



Report of the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods

To: Outer North West Area Committee

Date: 8th February 2010

Subject: Area Manager's Report

Electoral Wards Affected:

Adel & Wharfedale
Guiseley & Rawdon
Horsforth
Otley & Yeadon

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 North West Leeds as determined by the Area Delivery Plan 2009-12. The Area Delivery Plan is the key strategic document produced by the Area Committee 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 Area Committee functions and roles as agreed by Executive Board in July 2008. The report is formatted under the themes of the Leeds Strategic Plan.

2.0 Background Information

2.1 The Area Delivery Plan for this Area Committee was agreed by Executive Board in July together with the Area Committee functions and enhanced roles.

3.0 Main Issues

Environment

3.1 Groundwork Leeds in partnership with West North West Homes Leeds (WNWHL) has developed a master plan for the Holt Park area. A meeting was held in November

2009 between ward members, area management, Groundwork and the ALMO to look at how best to take this project forward. It was originally planned to develop 9 informal play spaces around the estate. However, due to a substantial increase in the cost of the work, WNWHL is now looking again at all the 9 areas to identify the areas that need improving urgently. Groundwork Leeds will then revise the estimate cost. New applications will be put together to apply for WNWHL Area Panel funding and Outer North West Area Committee Wellbeing funding in early 2010.

- 3.2. An Operation Champion was held in Holt Park in December 2009. Police and officers from West North West Homes, Sanctuary Housing, Environmental Action Team, Youth Service and other agencies undertook work in the area to execute warrants, undertake garden and tenancy audits, remove graffiti and undertake other enforcement action. Agencies also used the Police Community van which was parked at ASDA, as an opportunity to talk to local residents about local concerns and action undertaken. The Youth Mobile also took part in the day and staff talked to young people in the targeted area.

Enterprise & Economy

- 3.3 The City Council has worked with partner organisations to develop an enhanced area profiling system at the neighbourhood level. The result of this work is the production of a 'Neighbourhood Index' for the city, which provides the Council and its partners with a robust evidence base by which to plan service interventions and to begin to identify and guide resources into the areas of greatest need. It contributes to a more sophisticated understanding of the problems and issues facing local communities and the people in those communities and provides a framework to benchmark progress in key neighbourhoods and communities. Details of outer north west information are included in the accompanying pack.

Thriving Communities

- 3.4 Town and District Centre Regeneration – In 2006, funding was allocated to two schemes in Outer North West – Otley Market Place and Yeadon High Street. A further three projects – the restoration of the Brook Crompton clock in Guiseley, the refurbishment of the former Horsforth library and the refurbishment of Otley Civic Centre were then added. Work on all schemes has been progressed in consultation with local ward members.
- 3.5 The scheme to improve and enhance the High Street in Yeadon commenced work on April 27th. The contractors for the work are North Midland. The majority of the work was completed before the end of the calendar year. Paving works are still to be completed to the area outside the library. In addition, there are still areas of pavement that require pointing and the lining of the road is still to complete. These works can not be undertaken until the weather improves.
- 3.6 The Strategic Design Alliance (SDA) were appointed earlier in the year to provide a brief for the plinth design, refurbishment and relocation of the former Brook Crompton Parkinson Building Clock Tower to the new Netherfield Road car park in Guiseley.

Tender documents were prepared and four tender returns were submitted. The successful tenderer appointed to undertake the tower work were local firm Strategic Team Group. (STG) The clock mechanism refurbishment will be carried out by Smith of Derby, whose parent company were the original makers of the clock.

- 3.7 The clock mechanism has now been removed from the tower and been taken to a workshop in Nottingham for repair and refurbishment. The tower structure has also been removed for repair and refurbishment. Work on site at Netherfield Road will commence at the end of January. The contract is expected to take seven weeks to complete.
- 3.8 Work on the design for a new youth centre for Horsforth and new Area Management offices in the old Horsforth library building, has now completed. A planning application was submitted to Planning Services for a change of use to the building and was approved in the summer. Leeds City Council City Development has been appointed to be the contractor. Work started on site on January 11th and will be completed in June 2010.
- 3.9 Multi agency action group for Horsforth – The group has been set up and coordinated by West North West Area Management team in response to residents' concerns to tackle local issues around Town Street, Broadway, King George and other areas of concern. Participating agencies include the police, ASBU, Youth Services and West North West Homes Leeds (WNWHL).
- 3.10 A community safety event was organised in December at Central Methodist Church on Town Street, various partners including the Police, Fire Service, WNWH, ASBU and Safer Leeds staffed stalls with information for the public on their service and to allow residents to voice any concerns with them. The police car and mascot were there to amuse children and to show a visual police profile in the area and the event was on the front page of the Wharfe Valley Times. Around 50 members of the public attended the event and engaged with officers present.
- 3.11 Newsletters detailing the work that the police and council agencies have been doing in the area and any success stories will be distributed to residents and some of these were also available at the community safety event. The newsletters also have the contact details for all of the agencies residents may need, for example the dog fouling team, ASBU and the local police station.
- 3.12 The police have also carried out various operations in the area including a highly visual presence on Town Street in the week leading up to Christmas to deter any rowdy drunken behaviour and have been working with the councils Parking Services team to tackle local parking issues.
- 3.13 Extended Services have carried out an audit of activities available in the area for young people to take part in and this information will be distributed to young people and parents in the area to encourage youths to take part in organised activities as an alternative to 'hanging around'.

