



Leeds
CITY COUNCIL

Originator: Sam Woodhead

Tel: 0113 395 1973

Report of the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods

Outer West Area Committee

Date: 9th July 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 The West North West Area Management Team will be working with organisations such as I Love West Leeds (West Leeds Festival), Farsley Youth Development Project (Farsley Festival), 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

- 3.2 A Jobs and Skills Open Day took place 14th April at Armley Juniors in the Farnley & Wortley ward, as part of the Local Area Management Plan (LAMP). This was aimed at providing access to jobs, training and information and signpost people to other services. The event went well, with a handful of people attending who were all signposted to jobs, or/and training.
- 3.3 The Town Centre Manager organised a series of events for Easter on 3rd April – Artmix arts and crafts market was combined with the regular Saturday market, Suitcase Circus performed and the Business Forum organised an Easter Egg Hunt. The day was a great success, attendance was around 1,000-1,200 people with over 300 entrants of the Easter Egg hunt. Feedback from members of the public via the shop keepers was that the day was excellent, with a call for events like this to happen more often.
- 3.4 May 15th saw another event being held in the Town Centre, the regular Saturday market with Artmix in attendance. The day saw face painting (and other attractions for children) with the Lightcliffe brass band attending. With the aim being to encourage more people to visit the market and Pudsey in general.
- 3.5 The “Reward Card Scheme” is proving very successful with 3 times more entrants for the March draw than February. All of the shops (around 50) taking part now have their own individual stamps to mark the cards. Winners have said:
- “I am thrilled to have won the vouchers and hope that the loyalty card initiative will be successful. We have a wide variety of lovely shops and cafes both established and new in and out of town and I would like to encourage everyone to support them so that our town will thrive”.
- “Just a line to say thank you very much for picking my loyalty card out it was a nice surprise, it put the finishing touches to our golden wedding. Thank you”.
- 3.6 The “Shop Local” magazine (produced by the Business Forum) as had its second issue printed and has been well received by the public and businesses alike. The business forum had 10,000 copies printed, with a view to distributing them to local restaurants, pubs, hotels, doctors, dentists, Police stations etc as well as the Library and One Stop Shop. In addition, Leisure Centre has agreed to house a promotional stand will display the free magazine for people to take. To date, the magazine has turned over £300 of profit, which will be ploughed back into “Shop Local” events such as Pudsey Carnival where there will be a “Shop Local” stall and float.

Learning

- 3.6 Links are being developed between Jobs & Skills and Pudsey Town Centre Manager to facilitate work placements within Pudsey businesses. Bramley and Rodley Community Action (BARCA) Leeds would refer Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) clients to this initiative.
- 3.7 Members are asked to note that the Scrutiny Board (Children's Services) agreed the attached report (appendix 1) on youth service surveys at its meeting on 22 April. The Scrutiny Board resolved to send the report to all Area Committee to make them aware of the work that the Scrutiny Board has undertaken. In particular the Scrutiny Board was keen that all Area Committees should be aware of recommendation 3 in the report, regarding Area Committees being routinely informed of the findings of surveys. Members are asked to note the attached statement from the Scrutiny Board and provide any comments. Councillor Lancaster chaired the working group which undertook this piece of work. Other Members of the Scrutiny Board (Children's Services) were Councillors Cleasby, Coupar, Driver, Ronnie Feldman, Gettings, Bill Hyde, Kirkland, Renshaw, Selby, E Taylor. A formal response to the Scrutiny Board's recommendations is due to be reported to the Executive Board in June or July.

Transport

- 3.8 The bus station redevelopment is progressing well with the steelworks, surfacing and kerb works underway. Highways works started on 14th June 2010 on Church Lane and are programmed to last eight weeks. This has necessitated moving the bus stop in front of Boots to outside the Post Office. Metro have distributed posters advertising the alterations to services to be displayed in public buildings and noticeboards around the site. The Town Centre Manager has arranged for them to be displayed in local businesses within the town centre. Ward Members have also been advised of the changes.
- 3.9 Pudsey House has voiced some concerns particularly around the temporary bus stop outside their premises. If drivers leave the bus engine running, it is reported that this can make it difficult for Pudsey House users to hear. Unfortunately it has not been possible to move the temporary bus stop. However, users are able to park in the market on non-market days and this option offers easy access by ramp up to Pudsey House. The local inspector has agreed to task PCSOs to patrol this area more frequently as Pudsey House had been complaining that young people were hanging around. The parking agreement with the nearby vets on Crawshaw Hill has been rescinded. Metro have offered to arrange Access Bus provision, although this offer has not been taken up. The reverse flow around Market Place is likely to be implemented in July and at this point the bus stops will be moved to the central island and away from the entrance to Pudsey House. In the meantime, Metro have reiterated to the bus operator, the need for drivers to switch off their engines when they lay-over as this was one of the complaints from Pudsey House. This does appear to have been effective.
- 3.10 The section 278 agreement for the Cemetery Road scheme has now been signed. This will fund traffic calming on Cemetery Road, Owlcotes Road and Victoria Road and a bus lay-by on the Western side of Lidget Hill. The Area Management Team is currently seeking funding through the Town & District Centre Regeneration Scheme to match fund Local Transport Plan funding for a second lay-by on the eastern side of Lidget Hill.

