

Report of the South East Area Manager

South (Inner) Area Committee

Date: 23rd September 2009

Subject: Actions and Achievements report

Electoral Wards Affected:
 Beeston & Holbeck
 City & Hunslet
 Middleton Park

Ward members consulted
 (referred to in this 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 provides Members with an update on actions and achievements of the Area Management Team relating to priorities and work of the Area Committee since the Area Committee meeting in June 2009. It also provides information on current ongoing projects. A full report to update on progress against the Area Delivery Plan will be provided to the November Area Committee.

Purpose of this report

1. Members will recall that the refreshed Area Delivery Plan was approved at the June Area Committee with ward meetings serving to focus on ward specific actions within the plan. It was agreed that a full progress report was to be submitted to the November Committee.
2. This report provides Members with an update on actions and achievements around the Area Delivery Plan since the last Area Committee meeting, it also provides members with an overview of the current projects that the Area Management Team are working on.

Background Information

3. The ADP for 2008/9 – 2010/11 has been developed following the headings contained within the Leeds Strategic Plan and the Vision for Leeds. It is a local expression of the city's commitment to the Local Area Agreement and partnership working. The themes of the ADP are:
 - Culture
 - Harmonious Communities
 - Enterprise and Economy
 - Transport
 - Environment
 - Health and Wellbeing
 - Thriving Places
 - Learning.
4. The Area Delivery Plan for 2008-11 was approved by this Area Committee and a refreshed version of the plan was endorsed by the Area Committee on 23rd June 2009.
5. Members also agreed at the June meeting of the Inner South East Area Committee to the production of a 'community charter' which will offer a user friendly interpretation of the ADP.

Updates by Theme

Culture

Community Centres

6. Proposals to lease the following community centres are currently progressing
 - **Cranmore & Rayland Community Centre.** The lease between the council and Middleton Park Football Club is being finalised and is due to be signed shortly
 - **Old Cockburn Centre.** Joseph Priestley College have indicated they are still keen to take over the management responsibility for the centre. They consider the rental payments too high however and discussions are taking place to negotiate a revised rental that is acceptable to the council and the college
 - **Watsonia Pavillion.** Tiger 11 are currently in the process of developing a business plan for the future management of the centre. It has been agreed that a six year lease will initially be negotiated with a view to a longer lease being signed up or possibly a full asset transfer at a later date

7. The new Pricing and Lettings Policy is set to go live from 1st October 2009. The policy is currently being trialled by the Council's Lettings Unit which has raised a number of issues regarding discount categories. It is anticipated that some amendments may be made to the policy to clarify this. If so, these will be presented to the area committee in November.

Enterprise and Economy

Middleton Mobile Job Shop

8. The mobile job shop in Middleton has been operational since mid-July providing advice, guidance and opportunity to access on-line job opportunities. The bus visits Middleton Circus on a Thursday and Friday each week and is staffed by officers from Jobs & Skills, Aire Valley Homes, Joseph Priestley College, Learning Partnerships and Health for All. The need for the mobile job shop was highlighted through the work being undertaken as part of the Middleton Enterprise, Employment and Economic Development Strategy being co-ordinated by Area Management. The long term goal is to have a permanent job shop in the area for local people to access.
9. **Area Employment, Enterprise and Training Partnership.** The South Leeds Enterprise, Employment and Training Partnership (SLEET) is keen to maintain a strong link with the Area Committee. Councillor Driver is the designated representative on this partnership. Minutes of the last meeting are available in appendix 1.

Learning

10. A programme of activities was delivered through the I Love South Leeds Festival. An update on this is provided elsewhere in this report. Other activities continue to be delivered through the clusters.

Environment

11. The Inner South Environmental Coordination and Task Group continue to progress the environmental issues raised in the Neighbourhood Improvement Plans and to resolve other particular environmental issues.
12. The group has coordinated two intensive clean-ups as set out below. Members are invited to suggest specific locations for these intensive clean-ups which involve various agencies working in partnership to tackle particular problems
13. The Environmental Pride Team, Aire Valley Homes and Neighbourhood Wardens have participated in two intensive clean-ups covering the Parkwoods in June and the Bismarks and Northcotes areas in August.
14. Between June and August the wardens organised 5 community clean-ups. 3 in Beeston targeted waste in gardens and provided residents with skips to help clear waste. 2 in Hunslet targeted problems of overgrown shrubs.
15. The wardens have continued to report issues on a daily basis while working with various groups to raise awareness on environmental issues, for example an initiative in partnership with Hamara to encourage local youths to take pride in their neighbourhood. This included litter picking in the local area in August; this was lead

by the wardens who also gave a brief presentation to the young people about the importance of keeping the area clean.

