



Report of the South East Area Manager

Inner South Area Committee

Date: 22nd September 2010

Subject: Actions and Achievements report

Electoral Wards Affected:

Beeston & Holbeck

City & Hunslet

Middleton Park

Ward members consulted
(referred to in this 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

This report provides Members with an update on actions and achievements of the Area Management Team relating to priorities and work of the Area Committee since the Area Committee meeting in June 2010. It also provides information on current ongoing projects.

Purpose of this report

1. Members will recall that the refreshed Area Delivery Plan was approved at the March 2010 Area Committee with ward meetings serving to focus on ward specific actions within the plan.
2. This report provides Members with an update on actions and achievements around the Area Delivery Plan since the last Area Committee meeting, it also provides members with an overview of the current projects that the Area Management Team are working on.

Background Information

3. The ADP for 2008/9 – 2010/11 has been developed following the headings contained within the Leeds Strategic Plan and the Vision for Leeds. It is a local expression of the city's commitment to the Local Area Agreement and partnership working. The themes of the ADP are:
 - Culture
 - Harmonious Communities
 - Enterprise and Economy
 - Transport
 - Environment
 - Health and Wellbeing
 - Thriving Places
 - Learning.
4. The Area Delivery Plan for 2008-11 was approved by this Area Committee and a refreshed version of the plan was endorsed by the Area Committee on 25th March 2010.

Area Partnerships and developing local actions

5. The Area Delivery Plan will be the local expression of the Leeds Strategic Plan and therefore it will be a partnership document, and partners are involved in putting it together. This is achieved through thematic based area partnerships set up under the umbrella of the Leeds Initiative, with increasing accountability and direct links to Area Committees.
6. The ADP refresh begins to make clearer which partnership will be responsible for reporting performance against which ADP priority. The area committee have nominated a Member representative to participate in the work of these partnerships and act as the link between the partnership and the area committee. The current member representatives are as follows:
 - South East Divisional Community Safety Partnership, Councillor Groves
 - South Health & Well-Being Partnership, Councillor Groves
 - Children Leeds South East Partnership, Councillor Gabriel
 - South Leeds Enterprise, Employment and Training Partnership (SLEET), Councillor Driver
7. The ADP will continue to include local priorities and actions as identified by elected members and residents through local engagement activity, including the allocation of well-being funds. Where these do not naturally sit within a themed partnership, the ADP will make clear which service will report progress to the Area Committee on that particular action.

8. The Area Management Team will work with members through their individual ward member meetings on further actions they would like to see included in the plan. Where these are ward specific actions, progress will also be reported at ward member meetings and included in Actions and Achievements reports at every Area Committee meeting rather than wait for the 6 month ADP review.

Culture

Community Centres

9. A date for the Inner South Community Centres Sub Committee is to be set following this meeting. The date will be sent to all ward members and it is imperative that a representative from each ward attends this meeting. This meeting will focus on the community centres report, which will be presented at the November Area Committee, and contains details about the delegated budget, maintenance at the facilities and policies which could affect some of the centres.

Enterprise and Economy

South Leeds Employment, Enterprise and Training Partnership (SLEET)

10. Minutes of the meeting held on 18th June are provided at Appendix 1.
11. Tesco have announced plans for a new store in Beeston. The store, to be located on Old Lane, will create 120 new jobs for the long-term unemployed in South Leeds. Representatives from Tesco met with local ward councillors in August and consultation with the local community took place on 2nd September with a further 2 meetings scheduled for 9th September. Tesco plan to submit a planning application at the end of September.

Learning

Children Leeds Partnership

12. Minutes of the meeting held on 12th May 2010 are provided at appendix 2.
13. A summary of recent activity of the Joint Extended Schools and Services Cluster, including The South Leeds Academy is provided at appendix 3.

Youth Hub

14. The building is due for completion in mid October, with the opening taking place at the end of November and a launch planned in the New Year.
15. A centre manager post has been approved with recruitment taking place initially through redeployment. If a match is not found, internal recruitment will be undertaken. The Youth activity programme is being worked up with partners. Leeds City Council Youth Services are leading the way in terms of youth provision. Connexions personal advisers will work from the building and numerous health services for young people are being developed. Learning opportunities for young people, off-site from schools, will also take place during the day. Funding for 2 additional minibuses has been secured and a new mobile unit is available. Interest in volunteering at the centre has been expressed locally and from across Leeds with 18 potential volunteers registered on the database.

