority of activities did. After summer an Activities Group will start to meet to co-ordinate activities for the future.
- 4.14 In Bramley summer booklets have been distributed and a number of notice boards have been utilised to promote activities, groups, services and clubs in the local area over the summer months. The notice boards are situated at:
- Bramley Children's Centre
  - Raynville Primary School
  - Hollybush Primary School
  - Summerfield Primary School
  - Valley View Primary School
  - Leeds West Academy
  - Whitecote Primary School
  - St Peters Primary School
  - Bramley Primary School
  - Hollybush Children's Centre
  - Bramley Shopping Centre
  - Rodley
  - Christ the King Primary School
  - Stanningley Primary School
  - Wyther House
- 4.15 Community Centres
- 4.16 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 is close to the Armley ward boundary.
- 4.17 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.

- 4.18 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.
- 4.19 To address the lack of funding a bid to support the five community centres of New Wortley, Fairfield, Moorside, Wyther Community House, and the Heights has been submitted to four organisations who were interested in the initial bid. The organisations are Lankelly Chase, HBOS, Porticus UK and Tudor Trust. These have only recently been submitted and it is hoped that a response will be heard by the end of September.
- 4.20 A bid is also being drafted to the Hardship Fund which has recently been launched by central government to help voluntary sector organisations who are feeling the effects of the economic downturn through the reduction in charitable donations and the reduction in local business undertaken through them. BARCA-Leeds are the lead organisation in making this bid for the partnership of community centres most affected in inner west Leeds.
- 4.21 Community Engagement
- 4.22 Members will be aware of the 'Your Communities, Your Priorities' events that took place in February, March and April of this year across the West and North West Area. In Inner West the area management team held two events which were attended by a total of 78 residents.
- 4.23 The aim of the events was to engage the public in the process of setting local priorities to inform the development of the 2009-2010 area delivery plans for the four Area Committee Areas. Evaluations of the events have highlighted some areas for improvement in relation to future community engagement work.
- 4.24 Across WNW only 412 residents attended the 12 events. As a proportion of total population for the WNW area this is very low and unrepresentative in terms of community profile. Given this experience the WNW area management team is seeking to review the committees existing community engagement strategy which was agreed in December 2008 with a view to enhancing the way in which we support strong and inclusive communities. The committee is clear that it wants to strengthen, develop and sustain opportunities for local people and groups to influence what happens in their communities. The committee has also stated that it wants to provide opportunities for communities to shape and influence the development and delivery of services that reflect local needs and priorities. Critically the area management team needs to manage and co-ordinate engagement activities to ensure partner participation and consistency so that we provide opportunities for participation for all sections of the community.
- 4.25 In order to make both the committees and its partners community engagement work more meaningful - over the next few months the AMT will be developing:



**a)** a dedicated area committee website to promote and communicate the work of the area committee more effectively along with a web based community engagement survey platform with a menu linking all partner initiatives, latest news, and a means to undertake and evaluate web-based surveys on local matters. This will either be linked to the Councils 'talking-point' portal or operate as a stand-alone survey tool.

**b)** an area committee citizens panel - currently the city-wide panel has 2000 residents across the whole city. Alongside existing community engagement structures the area committee citizens panel will provide a representative view of public opinion and will be useful when considering the impact and effect of changes to public services. It will also be an on-going sounding board and will be more likely to provide useful results than the recent engagement events and traditional ward forum structures.

**c)** a promotional area committee leaflet highlighting the committee's main achievements over the last couple of years and its priority themes and projects for the next couple of years. The leaflet will also include information on how local people can get more involved in the work of the area committee and its partners, and

**d)** more thematic and issue based consultation using outreach as a model for gauging the views of communities of interest - our experience has been that where residents and stakeholders really care about an issue and can relate to outcomes e.g., a DPPO or a high street improvement scheme, or a neighbourhood planning exercise we tend to get more people getting involved and participating. The AMT will be looking to develop a programme of such consultation with partners through existing ward forum structures.

4.26 A full community engagement strategy report will be presented to the committee at one of its future meetings for approval.

5.0 Enterprise and Economy

5.1 Armley Town Street Town and District Centre Regeneration Scheme (TDC) and Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI).

5.2 Progress to Phase 2 of the Armley Town Centre improvement scheme is now underway, with works on site. 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. It will also contribute to improving the general appearance of Armley town centre and is an element of the West Leeds Gateway Regeneration Programme (WLGRP).