Health and Wellbeing

16. Work is ongoing with the NHS Leeds Health Improvement Specialists for the area to develop projects and events promoting health including 'Winter Warmth' and 'Sloppy Slipper'. Local community, voluntary and faith sector groups are being engaged to hold events for their client groups throughout the year and a full schedule of planned events will be produced and included in the community engagement planner.
17. **Health and Well-Being Partnership.** The local area health and well-being partnership has been set up for the South East wedge of the city. Cllr Coupar is the nominated representative on this partnership. This established the aims and purpose of the partnership and its membership. The first meeting of the core group was held in July 2009. Minutes of this meeting are available in appendix 2. The partnership will meet formally in September and October. Members of the partnership will examine local profile health data to decide which health improvement priorities to focus on. The partnership will report to the Joint Strategic Commissioning Board. Their work will be led by 3 newly appointed Health Improvement Managers, employed by Leeds City Council Adult Social Care and NHS Leeds.
18. **Holbeck Health and Well Being Group.** This group convened by NHS Leeds is planning a 'Beat the Credit Crunch' event for January 2010 to be held at St. Matthews Community Centre.

Thriving Places

Operation Champion.

19. In June, Champion took place in Beeston Hill. It focussed on the Woodviews, Stratfords, Trenthams, Bismarcks, Disraelis and Northcotes. The emphasis was on tackling ASB and criminal damage.

Environmental issues: 68 bin yards were cleared of litter and rubbish, two large skips were filled with bulky waste and other rubbish. 4 warnings were issued by the ALMO/Environmental Action Team for untidy gardens. A further 4 Section 46 notices were served to ensure that people keep cleared areas tidy and free of rubbish and refuse. 9 fly tipping sites were cleared. 1 empty property was referred to the Environmental Action team as it had become open to access and so was secured by the team.

Crime issues: 10 people were arrested for a range of offences. 1 warrant was carried out and 1 person arrested as a result. A door to door survey was carried out across the area (113 were spoken to) to gather information from residents about ASB problems. This included a session during the evening of the second day to speak to people who were not available during the daytime session. Visits were also carried to people who had previously reported ASB.

Community engagement: A pre-operation consultation was carried out at St Francis of Assisi Primary School. 20 people were consulted.

20. In July, Operation Champion took place in Winroses, West Granges, Foster Square and the Manor Farms.

Environmental issues: A bulky waste collection was carried out on each day of the operation. This allowed people to put large items of household waste into the skips provided and prevent further dumping in the future. A team from Probation was also tasked with cutting back overgrown planters on Winrose Avenue. 8 gardens were issued with warnings about untidy gardens, 8 residents were served with litter clearing notices and a further 3 inspections were carried out by the Environmental Action Team (EAT). 2 empty properties were secured by the EAT, 1 noise nuisance offender was visited and 1 commercial waste notice was served.

Crime issues: Visits were carried out by the Crime Reduction Officer to vulnerable properties to give crime reduction advice. The NPT carried out high visibility patrols during the operation and gathered intelligence about local problems. A door to door survey was carried out across the area to provide information to residents about local services, offer reassurance to residents and gather intelligence about local issues. Several visits were carried out by Leeds Federated Housing Association to deal with some issues of youth nuisance.

Community engagement: A school gate consultation was carried out at Windmill Primary School to identify issues of concern to local residents. Multi agency teams carried out door to door surveys during the operation to provide residents with information about services including home fire safety checks and crime reduction advice.

Divisional Community Safety Partnership (DCSP). The DCSP are keen to maintain a strong link between the partnership and the Area Committee. Councillor Blake attends the DCSP as the Inner South Area Committee representative. Minutes of the last meeting are available in Appendix 3.

