



Leeds
CITY COUNCIL

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Report of the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods

Outer West Area Committee

Date: 29th January 2010

Subject: Area Manager's Report

Electoral Wards Affected:

Calverley & Farsley
Farnley & Wortley
Pudsey

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 Outer West Leeds as determined by the Area Delivery Plan 2009-12. The Area Delivery Plan is the key strategic document produced by Area Committees and the local expression of the Leeds Strategic Plan.

1.0 Purpose Of This Report

1.1 This report informs Members of the progress against the Area Delivery Plan 2009-12 as agreed by Executive Board in July 2008. The report is structured around the Leeds Strategic Plan themes.

2.0 Background Information

2.1 The Area Delivery Plan for this Area Committee was agreed by Executive Board in July 2009 together with the Area Committee functions and enhanced roles. The Area Committee approved the ADP at its last meeting. However, since then, there have been some amendments to the profile information and introduction. Members should note that this revised information, along with the action plan is available to view on-line on the Leeds City Council website via the following path: Council and democracy / Councillors, democracy and elections / Council documents, Area Committee

information / West Outer Area Delivery Plan / West Outer Area Delivery Plan 2009-12 (pdf).

3.0 Main Issues

Environment

- 3.1 Health and Environmental Action Services (HEAS) and Streetscene are presenting reports elsewhere on this agenda, anecdotally against their areas of work (as agreed by Members of the Outer West Area Committee last year).
- 3.2 The Gambles Hill Tannery Path improvements scheme has commenced work on the Gambles estate as part of the Local Area Management Plan for the Gambles and Heights. This work will re-define and re-surface a public access path serving the Gambles estate in the Farnley Wortley ward. This path links the housing estate at Gamble Hill Drive to the pedestrian foot bridge at Hough Lane over the inner ring road. The path follows a route through a former tannery site which is muddy and obstructed with tree routes and bushes. The re-surfacing of the path will create a better and safer access for those using it.
- 3.3 Work is also taking place to try and gain the permission of West North West Homes Leeds to use a currently derelict garage site on the Heights estate as a an area where vegetables/plants can be grown by the local school children, youth groups. It is hoped that the area which is fenced around its perimeter and lockable, could be accessed by the youth service who would work alongside the school, Groundwork Leeds and with local allotment holders who will share their experience of vegetable growing with local youths.
- 3.4 Area Management at the request of local Ward Councillors for Farnley and Wortley are also working with appropriate external organisations to see if any funding for Bio-Diversity projects could be found and implemented in the area. In layperson's terms the idea of bio-diversity is to foster a place where a natural habit can exist, i.e. birds, insects etc can live and thrive alongside each other, whilst helping to support the food chain and in turn planet.
- 3.5 Tree works are due to start this month on Calverley Cutting, this project will create a proper circular route to and from the village of Calverley around Calverley Woods.
- 3.6 The scheme includes the building of two natural stone raised planters by the Friends of Calverley Woods which will be maintained by Calverley in Bloom. An interpretation board, including Braille, will inform people about the Cutting, native bulbs will enhance the environment and seats will be installed throughout the cutting, a slope with a maximum gradient of 1:12 with a handrail and tapping edge will be installed to provide access for all and appropriate access controls will be installed. Crushed sandstone will be used to re-surface the path. Letters of support and maintenance agreements from the landowners have been received.