- 3.14 A Environmental Visual Audit action day is to be carried out in the area in early February. Various agencies will patrol the area to audit cases of graffiti, dog fouling and littering and to highlight to residents any action they need to take to prevent crime opportunities. Appropriate action will be taken in response to all issues documented.
- 3.15 A further multi agency meeting will be organised for late February to allow all of the agencies to feed back on their actions, for success to be evaluated against the action plan and any further identified actions to be raised.

Health and Wellbeing

- 3.16 Leeds City Council Sport and Active Recreation Service has submitted bids for the second round of free swimming funding offered by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). The first stage of the application process which has allocated £2 million for Aireborough Leisure Centre, Otley Chippendale Swimming Pool and Kirkstall Leisure Centre has been successful. The final outcome of the bids will be known by 31st March 2010. The project teams are now working to deliver a feasibility study for the sites to include floor plans, timescales and costing. There will be a public consultation as well as posters and drop in sessions organised for each site by the end of January. A business plan for each site will be submitted to Sport England in February and planning applications submitted by April once the outcome of the bids is confirmed. It is expected that the development work will be completed within 2010/11 and disruptions to the operation/programme of the affected sites kept to minimum by various measures where possible.
- 3.17 Aireborough Leisure Centre's bid is for £1,958,000 of which £1,210,000 is from free swimming funding and £748,000 from Prudential Borrowing. Development work has been proposed for the reception, foyer area, entrance area, changing rooms, car park, the pool viewing balcony and bodyline gym space. A small pool cover, glazing and coloured glass to the windows of the pools are also recommended to increase energy efficiency.
- 3.18 Otley Chippendale Swimming Pool applied for £155,000 of which £125,000 is from free swimming. The proposed development work includes signage from the front of Prince Henry school, the linkage corridor between the reception and the pool, improvements to seating and vending area, changing rooms and the viewing area on the pool side for swimming lessons.

Transport

- 3.19 Leeds Core Cycle Network – The outline designs of 16 routes (except route 2) to be improved under the Leeds Core Cycle Network have been the subject for public and ward members' consultation from April to June 2009. Responses have been supportive or provided detailed comments which are being considered. Further consultations will be undertaken for each route as detailed design progresses. It is proposed to commence implementation of some elements of the network this financial

year. These first elements for implementation have been selected to give a geographic spread across the city and to maximise opportunities for external funding:

- Route 16 Wyke Beck Way (Roundhay Park to Easterly Road section)
- Route 5 Cookridge - City Centre
- Route 3 Middleton – City Centre
- Route 15 Alwoodley – City Centre

3.20 The Director of City Development submitted a report to the Executive Board in October 2009 on the proposed Leeds Core Cycle Network. The Executive Board approved that the design and implementation of the proposed Leeds Core Cycle Network project can progress, subject to financial approvals and regulation. It was also agreed that the estimate expenditure of £1,446,305 for the above first elements of the proposed Core Cycle Network Project is to be funded from the Integrated Transport Parent Scheme 99609 within the approved Capital Programme.

Harmonious Communities

3.21 Community Engagement - West North West Area Management Team developed a new Community Engagement Strategy and presented it to the 14th December Area Committee. The strategy included the setting up of an Area Management website, a West North West Area Citizen Panel, producing a leaflet for each Area Committee and engaging partners in the development of the new Area Delivery Plan (ADP).

3.22 The new website is now operational and information is being uploaded. A brief training session on Talking Point was received by area management team. Work to develop the questionnaire is now underway. Once the questionnaire is finalised, it will be used to conduct an online survey via the Council's Talking Point.

3.23 Letters have been posted to 400 members of Leeds Citizens' Panel to recruit members for the West North West Leeds Citizens' Panel. The response rate is nearly 35%. So far, 135 people agreed to respond to West North West questionnaires (of which 39 are from Outer North West (ONW)), 83 agreed to fill in online surveys (28 from ONW) and 78 agreed to attend focused group meetings (18 from ONW).

3.24 A leaflet has been designed for each Area Committee by the area management team. ONW Area Committee has been consulted on the ONW leaflet and adjustments have been made to reflect Members' comments.

3.25 Meetings with partners are currently underway to help inform the development of the 2010/11 ADP.

3.26 Year of Volunteer (YOV) - In order to prepare for the YOV 2010, West North West Area Management has developed and presented a proposal to the December Area Committee. It is proposed that West North West Area Management holds a market-style event to promote volunteering work throughout West North West Leeds in March 2010, supported by Voluntary Action Leeds (VAL). It is also suggested that each Area Committee hosts a volunteer celebration event between September and November

2010 to recognise the contribution of volunteers to improving their local areas. A small grant funding of £1,000 has been committed to promoting the YOY 2010.

- 3.27 The West North West event will be organised on Saturday, 6th March from 10:00 to 14:00 in Pudsey Civic Hall. Preparation has been made by Area Management for the event. A list of voluntary and community organisations to invite has been compiled. A leaflet has been designed and the printing of leaflets, posters and banners to promote the event will be carried out shortly. From January until March, the event will be promoted across the west north west area through printed communications and at community forums.
- 3.28 Horsforth Design Statement – The draft D.S. has now been produced and circulated to officers throughout the Council for consultation. Responses are required to be returned by 8 February. Following this, the document will then be submitted to Planning Board.

4.0 Implications for Council Policy and Governance

- 4.1 The Area Delivery Plan for Outer North West is administered through the West North West Leeds area management team.
- 4.2 Well being projects develop from Outer North 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 Outer North 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

Documents referred to in this report:

Executive Board Report July 2008.
Executive Board Report 14 October 2009