16. The Project Board has evolved into a smaller, governing partnership board comprised of the four main partners; Leeds City Council Integrated Youth Support Services (IYSS), Leeds Primary Care Trust, Health for All Leeds and 4Children. Councillor Judith Blake and the Head of IYSS are the council's representatives.
17. Work continues to promote the hub and update the local community on its progress. A young person from Cottingley won the logo competition from 100 entries. This is shortly to be released as the official logo for the centre
18. Twenty young people from across the south area are involved in establishing a young people's advisory group who will work closely with the board. A large number of young people across the wedge are involved in a variety of ways to give their views on the hub and its development and to help with promotion and marketing.

Environment

Withdrawal of the Intensive Neighbourhood Management (INM)Teams

19. The INM scheme continued into the financial year 2010/11 with 8 community pride teams. These were funded through the Local Public Service Agreement (LPSA) grant which has now been withdrawn. The teams have therefore been disbanded and the displaced staff found alternative employment in Streetscene services. This reduction in resources will affect Streetscene's ability to provide additional services in the inner city areas that often require greater attention. For example the programme of multi-agency clean ups were cancelled last month. Normal street cleansing services continue to be provided and every effort will be made to maintain current standards of environmental cleanliness within existing resources.

Health and Wellbeing

South East Health & Wellbeing Partnership

20. Minutes of the meetings held on 27th May and 22nd July 2010 are provided at appendix 4.

Thriving Places

Operation Champion

21. Operation Champion took place in the Rochefords / Hemingways area of Hunslet on 13th and 14th April. The focus of the operation was burglary reduction. The Area Committee allocated £1000 for the purchase of a range of products to be distributed free of charge to residents in the area. This included 100 patio door alarm units and 100 contact chime units that sound when someone enters the property. A further 200 window shock vibration units were supplied – these sound when the window/door is struck and so can alert the possibility of a forced entry in progress. PCSOs and Neighbourhood Wardens distributed these door to door and were also able to give general crime reduction advice. CASAC were also available if any residents wanted them to carry out a free security survey. Approximately 150 households benefited from this project and the feedback from residents was positive.
22. The Youth Service worked on both days in order to engage with young people who may be involved in causing ASB. Youth Service staff were able to give advice/guidance on a

range of issues including school work, employment and sexual health. 9 young people attended on the 13th and 17 young people on the 14th. The Taxi Licensing team patrolled the area during the operation. They stopped 16 vehicles around the Hunslet Centre however no suspensions or Vehicle Defect Rectification (VDR) forms were issued. Victim Support carried out 4 visits to residents in the area who have previously contacted them.

23. ASBU and Police carried out a joint door knocking exercise to gather information about ASB in the area. A small number of minor issues were identified and these have been passed on to the relevant sections to address. Several individuals were able to give more specific intelligence relating to ongoing investigations. Aire Valley Homes identified a number of elderly/vulnerable tenants and they were visited by the Fire Service in order to carry out Home Fire Safety Checks and fit free smoke alarms. AVH also deployed their mobile office which was parked in the area and used as a base for all agencies. Several residents accessed information and advice from staff on the van during those days. This activity was supported by the standard activity from Environmental Services/Aire Valley Homes to carry out environmental improvements.

Divisional Community Safety Partnership (DCSP)

24. Minutes of the meeting of the DCSP held on 23rd July are provided at appendix 5.
25. A separate update on the work of the South Leeds Divisional Community Safety Partnership is presented to this meeting

Neighbourhood Wardens

26. One of the two remaining Neighbourhood Wardens left post on 31st August. The remaining warden is still continuing to support Operation Champion, intensive clean up activity, estate walkabouts and any specific projects arising from the Environmental Co-ordination Group. The warden has also just completed a six week period of shadowing officers from the Environmental Action Team.

Diversionsary Youth activities

27. Incidents of anti-social behaviour in Brett Gardens and surrounding neighbourhoods have been reported through Tasking. In response to this, the area management team held a meeting with relevant agencies including Youth Services, St Lukes Cares, the police, ASBU and the ALMO, to share information and develop responses to engage young people in activities that will deter them from being involved in ASB and hate crime. The intention is to also improve communication between these services and develop a more coordinated approach.
28. Ward Members in Beeston & Holbeck and City & Hunslet wards have recently agreed the allocation of well-being funds to maintain the Urban Bar youth facility on a Friday and Saturday night. The facility originally opened on a Friday night initially during Operation Staysafe in August 09 and due to its significant impact in tackling ASB by engaging with the young people in the area was subsequently funded by Safer Stronger Communities Funding and well-being up to 31st July this year. It is the view of the Neighbourhood Policing Team that young people considered at risk of involvement in crime, anti social behaviour, drinking or carrying knives, can be actively engaged with youth workers and volunteers within the safe environment of the Urban Bar on Friday and Saturdays.