5.3 The works include resurfacing pavements, replacing kerbs, street furniture and public art. SEC will install the Heritage style lighting columns, and there will be hanging basket brackets to at least four columns on Town Street. It is envisaged that on site works will commence in July and completed by November of this year.

5.4 The businesses effected so far have expressed no concerns or complaints to the Town Centre Manager or the contractor, other than they are very pleased with the way it looks.

## 5.5 Christmas / TDC Celebrations

5.6 The Town Centre Manager is looking at the feasibility of organising a large Christmas celebration on Armley Town Street in early December. This would be a joint celebration of the Christmas light switch on and the opening of the Town and District Centre scheme. It is envisaged that it will be a large scale event that will require the closure of part of Town Street. Meetings have been held with Metro and First Bus. Both stated that they have no concerns over any road closures proposed, and provided some useful information and advice.

## 5.7 Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI)

5.8 The Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) is located within the Armley Conservation Area which covers most phases of the town's development from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It will strengthen the heart of the town by repairing and replacing the shop frontages to commercial properties and reviving the Town Moor. This will help to complement the work planned under the Town and District Centres scheme, which focuses on improvements to public realm surrounding the THI targeted shops frontages. Two THI officers have been appointed; Jessica Ashton and Wyn Jones, Wyn Jones will cover the Armley THI scheme.

5.9 All of the target properties have been informed of the general THI grant situation. This has resulted in some additional interest in the THI grant scheme from property owners who have not previously expressed an interest.

5.10 In order to agree grant percentages property revaluations and estimated scheme costs are currently being revised which should enable the THI Monitor to confirm grant figures by mid-October 2009. A Shop Front Design guide is also going to be submitted to the THI Monitor by mid August.

## 5.11 Heritage Training

5.12 The THI scheme involves an element of training and raising awareness. In July a trip was organised to Marshalls Quarry to gain an appreciation of the sourcing and preparation of natural Yorkstone. This product is being used on the Town Street forecourt scheme.

5.13 The main objective of the training programme is to include a heritage construction skills training course ideally aimed at local unemployed people. This initiative could be a joint initiative involving Leeds College of Building and Construction Leeds which may include working on 2 Branch Road.

## 5.14 West Leeds Gateway Update

5.15 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.

- 5.16 Negotiations are ongoing with the owner of 2 Branch Road, in an attempt by the Council to acquire the building. This is taking place alongside the ongoing enforcement action in relation to the untidy appearance of the site, poor maintenance of the building and the unauthorised signage. The potential short-medium term uses for the building are being investigated, although in the longer term there is a desire to seek a commercial use.
- 5.17 Following the approval to demolish 5 T-blocks and 6 adjoining houses in the Holdforth Place area of New Wortley, Yorkshire Planning Aid have been working with the community to produce a community plan. This is now complete and includes an extensive action plan which is currently being considered by the Council and its partners. Re-housing options for the remaining residents directly affected by the demolition plans are being investigated by West North West Homes Leeds. A consultation process is to be organised by Yorkshire Planning aid to seek views from the community about how the area should be treated on an interim basis following demolition. Work is ongoing to secure the acquisition of Holdforth Place. It has emerged that HM Treasury may not own the site and investigations are ongoing to identify the owner.
- 5.18 Proposals to bring forward improvements to Armley Moor are being developed and potential funding sources identified. It is proposed to enhance the Moor through the provision of more appropriate footpaths, tree/shrub planting, new benches and litter bins. The Armley Common Rights Trust continue to be involved and as the plans are developed it is intended to consult the wider community.
- 5.19 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.
- 5.20 Two meetings have been held since the last Area Committee meeting, and these were themed around greenspaces and worklessness.
- 5.21 Town Centre Manager Update
- 5.22 Alert Boxes
- 5.23 This scheme has been in place a few weeks now and is proving a great success. Since its initial installation the feedback from the businesses has been very positive and many feel very much safer knowing they only have to press a button and they can have someone rushing to their aid or phoning to see if all is well. It gives a lone shop worker / retailer a sense of empowerment, in that they know they do not have to be a victim of crime or feel intimidated, and that they can actively do something to prevent it.
- 5.24 The scheme is having effects in other areas, in that local criminals are aware of the device and seem to be actively avoiding these shops. The shops who are taking part in the scheme can be identified through stickers displayed in their window or door. Many of the shops have expressed how much more secure they feel and the confidence it has given them.