- 3.11 Pudsey Parking strategy is also being progressed, following initial consultation. The draft strategy has been presented to ward Members who are keen to see that some of the recommendations are in place prior to the opening of the new bus station.

Environment

- 3.12 Stonebridge Lane in Old Farnley has for some time been the focus of flytipping. A recent environmental project (which brought together West North West Homes Leeds, Groundwork Leeds, Local Ward Councillors, West North West Area Management Team, Aire Valley Trees and local residents), has seen the significant improvement of the area, clearing 250metres of embankment and removing 21 tones of rubbish.
- 3.13 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.
- 3.14 Farnley and Wortley Ward has a richness of green areas, which is unusual so close to a City Centre. These areas have a range of natural habitats and plans are taking shape to enhance these through the increase of bio-diversity. Three sites have been identified in the Ward, through consultations between Area Management, Ward Councillors, and Dr Crompton (Programme Leader: Masters Degree in Biodiversity and Conservation) of Leeds University. These sites will be studied and enhanced by Masters' students from the University, by Geographical Mapping (GIS) in conjunction with habitat surveys to identify the current levels of bio-diversity, whilst suggesting solutions to improve these. The work with the students will start in the new academic year in September 2010.

Health & Wellbeing

- 3.15 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 West North West Partnership group which includes Health Champion councillors, senior representatives from General Practitioners commissioning, National Health Service Leeds (NHS), Leeds City Council, the voluntary sector, and the University of Leeds. A review of significant health and wellbeing issues has been undertaken by the partnership, and short term issues have been identified as abuse of alcohol and NHS health checks as their priority areas. Longer term, the partnership will focus on older peoples issues and influencing commissioning and improving community engagement.
- 3.17 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 centering around the running physical activities, the creations of a Mum's and Toddlers group etc. The group is currently looking at ways of involving relevant members of the ex-Bawns LAMP group, to pool resources and carry out combined initiatives.

Thriving Places

- 3.18 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.
- 3.19 Due to excessive anti-social behaviour being carried out in Rodley toilets, steps are being taken to temporarily close the toilets with a view to demolishing them later this year (Ward Members have been consulted). The demolition will be organized by Corporate Property Maintenance.
- 3.20 A number of area based regeneration schemes are underway in Outer West. The Town and District Centre Programme Board has now agreed to fund the cost of Phase 2 of the Farsley Town and District Centre Scheme, which 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.
- 3.21 The Pudsey T&DC scheme is largely completed, although a report to T&DC Programme Board in June 2010 included a request for funding for the heritage lighting element of the scheme, street banners and match funding for the Lidget Hill lay-by (details provided under transport section). At the time of writing, confirmation of this funding had not been received.
- 3.22 Phase 1 of the Lower Wortley Road Improvement Scheme has now been completed. Entrance signage has been installed, railings installed around the community centre and Horse and Groom, the Bull-Ring area landscaped and bus stop lay by moved slightly further back, additional bus stop re-located opposite the Bull-Ring, cleaning up and re-planting of adjacent rockery, and re-modelling of steps by nearby shops. Phase 2, which will see an artist commence producing artwork with the local Primary School, to be hung on the Bull-Ring will commence in May/June, with completion due by August.
- 3.23 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 (mentioned above). The Youth sub group has support from the Youth Service, Groundwork Leeds and is chaired by the Area Management Team. An appendix (1) is attached outlining the work of the priority neighbourhoods in Outer West.
- 3.26 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

- 3.24 In terms of community engagement, a Focus Group was held in May to consider environmental issues in Outer West, engaging with people from the West North West Citizen's Panel. Unfortunately, only four people attended the session (even though we had received a positive indication that twelve people would attend), two from the Pudsey and two from the Calverley and Farsley ward. In spite of a low turnout, a

useful discussion was had, even though comments were a little bit street-centric in nature, some useful thematic issues emerged, around litter, street cleaning, condition of roads, maintenance of green spaces and improved communications from the Council. These issues will help to formulate the 2011-12 Area Delivery Plan. A full report has been submitted by the consultants who facilitated the group (if Members wish to receive a copy of this they may do so) and the Area Management Team is considering rolling this approach out to other areas of West North West. The information obtained from the Focus Group session, will influence the delivery of small one-off projects e.g. litter clearance, and also help influence the content of the 2011-12 Area Delivery Plan.

- 3.25 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.
- 3.36 The Area Management Team are planning a Volunteer Celebration Event as part of the Leeds 2010 year of Volunteering. It is anticipated that this will take place in November 2010 and will thank volunteers for their role in contributing to improving the West North West area. Details are available on the Area Management Team's website www.leeds.gov.uk/wnwareamangement and nominations are actively encouraged.

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