Thriving Places

- 3.6 A full Community Safety update report is attached elsewhere on this agenda.
- 3.7 A number of area based regeneration schemes are underway in Outer West. The Farsley Town & District Centre (T&DC) phase 1 scheme is nearing completion. With work remaining centred around replacing the cenotaph railings.
- 3.8 Phase 2 of the Farsley Town and District Centre Scheme will hopefully see the Andrew Square car park and toilet area re-surfaced/furbished respectively, heritage style street lamps installed on the main shopping section of Farsley Town Street, appropriate matching heritage guard rails installed alongside the highway, and the ginnel opposite Andrew Street, re-surfaced. A decision is awaited by the Town and District Centre Programme Board (mid-end February) on whether the cost of the scheme can be met once designs and likely costs are received from Strategic Design Alliance.
- 3.9 The Pudsey T&DC scheme is largely completed, although a report to T&DC Programme Board early in 2010 will include a request for funding for the heritage lighting element of the scheme, street banners, floral display containers and replacement safety railings.
- 3.10 The bus lay-by was due to be funded through a section 106 agreement linked to the proposed Cemetery Road development. However, that development has not proceeded. Unfortunately the possibility of this work being funded instead through the Local Transport Plan is now looking uncertain. Site investigations have been undertaken to identify underground services but it is not yet possible to confirm a timescale for work to start on site.
- 3.10 Work has commenced on the Lower Wortley Road Improvement Scheme in early December 2009 and is due to be complete in February 2010. Contact has been made with the Headteacher at the local Lower Wortley Primary School with a view to work commencing in the spring term with some of its pupils to design the artwork for the Bullring area of the scheme. An artist has been sourced for this work, which will be installed, hopefully by April 2010.
- 3.11 The Gambles and Heights LAMPs are moving away from concentrating on crime and grime issues, to tackling longer term issues such as young people, anti-social behaviour, and Health and Well-being in its widest sense. A very successful "Winter Warmer" intergenerational event was held at the Heights Church in November, with the support of Armley Juniors, Armley Helping Hands, Bramley Elderly Action and Area Management. This event saw young people serving food to, and eating alongside the older people (who had been brought to the Church by Armley Helping Hands), followed by engaging in a quiz together.
- 3.12 In addition, a very well attended "Health and Wellbeing" event for the Gambles and Heights was held in September 2009, with partner agencies who work under the health and wellbeing banner in its widest sense e.g. Children's Centres, Extended Services, Youth Service, West North West Leeds Homes, NHS Leeds, Jobs and Skills, local schools, Tenants and Residents. From this meeting, volunteers from relevant agencies have formed a Health and Wellbeing sub group (Chaired by NHS Leeds) whose aims are to prioritise the issues raised at the original event and centre around reducing teenage pregnancies, improving financial health and wellbeing and improving links between Jobs and Skills and Children's Centres.

- 3.13 The Leeds Neighbourhood Index (appendix 1) has been developed by the Regeneration Service within Environments and Neighbourhoods, specifically to:
- Provide demand for small area data (medium super output areas) to better describe and understand neighbourhoods;
 - To act as an evidence base to inform policy formulation, priority setting and resource allocation;
 - Improve performance management by monitoring impact of key services on a key locality;
 - To provide a ready made set of boundaries which are recognized by all partner agencies;
 - Generates a neighbourhood score for each indicator (assessed against e.g economic activity, low income, housing, environment, health, education and community safety), which can be compared to the averages for the city.
- 3.14 The Area Management Team for Outer West Leeds will be analyzing the findings of the Neighbourhood Index and ensuring that this analysis results in action points in the 2010/11 Area Delivery Plan.

Harmonious Communities

- 3.15 A report on Community Engagement is presented elsewhere on this agenda.
- 3.16 It should be noted that Councillor Richard Brett is driving forward a plan to designate 2010 as the Leeds Year of Volunteering. Area Teams have been asked to participate in a programme to increase the number of volunteers and improve access to a wide range of volunteering opportunities. The leaders of the main political parties have given their broad support to this. It will be steered and approved by a Political Steering Group that Councillor Brett will Chair.
- 3.17 At the December 2009 Outer West Area Committee, Members agreed to support a range of activities during 2010 which would support the city-wide programme. It was agreed that Councillor Marjoram would take on a champion role for Year of the Volunteer in Outer West, possibly supported as work progresses by a sub group.
- 3.18 Members agreed to hold a West North West market-place style event to promote the March theme of 'Volunteering in Every Neighbourhood'. This will take place 10am-2pm on Saturday 6th March at Pudsey Civic Centre. The aim of the event is to promote volunteering opportunities. Entertainment and refreshments could help attract people to the event as well as strong, concerted and wide ranging publicity. Voluntary Action Leeds have agreed to support this event and provide access for attendees to the 'V-base' database so that volunteers can be signed up to volunteering opportunities at the event and the success of the event, in terms of increasing volunteer numbers, can be easily measured.
- 3.19 In addition to the promotional event, the Area Management Team will promote volunteering throughout the year at community events and the Town Centre Manager is developing some ways of linking businesses, agencies and schools in volunteering opportunities. The small grants programme will continue to support voluntary and community groups throughout 2010.

- 3.20 The Area Committee has also agreed to host a volunteer celebration event to recognise the contribution of volunteers to improving its local area. The Outer West event along with one for each of the other West North West committee areas, will be held between September and November and winners will be entered into the Civic Awards in December. Outer West, Inner West and Outer North West have approved £1,000 each to support Year of the Volunteer events and Inner North West will consider this proposal at their January 2010 meeting.

Learning

- 3.21 A full report on Children's Services was being presented at the December 2009 Area Committee.

Health & Well Being

- 3.22 A Health and Well-being Improvement Manager to cover West and North West Leeds has now been appointed and will hopefully be starting work in March of this year. This is a joint post between the Council and NHS Leeds, the post holder will be based with the West North West area management team in Pudsey Town Hall and will work closely with local partners to promote health and well-being partnership working and activity across the outer west area committee area as well as within the area's priority neighbourhoods.

