



Leeds
CITY COUNCIL

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Report of the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods

Outer West Area Committee

Date: 26th March 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 initiatives in Outer West Leeds as determined by the Area Delivery Plan 2008-11 and highlight key achievements of the Area Management Team since the last Area Committee. 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. It sets out the local expression of the Leeds Strategic Plan themes.

3.0 Main Issues

Culture

- 3.1 An event to devise a Cultural Strategy for inner north west Leeds took place on the 28th Jan 2010 with the aim of bringing together all the cultural activities in inner north west. The event aimed 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. At least 20 organisations attended and felt the event was very useful. They have agreed to meet three times per year to improve networking and develop the Cultural Strategy. It could be useful to roll this approach out to other areas such as Outer West, although this would be very resource intensive.
- 3.2 The West North West Area Management Team will be working with organisations such as I Love West Leeds, Farsley Youth Development Project, LCC Music Department and Pudsey Town Centre Manager to ensure a varied programme of events, especially over the summer. In addition, the Arts & Regeneration Team has this year had some significant input to the ADP. The Area Management Team will ensure their suggested actions are implemented.

Enterprise & Economy

- 3.3 The worklessness action plans for the priority neighbourhoods in West North West, including Super Output Areas (SOAs) within Farnley & Wortley ward, have now been pulled together into a Local Action Plan for West North West, with an overall lead from Jobs and Skills. Champions from the Area Management Team and partner agencies have been assigned to various activities to drive this work forward to meet target NI 153 which seeks to narrow the gap between the Leeds out-of-work claimant rate and the overall rate for the combined SOA areas in West North West. A meeting is scheduled for March 22nd to clarify roles and responsibilities.
- 3.4 A Jobs and Skills Open Day is planned to take place 14th April at Armley Juniors in the Farnley & Wortley ward. This will provide access to jobs, training and information and signpost people to other services.
- 3.5 The Town Centre Manager for Pudsey has made significant progress with the Shop Local campaign and Reward Card scheme. The Pudsey Business Forum is now chaired and managed by a local business representative and is taking a pro-active approach to supporting Pudsey town centre. The forum has developed a web-site which is now live: www.shopinpudsey.co.uk and has published a magazine featuring local businesses. This is self financing through advertisements.
- 3.6 The Town Centre Manager has organised a series of events for Easter on 3rd April – Artsmix arts and crafts market will be combined with the regular Saturday market, Suitcase Circus will be performing and the Business Forum are organizing an Easter Egg Hunt. Flyers advertising the event have been distributed to Pudsey library, Pudsey leisure centre and local businesses. The first winner of the monthly prize draw has been awarded £50 of Pudsey Shop Local Vouchers. The winner was very pleased and enthusiastic about the scheme. Further winners will be drawn each month. The Town Centre Manager is also trying to secure a banner to advertise the regular market and this would be replaced by a banner for the Farmers Market and Artsmix Market. Markets Services have agreed to contribute some funding towards

this. A request for a TCM events budget is included in the Wellbeing report elsewhere on this agenda.

Learning

- 3.6 A report is included elsewhere on this agenda which explains how consideration being given by school governing bodies to developing sustainable partnerships in the outer West area, with specific reference to trust school status.
- 3.7 Links are being developed between Jobs & Skills and Pudsey Town Centre Manager to facilitate work placements within Pudsey businesses. BARCA Leeds would refer NEET clients to this initiative.

Transport

- 3.8 Work to re-develop Pudsey bus station is ongoing and programmed for completion September 2010. Unfortunately, due to the inclement weather in January and February and the problem with a previously unidentified YEDL cable, work is approximately five weeks behind schedule. However, the contractor is making best efforts to mitigate further delays.
- 3.9 The current stage 2 works have seen closure and demolition of the bus station and passengers currently use temporary stops in Market Place and in Church Lane. A temporary traffic order has been agreed to provide the necessary bus clearways. Following further bus tests and site observations in early March, it was agreed that the new arrangements with temporary bus stops were running well. However, it was also agreed that the bus clearway on the east side of Market Place will be shortened to allow a loading bay to be marked out. This loading bay will be outside Pudsey Computers and also allow brief stops to use the ATM outside the Halifax Bank without blocking buses.
- 3.10 This alteration will be monitored to ensure that the temporary bus stops are still operating in a satisfactory manner. LCC and Metro reserve the right to restore the bus lay-by to its original length if it is found that there are operational difficulties. It is also intended to convert the two disabled bays at the top of Crawshaw Hill to short stay disabled bays to prevent long stay parking by blue badge holders. The success of any of these measures depends on the public observing TROs and any illegal parking will have a serious impact on the operation of the temporary bus stops around Market Place. The contractor, Allenbuild, has regularly attended the Pudsey Business Forum to keep local businesses up to date on the scheme. Discussions are currently taking place with Pudsey in Bloom to install some greenery within the redeveloped site.
- 3.11 Recently the developer for the Cemetery Road scheme has come forward wishing to progress the Section 278 works to enable him to take this development forward. At this point no agreement has been signed. However, it is expected that it will be in the near future. Under this Section 278, the lay-by on the Western side of Lidget Hill would be paid for by the developer, along with traffic calming on Cemetery Road and Owlcotes Road. A proposal is being submitted for the lay-by on the eastern side of Lidget Hill, to be match funded by the Local Transport Plan and Town & District Centre scheme.