#### 5.25 Shop Local and Reward Card Scheme

5.26 Promotional materials, such as t'-shirts and bags, for the 'Shop Local' scheme were handed out at the Summer Band event. Members have been consulted with on the plans for the 'Reward Card' scheme card and the vouchers. The scheme is currently being looked at by a Legal Team working with Leeds Ahead to look at any legal implications. It is envisaged that it will be up and running by September. The intention is to hold a press launch to publicise the initiative.

#### 5.27 Promotion of businesses

5.28 Businesses have been approached to submit an editorial story about their business. The idea behind this initiative is to submit a series of editorial stories in the local paper about local retailers in Armley.

### **6.0 Culture**

#### 6.1 I Love West Leeds

6.2 The fifth I Love West Leeds Festival has now drawn to a close. A full report will be delivered in the Autumn. Interplay feel that the quality of the work and the partnerships involved in this years festival stand out and helped make this years festival the most successful ever. 39 events took place over 2 weeks and involved people from every ward in the west and included everyone from primary schools to the oldest members of the community.

6.3 The big festival day saw ILWL (I Love West Leeds) work in close partnership with Farsley Youth Development Project to produce a fantastic day of activities and entertainment that brought approx 4000 people to Hainsworth Park. This partnership worked so well that Interplay are already planning new projects on which to collaborate.

6.4 Participation is always a big part of ILWL and this year's festival bag decorating saw 2000 people including 17 west Leeds Schools customise a reusable cotton shopping bag. The three best bags from different ages bagged their designers a prize of a digital camera. The best 200 entries have been photographed and can be seen via a link on the festival website.

6.5 High profile projects this year included the Citizens Orchestra, a new music group for older people who played a fantastic concert at Pudsey Civic to an audience of the Neighbourhood network schemes from Armley, Bramley, Farsley, Pudsey Stanningley and Farnley.

6.6 Partnerships with the West Yorkshire Playhouse and Leeds Prison & Jigsaw Project were incredibly successful in bringing the playhouse production of Dust out of the city centre and with Comings and Goings in securing the first exhibition on the outside wall of a prison anywhere in the country.

6.7 Press this year was exceptional with projects mentioned in articles in Yorkshire Evening Post, Leeds Guide, Meanwood Life, Pudsey Times, The Guardian

newspaper, The Guardian online (including audio interview) and on BBC North, Calendar, BBC Politics Show, Womans Hour & BBC Radio Leeds.

- 6.8 Further funding for the festival was secured from Arts Council England, Awards for All, Wades Trust, O2 and Tesco.
- 6.9 The festival is not quite over... projects will begin to run throughout the year from September including a new monthly family film club and a bimonthly radio broadcast, both funded by Find Your Talent and the return of the Citizens orchestra.
- 6.10 Armley Leisure Centre
- 6.11 The site is now closed; the last official day of service was Saturday 18th July 2009. Prior to the closure a number of consultations with the user groups took place in order to assess the demand for alternative facilities during the nine month closure of Armley. This was successfully managed by the administration team, with 80% of the regular bookings from Armley allocated space at sites such as Bramley Baths, Pudsey Leisure Centre, South Leeds Leisure Centre, Kirkstall Leisure Centre, Richmond Hill and Holt Park. The regular users of the facility were also sign-posted for services to many of the same sites through the display of the centre time tables.
- 6.12 The building works are now about to enter phase two of the development, this entails the demolition and clearance of the old Armley Leisure Centre and the building of the 100 space car park and MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) to facilitate the completion of the New Armley Leisure Centre. Early indications are that the building works are progressing to plan and that the scheduled completion of late Spring 2010 is well on target.

## **7.0 Implications for Council Policy and Governance**

- 7.1 The Area Delivery Plan for Inner West is administered through the West North West Leeds Area Management Team.
- 7.2 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.

## **8.0 Legal and Resource Implications**

- 8.1 In order to meet the Area Committee's functions, funding is supplied via Well Being budgets and the Community Centres Budget.
- 8.2 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.

## **9.0 Conclusions**

9.1 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.

## **10.0 Recommendations**

10.1 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 Papers**

Executive Board Report July 2008.