Neighbourhood Wardens

21. The wardens have continued to work alongside the Neighbourhood Policing Team dealing with problems of anti-social behaviour. They have also supported various agencies with target hardening due to the increase in burglaries within the area. This includes visiting elderly residents to advise them on basic security issues and providing a point of contact should they have any concerns

Regeneration

Redevelopment of the Regional Housing Board (RHB) funded sites

22. At its meeting on 4th June 2009, the Leeds Affordable Housing Partnership Board approved the selection of Chevin Housing Association as the Council's preferred development partner for the redevelopment of the 4 sites across the city, including the Beverleys and a number of back to back properties in Holbeck which are being cleared with RHB funding.
23. Work is currently ongoing involving Chevin HA and the council to advance development plans to a point where full planning approval may be sought and funding bids made to the Homes and Community Agency for the provision of affordable homes on these sites.

Beverleys acquisition and demolition

24. Of the 131 properties within the target area of this scheme, 130 are currently within council ownership. Negotiations with the final owner, a private landlord, are well advanced and it appears likely that a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) will need to be made. It is anticipated that the final property will be purchased within the year subject to the successful re-housing of 2 tenants who still live in the property.
25. Two phases of demolition have taken place to date totalling 39 properties. Demolition of the remaining properties is due to take place over the coming months.
26. Outline planning approval for the sites redevelopment was secured at Plans Panel on 12th March 2009 and now that a clear site seems achievable, work can progress towards the submission of a full planning application without delay.

Holbeck acquisition and demolition

27. Of the 102 properties within the target area of this scheme, 100 are currently within council ownership. Agreement on a purchase price has not yet been reached with 1 owner of commercial premises. In addition alternative premises are being sought for the leaseholder of a council owned café shop/café within the target area. If progress cannot be made towards securing the agreement of these 2 owners it is likely that formal approval will be sought to make a CPO for their acquisition.
28. Demolition has not yet started within this area. Until recently the pepper potted location of residents which were still awaiting re-housing has created difficulty in undertaking a phased approach. It is anticipated that the first phase of demolition will commence later in the year.

Phase 4 acquisition and demolition in Holbeck

29. At its meeting on 26th August 2009, Executive Board approved proposals to acquire and demolish a further 20 properties in Holbeck. Officers from the Regenerations Special Projects Team will aim to visit all households directly affected by this decision to discuss re-housing options and the compensation package to which residents may be entitled. Assuming that all of the private owners will agree to sell voluntarily without the need for CPO, it is hoped that the site could be cleared by 2011. While no decision has yet been made regarding the redevelopment of the proposed phase 4 it is anticipated that this site will also provide affordable housing. A comprehensive plan for the combined site, including phases 1, 2, 3 and 4 will be drafted to ensure that regeneration benefits are maximised.

Garnets acquisition and demolition

30. At its meeting of 13th May 2009, the Executive Board approved proposals to acquire and demolish 112 properties in the Garnets area of Beeston. Since that time the Regeneration Projects Team has visited the majority of residents to discuss re-housing options and the compensation package to which they may be entitled. Officers will continue to attempt to make contact with all other residents. To date, 11 of the 43 private residential owners have agreed to sell to the council and work is ongoing to complete the conveyancing of these properties to the council's ownership. If all owners agree voluntarily to sell to the council without the need for CPO, it is hoped that the site may be cleared by 2012.

31. On 13th August a community event was held at the Pavillion Children's Centre on Dewsbury Road to engage with both residents and businesses in the Garnets area with a view to setting up a residents group. The first meeting of this group will take place on 17th September. Once established, it is hoped that the group will work alongside the council and other agencies in steering the regeneration of the area.

PFI

32. **A verbal update will be provided at the meeting.**

Intensive Neighbourhood Management (INM)

33. The INM programme is currently in the last year of the 4 year programme. Proposals to spend the 2009/10 allocation of Safer Stronger Communities Funding were agreed by the Area Committee at its meeting on 17th December 2008. Approval for the carry forward of funds from 2008/09 was agreed by the Corporate Leadership Team in June 2009. This resulted in an extra £23,966 available to spend in the inner south in 2009/10
34. The former South East Area Manager proposed an additional allocation of £5,000 to re'new to provide additional support to the Middleton Regeneration Board and £3,000 to fund the development of its website. The following proposed allocations have been agreed by members of the INM steering group and ward councillors:

Scheme	Carry forward allocation
Re'new - Regeneration and Neighbourhood Management Support to Middleton	5,000
Development of website for Middleton Regeneration Board	3,000
Environmental Contingency Fund	£5,000
South Leeds Youth Theatre	5,310
Total	18,310

