

Report of the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods

To: Outer North West Area Committee

Date: 29th March 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 2008-11. 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 A multi agency action group for Horsforth was set up last year and is coordinated by the West North West Area Management team in response to residents' concerns

about issues in and around Town Street, Broadway, King George's and other areas nearby. Participating agencies include West Yorkshire Police, ASBU, Youth Services and West North West homes Leeds (WNWhL).

- 3.2 As part of this, an Environmental Visual Audit action day was carried out in the areas of Town Street, King Edwards, King Georges and St Margaret's on 23rd February. Officers from Area Management, West North West Homes Leeds, West Yorkshire Police, Neighbourhood Watch and members of the public patrolled 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. All issues noted down were forwarded to the relevant agencies for action.
- 3.3 A further multi agency meeting will be organised in March 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.

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 were North Midland and the majority of the work was completed before the end of the calendar year. There are still areas of pavement that require pointing and the lining of the road is still incomplete. This work is now able to commence due to the improvement in the weather conditions.
- 3.6 The Strategic Design Alliance (SDA) were appointed last 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.
- 3.7 The clock mechanism has now been repaired and refurbished. The tower structure has also been repaired and has been returned to the site on 11th January. The contract was expected to take seven weeks to complete and is currently one week behind schedule. The official opening ceremony for the clock is due to take place on 23rd March 2010.
- 3.8 Work commenced on the new youth centre and area management offices in the former Horsforth library building. The contract will last 24 weeks and is scheduled to complete on the 18th June. The work is being carried out by the Council's Property Maintenance division.
- 3.9 At the 12th February Executive Board meeting, approval was given, subject to consultation, to the proposals for improvements to older peoples housing and care as

a result of the Councils successful Expression of Interest for Round 6 of the national Housing PFI programme.

- 3.10 The Lifetime Neighbourhoods for Leeds project is the result of a partnership between Housing, Regeneration, Adult Social Care and Health. It will create or enhance services for older people across a number of neighbourhoods in Leeds to enable residents to lead more active and independent lives. The project seeks to strengthen existing neighbourhood regeneration strategies and focuses on the provision of new and high quality, affordable homes with extra care options for older people.
- 3.11 Consultation with directly affected residents was due to commence in mid March and drop-in sessions for the wider community and stakeholders will be held in Holt Park in March/April and in Yeadon in April.

Health and Wellbeing

- 3.12 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 25th March 2010.
- 3.13 Holt Park Wellbeing Centre – Another two workshops were arranged in February at Holt Park Leisure Centre and Ralph Thoresby School for local people, service users and those interested to comment upon the development of the new centre. The workshops gave the opportunity for the public to discuss the proposals for the wellbeing centre and where it is to be located, as well as to have a chance to discuss their aspirations for the new centre and how it can best serve the local people. There will be further workshops as the project develops, allowing all those interested to be involved throughout the development.
- 3.14 The project team including officers from adult social care, sports and active recreation and NHS Leeds is now working on an outline business case which will confirm the facilities to be provided following the public consultation. New plans of the centre are now available on Leeds City Council's website as well as at the Holt Park leisure centre.
- 3.15 A number of groups in the local community have a special interest in the centre and representatives are invited to join a working group with the project team to look at issues relevant to the new centre. Issues to be discussed include position of the site, facility mix, relocation issues and arrangements and programming. It is also envisaged that this group will form a user consultation group when the new centre opens, allowing public input to the management and monitoring of the partnership through the life of the project.
- 3.16 Tim Taylor has been appointed as a Health and Well-being Improvement Manager for West North West Leeds. This is a joint post between the Council and NHS Leeds. Tim

started in February 2010 and is based with the area management team in Pudsey Town Hall. He will work closely with local partners to promote health and well-being partnerships and activities across the outer north west area.

- 3.17 The Health and Wellbeing Improvement Manager in the West/North West of Leeds is a jointly funded post that works to Leeds City Council and NHS Leeds. The post aims to address health inequalities and improve community wellbeing. It will improve efficiency and reduce costs by integrating partnership working and through problem solving. It will ensure that local issues are heard by central commissioning structures.

Transport

- 3.18 Leeds Core Cycle Network – The Executive Board has approved the design and implementation of the Leeds Core Cycle Network project proposed by City Development department in October 2009. It was also agreed that the estimate expenditure of £1,446,305 for the first elements – Route 3,5,15 and 16 - of the proposed Core Cycle Network Project is to be funded from the Integrated Transport Parent Scheme 99609 within the approved Capital Programme. Route 5 is from Cookridge to the City Centre. A detailed design is anticipated to be completed by April 2010 for site works to commence in May 2010.

Harmonious Communities

- 3.19 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).
- 3.20 The new website is now operational and information is being uploaded. An online survey is being developed and will be put into operation during March via the Council's Talking Point when completes.
- 3.21 The recruitment to the West North West Citizen's Panel (from the four WNW Area Committee areas) has now been completed with 135 members willing to respond to a West North West survey (of which 39 are from Outer North West). 83 have agreed to fill in online surveys of which 28 are from ONW and 78 have agreed to attend focus group meetings of which 18 from ONW.
- 3.22 Relevant members of the West North West Citizen Panel have been invited to join in the first focused group discussion. The discussion was facilitated by an independent consultant and focused on environmental issues in the inner west. Issues raised from the discussion will be forwarded to Streetscene for action and they will also be used to inform next year's Area Delivery Plan. Following this first focused group discussion, other discussions will continue to be organised for other areas of West North West Leeds.
- 3.23 In order to prepare for the Year of the Volunteer 2010, West North West Area Management developed and presented a proposal to the December Area Committee. It was agreed that West North West Area Management would hold a market place

style event to promote volunteering work throughout West North West Leeds in March 2010, supported by Voluntary Action Leeds (VAL). Additionally, each Area Committee will host a volunteer celebration event in September to recognise the contribution of volunteers to improving their local areas and lessons learned from this exercise will help to inform the celebration event in September.

- 3.24 The West North West volunteering promotion event was organised on Saturday, 6th March in Pudsey Civic Hall. More than 150 organisations were invited to the event. From January until March, the event was widely promoted across the west north west area through printed communications and at community forums. The event was attended by more than 30 organisations, all of whom had a stall to showcase their works. Approximately 30 participants attended, all of whom thought the event was useful and almost all of them put their names down for volunteering opportunities. A full evaluation is currently being undertaken.
- 3.25 Horsforth Design Statement – The draft design statement was produced and circulated to officers in the Council for consultation during January 2010. Responses were received from LCC Planning, Highways, Conservation Team and Parks & Countryside during February. The suggestions received have been discussed within the group and amendments will be made accordingly. It is expected that the design statement will be finalised by May for approval by Planning Board. The launch of the document is planned for the Autumn.
- 3.26 The consultation on the revised Letting and Pricing Policy for Community Centres was undertaken from 8th February to 15th March among user groups in the outer north west. To date, there have been 10 responses and the groups are generally satisfied with the revisions proposed. The Community Centres Task and Finish Group will consider all the feedback and continue to adjust the policy if needed.
- 3.27 The Entertainment Licensing Section are proposing to conduct a review of the Cumulative Impact Policy for Horsforth over the next few months. As an area wide priority for which the Area Committee was involved in 2007, they will be consulting with the Area Committee prior to the public consultation draft going to Full Council in July.

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
- approve the Letting and Pricing Policy for Community Centres which was circulated at the previous Area Committee on 8th February 2010.

Documents referred to in this report:

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