- 3.12 Pudsey Parking strategy is also being progressed, following initial consultation. The strategy is due to be published in April 2010. If further consultation is required, the Area Management Team will assist with this to ensure it is as inclusive as possible.

Environment

- 3.13 Health and Environmental Action Services (HEAS) are presenting a report on the wardens restructure to Community Environmental Officers (CEOs) and Community Environmental Support Officers (CESOs) elsewhere on this agenda. The paper details the initial allocation of these new posts to the Area Committee. The ex-wardens who do not form part of the new structure are currently based with the Area Management Team whilst they are undergoing workforce change. Each of the four areas is making positive use of this resource whilst they are based in Area Management, for example in promotions and publicity and environmental audits.
- 3.14 The Gamble Hill Tannery Path improvements scheme was completed in March 2010. This work has re-defined and re-surfaced a public access path serving the Gambles estate in the Farnley Wortley ward.
- 3.15 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. The Area Management Team are continuing to explore whether the local community would be committed to this scheme. The scheme would be costly due to contamination on site and possible match funding between the Housing Area Panel and Well Being funding would be explored.
- 3.16 Tree works on Calverley Cutting were completed in mid January. Confirmation of LTP funding has now been confirmed and work is due to start on site w/c 15th March and be completed within four weeks. This project will create a proper circular route to and from the village of Calverley around Calverley Woods. Once implemented, a bulb planting scheme will take place 24th April 2010.

Health & Wellbeing

- 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. A full report highlighting progress to date and future plans of this post will be brought to a future Area Committee meeting.
- 3.18 A Health & Wellbeing sub group has been set up within the Gambles and Heights LAMP chaired by NHS Leeds. This has met and agreed an action plan to be implemented to address health inequalities in the area.

Thriving Places

- 3.19 A full Community Safety update report is attached elsewhere on this agenda and the Community Safety Co-ordinator for West Leeds and Inspector Cawkwell will provide an update to the Area Committee.

- 3.20 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. Funding has been approved for this element of the scheme and the work is currently being assigned to a contractor.
- 3.21 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 March) on whether the cost of the scheme can be met once designs and likely costs are received from Strategic Design Alliance.
- 3.22 The Pudsey T&DC scheme is largely completed, although a report to T&DC Programme Board in spring 2010 will include a request for funding for the heritage lighting element of the scheme, street banners, floral display containers and replacement safety railings, as well as match funding for the Lidget Hill lay-by (details provided under transport section).
- 3.23 Work has commenced on the Lower Wortley Road Improvement Scheme in early December 2009 and completion has delayed to end April. Work was held up by the snow early this year and a BT line which was discovered under the bullring and had to be made good. Entrance signage has been installed, railings installed around the community centre and Horse and Groom. The Area Management Team has secured an artist to work on the bullring once the contractor has completed work at the end of April.
- 3.24 The Gambles and Heights LAMPs are concentrating on longer term issues such as young people, anti-social behaviour, and Health and Well-being in its widest sense. Sub groups have been established to focus on Young People and Health & Wellbeing. The Youth sub group has support from the Youth Service, Groundwork Leeds and is chaired by the Area Management Team although gaining buy-in from the LAMP group is proving difficult.
- 3.25 The Area Management Team is currently in discussions with BARCA Leeds and Healthy Living Network Leeds to develop a proposal a 12 month Community Development Worker to support the Gambles, Heights, Greenthorpes and Swinnow neighbourhoods.

Harmonious Communities

- 3.26 As part of 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.
- 3.27 A West North West market-place style event took place 10am-2pm on Saturday 6th March at Pudsey Civic Centre, to promote the March theme of 'Volunteering in Every Neighbourhood'. The event aimed to promote volunteering opportunities and increase volunteering in West North West. The event was attended by around 30 organisations and approximately 30 members of the public attended. Very positive comments were received and although the turn out was relatively low, the majority of

people attending did sign up for volunteering. A full evaluation is currently being undertaken.

- 3.28 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.
- 3.29 The Area Committee has also agreed to host a series of volunteer celebration events to recognise the contribution of volunteers to improving its local area. It is suggested that one event is arranged for West Leeds as a whole, a further event for Inner North West and an additional event for Outer North West to recognise the size of these areas.
- 3.30 In terms of community engagement, a Focus Group took place in early March to consider environmental issues in Inner West, engaging with people on the West North West Citizen's Panel. Five people attended and a useful discussion was had. A full report will be submitted by the consultants who facilitated the group and the Area Management Team is considering rolling this approach out to other areas of West North West. Any suggestions would be welcomed from the Area Committee regarding what topics might usefully be covered by an Outer West focus group.
- 3.31 The Area Management Team is currently undertaking a review of all community forums in West North West to evaluate their costs and benefits. A full report will be brought to a future Area Committee.

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