35. The Area Management Team has been working with organisations and partnerships to commission the remaining balance of £5,656. It is suggested that Members consider any possible schemes and discuss these with the Area Management Team at the next round of ward member meetings.
36. The Area Committee is requested to formally endorse these proposals and approve the allocation of the carry forward funds

Mobile Youth Provision

37. Activities provided from the bus included football, cricket, rugby, basketball, rounders, dodge-ball, music, DVDs, art and jewellery making. St Lukes Cares deliver activities from the bus in partnership with Groundwork, The Friday Night Project, Urban Bar, Church of the Nazarene and Crossroads Project.

38. The following summarises activity from May – August 2009.
- 1513 young people accessed the youth bus from May – August. 126 of these were new users and the remaining 1387 were young people who had accessed the service previously.
 - **Middleton Park ward** - The bus was accessed by 611 young people aged 8-19 years from the Manor Farms, Belle Isle and Sissons/Throstles
 - **City & Hunslet ward** - The bus was accessed by 565 young people ward when it visited Hunslet Moor, the Arthingtons and Balmorals
 - **Beeston & Holbeck ward** - The bus was accessed by 337 young people when it visited Cottingey, Parkwoods and Holbeck.

Harmonious Communities

Priority Neighbourhoods

39. An evaluation of the first year of the NIP programme, including proposals to ensure the sustainability of resident groups, will be presented to the area committee in November.
40. The following is a summary of work undertaken by the Priority Neighbourhood Development Worker since the last area committee meeting.
- **West Granges and Winroses.** The tenants and residents group continues to develop and influence local decisions about the area. For example, a representative from Tesco was invited to the meeting to discuss plans for locating a supermarket in the area. Residents are keen to ensure that local needs are taken into consideration, such as the use of local labour and traffic management issues.

The Neighbourhood Watch held its second meeting and is broadening the area of cover from the Blakeney to include the West Granges

Judging took place on the Belle Isle garden competition entries on 14th August. The group of entrants will hopefully form the basis of the Belle Isle in Bloom Group. Residents attended the Operation Champion briefing to gain some understanding of the issues tackled.

- **Garnets and Woodviews.** The Cross Flatts forum have agreed to include the Woodviews in their group. The Priority Neighbourhood Development Worker will produce a newsletter before the next meeting with the aim of encouraging residents to attend.

Following the circulation of a questionnaire on regeneration proposals in the Garnets, 11 residents came forward expressing an interest in forming a group that could meet regularly and discuss local issues. An event took place on the 13th August to further develop this and provide an opportunity for local people to discuss the regeneration proposals. A flyer publicising the event was distributed to every household and officers from the area management team, special regenerations project team and Aire Valley Homes went “door-knocking” on the day to encourage people to attend. Approximately 40 people attended. An evaluation of the event and the next steps in

establishing the resident group will be discussed at a further meeting on 17th September.

- **Northcotes & Greenmounts.** The residents group have had its third meeting. Residents were asked to take part in research commissioned by Leeds City Council and undertaken by Leeds University about their perceptions of community safety. The next meeting on the 7 Sept will focus on community safety and act as a launch for Operation Champion which takes place in the area on the 8th, 9th and 10th.

The Northcotes and Greenmounts Neighbourhood Improvement Plan (NIP) steering group is driving forward the NIP action plan. Current issues include kerbside-only bin collection policy as it affects the binyards, checking if more litterbins are needed in the area, need for traffic calming on Beeston Road. An environmental audit is being carried out to check problems of rubbish and overgrown vegetation.

- **Cardinals.** Residents had their second meeting and AGM where the committee was formed and residents voted to elect a Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. The residents played a very pro-active role in terms of promoting and taking responsibility for actions and issues raised at the first meeting. The chair recently went on a walkabout with the Chief Executive of Aire Valley Homes who also attended the meeting.