29. This will be a partnership approach between St Lukes Cares, Leeds City Council Youth Services and West Yorkshire Police – coordinated by the area management team. The aim is to build relationships with local young people in order to engage them in positive activities. Activities from the Urban Bar will be complimented by other diversionary work delivered by the statutory youth services for example, tailored, individual programmes for those involved in serious and repeat ASB, and St Lukes mobile youth provision.

Regeneration

Beeston Hill & Holbeck Regeneration

Acquisition and Demolition Progress

30. The programme of acquisition and demolition has been funded through the Single Regional Housing Pot (SRHP). The current funding ceases on 31st March 2011 and must be spent by this deadline. There is a shortfall of funding to complete the 2008/11 programme due to a realignment of Government priorities in November 2009. Savings of £4.07m have already been implemented across 2008-11 programme resulting in schemes being slipped to future years.
31. At its meeting of 26th August 2009, Executive Board approved proposals to commence acquisitions of 14 privately owned properties to facilitate their demolition along with 6 council owned properties which are managed by Aire Valley Homes in the Crosbys, Holbeck. Since the scheme commenced in August 2009 however, little progress has been made. Only one acquisition has been completed so far and a further 2 owners have agreed to sell. The remaining 11 owners have refused the council's offer to purchase.
32. To allow the movement of funding to ensure the progression of outstanding demolitions on the Beverleys, Holbeck phases 1 and 3 and in Cross green, Executive Board approved proposals at its meeting on 25th August 2010 to rescind funding for the Holbeck phase 4 scheme pending a review of this and the Garnets scheme in consultation with local stakeholders and ward councillors. This will also ensure that the funding is spent within the required timeframe and that these sites can be cleared for the affordable housing programme.
33. Officers in the Regeneration Special Project Team will seek to identify the views of residents directly affected by the acquisition and demolitions, other surrounding local residents, local ward members and the Beeston Hill and Holbeck Regeneration Partnership.

Beverleys

34. The final 6 properties on the Beverleys clearance site are to be demolished in the autumn following resolution of party wall issues with the owner of the shop at the corner of the site. Planning Approval was secured by Chevin Housing Association on 25th June for the development of 55 two, three and four bed roomed houses. 50% of the new homes will be available for social rent and 50% for shared ownership or intermediate rent. A bid has been made by Chevin Housing Association to the Homes and Communities Agency for funding for the development as part of the National Affordable Housing Programme. At time of writing this report a decision on the bid had not been received. If the bid is successful work will start on site before March 2011.

PFI.

35. Following the update to the June Area Committee, the Council has obtained sign-off from the Homes and Communities Agency to all the project documentation but is still awaiting the go-ahead to proceed to call for Final Tenders. Ward members for Beeston & Holbeck and City & Hunslet will be briefed in detail on this in early September. Demolition and clearance of the Holbeck Towers has now been completed by the Council, in advance of the PFI contract. The site has been secured by an earth 'bund' to protect against unauthorised use in the period prior to development. Leaflets have been sent to surrounding residents to emphasise the dangers of demolition sites and to discourage access.
36. Rehousing of tenants from the following sites in Beeston Hill has now commenced, managed by Aire Valley Homes:
- 1-21 Coupland Road
 - 15-44 Coupland Place
 - 1-41 & 2-20 St Luke's Green
 - 131-159 & 165-183 Malvern Road.

Across these sites, as at the end of August, 28 properties are void following acquisitions and rehousing, 22 have accepted rehousing offers and are waiting to move, 6 asylum team tenancies remain and a further 24 full tenancies remain to be actively re-housed.

Investment Partnership South Leeds (IPSL)

37. The second Partner Engagement Group (PEG) took place on 8th July, attended by forty people. A further, and possibly final PEG meeting will take place on 23rd September. Efforts to engage hard to reach groups is underway. A report on the draft investment strategy is expected to be presented to the next meeting of the Inner South Area Committee.

Harmonious Communities

Team Belle Isle

38. A launch event was held for Team Belle Isle on Wednesday 7th July at Belle Isle Working Mens Club. The purpose of the event was to bring together frontline staff and representatives from some community organisations. Workshop activity highlighted existing links and relationships between staff to help identify weaknesses and team building needs, also to consider how local people can get better involved in the planning and delivery of services. Feedback from the event is positive with an indication of a real willingness from those who attended to contribute their knowledge, understanding and experiences of barriers to joint working and to develop effective approaches to improving the delivery of public services. An initial analysis of the workshop activity highlights a number of factors that undermine attempts at joint working and ideas for strengthening relationships and local actions that help to build capacity and improve communication between services and local residents. Work is underway to establish a steering group to drive team activity.