Enterprise & Economy

- 3.23 A full update on the role of the Pudsey Town Centre Manager (TCM) is presented elsewhere on this agenda.
- 3.24 Discussions are currently taking place regarding the potential for transferring the management of markets in Pudsey, Otley and Yeadon from Markets Services to Area Management. A steering group chaired by Councillor Barry Anderson has been established to consider how this might work in practice. A further meeting will take place in the new year to progress this matter. Local elected Members, City Centre Management, the TCM and Area Management are also closely involved in these discussions.

Culture

- 3.25 An event to devise a Cultural Strategy for inner north west Leeds will be held on the 28th Jan 2010. The purpose of the event is to bring together all the cultural activities in inner north west to increase the cultural offer for local residents, to build on the already varied cultural offer for local residents, to build on the already varied cultural mix and to improve community engagement and cohesion. Although, inner north west is unique in the amount and variety of cultural organizations present, it is hoped that if successful, a strategy and an action plan for other area committee areas can be formulated.

Transport

- 3.25 Work to redevelop Pudsey bus station commenced on Monday the 26th October 2009 and is programmed for completion in September 2010. Work is being carried out in stages, in order to minimize disruption and to maintain access to business and facilities. The existing short stay car park (in Market Place) was closed at the start of

stage 1 to allow removal and demolition of the existing facilities and excavation and substructure works to form part of the new bus station. During the excavation works, the contractor damaged a previously unidentified live electricity cable which has had to be repaired and re-routed by YEDL resulting in a potential delay to the works of approximately 3 weeks. The implications of this delay are being investigated, and the project team and main contractor are considering all opportunities to mitigate the impact of this delay on the overall programme. The contractor is considering reprogramming some elements of the stage 1 and stage 2 works in an attempt to save time.

- 3.27 During stage 1, part of the existing road loop around Market Place, in front of the leisure centre, will be closed for around 8 - 10 weeks. The contractor has formalised this arrangement with LCC Highways, in the form of a temporary traffic order, and has provided alternative pedestrian and vehicular routes before closing the loop. All of the local business and surrounding buildings have been kept informed of this work by the Pudsey Town Centre Manager.
- 3.28 Since work started on site and the short stay car park in Market Place was removed, there have been complaints regarding lack of parking in Pudsey town centre. The local traders and market traders have highlighted to the Town Centre Manager that they have seen their trading decrease since the removal of the car park. In some cases, this has been a severe impact and traders claim that they can only survive for a matter of months.
- 3.29 As agreed with Councillors Carter and Coulson on 25th November 2009, urgent action is required to address the lack of short term parking. As a result, Traffic Management have prepared a Traffic Regulation Order which identifies 27 spaces in the Leisure Centre car park, adjacent to Pudsey Park and 13 spaces in Lidget Hill car park around the perimeter, which will have a limited waiting restriction imposed. Parking will be limited to 2 hours Monday – Saturday, 8am – 6pm. The restriction includes no return within 2 hours. The parking restriction signs are now in place in both car parks.
- 3.30 It was also agreed that the taxi stops would be removed from Lidget Hill with the line markings being removed. The Lidget Hill alterations originally formed part of the work proposed to create bus lay-bys. This is currently on hold due to LTP funding issues. However, Traffic Management have arranged for the taxi bays to be re-located to Manor House Street as part of the bus station TROs. The Lidget Hill area has been re-lined recently and now contains the maximum number of parking spaces allowed at an acceptable standard e.g. 2.4m x 4.8m.
- 3.31 Traffic Management officers agreed to liaise with Design Services to consider longer term solutions such as Park and Ride schemes or additional sites for parking, possibly those currently in private ownership.
- 3.32 The Town Centre Manager has agreed to ensure that local businesses are kept informed of the bus station re-development and progress with resolving parking issues.
- 3.33 Stage 2 of the work is due to commence in January 2010, when the existing bus station will be closed and demolished. Passengers will then be able to catch their buses from new temporary stops in Market Place and in Church Lane and a temporary traffic order has been agreed in order to provide the necessary bus clearways

4.0 Implications for Council Policy and Governance

Member Consultation

4.1 Members are consulted on projects and initiatives within their wards. In addition each Leeds Strategic Plan theme has a Member champion to progress work in this area.

5.0 Legal and Resource Implications

5.1 In order to meet the Area Committee's functions, funding is available via Well Being budgets, the Community Centres Budget and Neighbourhood Renewal Funding.

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 in the fact that the Area Committee's role here is only to influence, develop and consult. However, wellbeing funding has resourced some projects here e.g. community engagement, 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 Outer West Area Committee members are invited to note the contents of the report and to comment on any aspect of the matters raised.

Background Papers:

None