The Cardinals Neighbourhood Improvement Plan (NIP) steering group continues to drive forward the action plan for the NIP. Current issues including sorting out responsibilities for keeping ginnels clear of rubbish and overgrown vegetation and responsibilities for litter picking of greenspace areas on the estate. AVHL has agreed to get hedges cut back in part of the area. The steering group has also recently discussed the traffic calming measures for the area. T

- **Holbeck in Bloom.** The group recently launched a gardening competition at Holbeck Gala which was well received. Judging is to take place shortly. A further Beetle Drive is to be held in September. The next meeting of the in bloom group is also the AGM and will include reviewing and adding to an Action Plan for the year.
- **CAD Beeston.** Attendance at meetings has increased in recent months. Meetings have also been attended by the Youth Service, Leeds Tenants Federation and the PFI project team. As a result of these meetings the Police now have keys to the church and use it as a base in the area.
- **Other.** Work is underway with the Holbeck and Belle Isle Health and Well being groups to provide courses on household budgeting.
- Support has been provided to the Friday Night Project to access funding.

Community Engagement

41. A separate report is submitted to this meeting.

I Love South Leeds Festival

42. The I love South Leeds Festival is now complete. A full programme of summer activities including music, dance, football, cookery and the talent showcase for under 11s, Junior Superstar. Hundreds of young people have participated, the highest number of participants in the four years that the festival has been running.

43. A celebration event took place on Saturday 5th September. This gave young people the opportunity to put into practice what they have learned over the summer months and perform in front of friends and families.
44. A full evaluation of the festival activities will be presented in a report to the area committee in November, including proposals for the 2010 festival.

Middleton Bright Ideas

45. Middleton Bright Ideas was launched in February 09. It is a Participatory Budgeting (PB) project that gives local people the chance to vote for the projects they want to receive funding. A pot of £30,000 was created with equal funding from the Inner South Area Committee, Rothwell Neighbourhood Policing Team and Aire Valley Homes. Consultation with local residents has been carried out in recent months with local residents to identify their priorities for projects to be developed. Officers from the Steering Group and partner organisations worked with local groups to develop projects to meet the criteria.

A Decision Day was held on Saturday 11th July 09. It featured presentations from 9 organisations bidding for their share of £30,000. The event was attended by an estimated 80 people, the majority of whom were from the target area. It had been publicised in advance by door to door flyers, press releases, information on the Middleton Regeneration website and information in local venues. Activities on the day included a prize draw to win a Nintendo Wii, bouncy castle, face painting, bingo, free food and information stalls. Local residents voted for funding to be given to the following six projects:

- Middleton Elderly Aid - £2,800 to fund gardening equipment, a new shop sign and improvements and community lunches.
- Dynamite Dance Cheerleading Squad - £605 to fund cheerleading classes and displays for both children and adults.
- Middleton Primary School - £10,000 to fund an outdoor classroom and community allotment - the highest grant awarded.
- The Children's Project's - £7,075 for activity for all in the Park on Sunday Afternoons
- Cloth Cat Studios - £4,170 to teach groups to play, perform and record music.
- Friday Night Project - £5,352 to fund art displays by young people in the area.

A full evaluation of the event is being written and will be available to Members.

Middleton Regeneration

46. The work of the Middleton Enterprise, Employment and Economic Development (MEEED) group is progressing well. Co-ordinated by Area Management, a number of partners are taking forward actions around the findings of the Reach Out Research exercise. Currently the group are focusing on volunteering, training and enterprise. An update on the progress of the actions will be presented at the next MEEED group at the end of September. Work is also being progressed to involve and work with the Early Years and Children's Centres as it is acknowledged that working with families is a key element of addressing worklessness issues in the area. Planning is also underway for the employment, training and enterprise fair that will take place in Middleton in the Autumn. A working group has been set up, which is led by Jobs & Skills, to progress this particular action.

47. An outline masterplan has been drafted as part of the Heritage Lottery Fund bid for Middleton Park and some initial consultation has been undertaken in the communities of Middleton, Belle Isle and Beeston about the proposals. Further action plans, as part of the bid, still need to be produced prior to the bid submission date of 22nd October.
48. Re'new's Housing Market Renewal Assessment for Middleton is almost complete. An update report highlighting the initial findings was presented at the Middleton Regeneration Board in July 2009. Once complete, the HRMA will feed into the housing plan for the area.

Implications for Council Policy and Governance

49. No specific issues are identified.

Legal and Resource Implications

50. No specific issues are identified

Recommendations

51. The Committee is asked to:
 - a) note the contents of this report.
 - b) approve the allocation of the SSCF carry forward funds as outlined in paragraph 37- 38

Background reports:

South (Inner) Area Committee, Area Delivery Plan 23rd June