Cardinals

39. The area management team are coordinating multi-agency activity on the Cardinal estate. A range of issues are identified through a weekly walk-about with local residents. Staff from Aire Valley Homes, Streetscene and the South East Environmental Action Team work together for two hours every week to tackle fly-tipping and waste in gardens. Aire Valley Homes staff tackle tenancy management issues and ASBU staff take up anti-social behaviour referrals. The Police have extended the Dispersal Order covering the area for the six months of this project.

Community Engagement

40. In line with the Area Committee's community engagement framework, the Area Management Team will begin planning shortly for the community engagement activity in the Autumn. Members will be contacted shortly to agree dates and venues. It is recognised that there needs to be increased emphasis on engagement in conjunction with partners to ensure that community engagement is fully reflected in the Area Delivery Plan and helps inform the service planning of our council colleagues and partner organisations.
41. To complement the Area Committee's Community Engagement Plan, the Area Management Service has been piloting the use of the Council's Citizens' Panel and Website. Area Management teams, including south east, are currently working to implement the positive outcomes of the pilot by March 2011. This work will include adopting the use of the Citizens Panel as a basis from which to undertake resident consultation and to develop web content to underpin other engagement activities. This work complements the Area Committee's engagement with local communities by increasing the number and demographic representation of local people contributing. It also allows for some consistency of approach within Leeds. Consideration is also being given to the development of a South East Public Sector Community Engagement Strategy which Area Management is coordinating. The strategy would aim to avoid duplication of engagement work by partners, identify barriers and develop ways for partners to work better together on engagement activities.

Leeds Ahead support to community groups

42. Members will recall funding Leeds Ahead to provide business support to local resident groups. The following groups have been identified in consultation with local Ward Members and initial contact made with these groups:
- Tenants and Residents Association Cottingely (TRAC)
 - Middleton Community Group
 - Westwoods Community Association
 - West Granges & Winroses Residents Group
 - Aberfield & Newhalls Resident Group
 - Holbeck in Bloom
43. Leeds Ahead have been working with Connaughts to provide support to a number of these groups, however due to their economic position are unable to progress this. Discussions are taking place with their Business Development Managers to identify other business support. An update on progress will be presented to the area committee in November.

I love South Leeds Festival

44. All the I Love South Leeds Festival activities are now complete. An evaluation report on all activities that took place in 2010 along with recommendations for 2011 will be presented at the next Area Committee meeting in November.

Middleton Regeneration

45. The Middleton Regeneration board met in August to refresh its priorities and actions for the forthcoming year and beyond. The session was very well attended by partner agencies working in the area. The refreshed objectives and priorities shall be agreed as a way forward at the next Middleton Board meeting in September. The plan will identify the key linkages to the work of the Pathfinder in the area.
46. As part of our continuing community engagement and cohesion work the community banners have recently been re installed along Middleton Park Avenue and the ring Road. The banners are a perfect opportunity for young people to express their feelings about the neighbourhood in which they live. The banners are a welcomed addition to the Middleton Community and have been well received in the neighbourhood. This project was supported by Aire Valley Homes, Middleton Bright Ideas and Area Well being funding.
47. Work is underway to develop a Middleton Community Network. The network will present further opportunities for local people to engage in the regeneration activity, as well as providing the opportunity for existing groups to work better together to the benefit of the neighbourhood. The network could organise such things as a Middleton Gala, and potential future volunteering activities. There would also be the opportunity for a lead member to be closely linked to the work of the Board. re'new are working closely with the area management team to ensure that this fits with existing community engagement structures.
48. Additional financial support has been provided by ASDA to support the Middleton Christmas carol concert and provision of a Christmas Tree and development a community calendar for 2011. The theme of the calendar will be 'Proud to be Middleton'.
49. Work is underway to develop a corporate volunteer day, which will target hotspot areas identified by Aire Valley Homes and the local community. It is hoped that this project will be sponsored by ASDA. The corporate team will include members of the Middleton regeneration Board.
50. Regular briefing sessions have been scheduled with Area management and local ward members for the duration of this project.

Implications for Council Policy and Governance

51. No specific issues are identified.

Legal and Resource Implications

52. No specific issues are identified

Recommendations

53. The Inner South Area Committee is asked to note the contents of this report;

Background reports

Inner South Area Committee 25th March 2010 – Inner South Area Delivery Plan