

Report of the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods

To: Outer North West Area Committee

Date: 27th September 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 2010/11. 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 2010. 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 2010 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, Horsforth Town Council, Anti-social Behaviour Unit, Safer Leeds, Fire Service, Extended Services, Environmental Action Team, Youth Services and West North West homes Leeds (WNWhL).

- 3.2 As part of the Project Horsforth, a 'Have your say' event was organised in Horsforth St Margaret's Church Hall on 27th July 2010. Nine agencies were represented and over 30 residents attended the event. The event gave residents an opportunity to report issues and discuss any concerns they have about crime, grime and anti social behaviour in the area. It also gave residents the opportunity to find out about the work the agencies have been involved in and what work is planned over the coming months. Residents were also encouraged to sign up to the next environmental visual audit. All referrals have been passed on to the relevant agencies to be investigated.
- 3.3 After the successful Environmental Visual Audit (EVA) carried out in Horsforth on 23rd February, further work was undertaken in the area. This included a second EVA focusing on the residential areas held on 4th June in preparation for the Horsforth Operation Champion held on 30th June. A final environmental visual audit is planned for October 2010, which will include participation from local residents.

Learning

- 3.4 Members are asked to note that The Scrutiny Board (Children's Services) agreed the attached report on youth service surveys at its meeting on 22nd April (see Appendix 1). The Scrutiny Board resolved to send the report to all Area Committees 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.

Thriving Communities

- 3.5 **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.
- 3.6 **Promotion of Yeadon High Street** - Following the Yeadon High Street regeneration scheme, a leaflet promoting the High Street is now being developed and will be ready

in autumn 2010. A letter and a questionnaire were sent to all shops and businesses owners in the targeted area in early July to inform them of the project and ask for their participation in the leaflet. The response rate was approximately 50% with all shops, except one High Street bank, replying wanting to be included. All of the responses received expressed their support to the development of such a leaflet. The leaflet will give details of local places of interests and will include a map of the town centre and details of local shops. When completed the leaflet will be distributed throughout the area, as well as to Council venues across Leeds. WNW area management team is now coordinating the work with the Council's Graphics Team who will be involved in the technical design and production of the leaflet. The leaflet will be funded from the small grant scheme.

- 3.7 **Horsforth library** - Work commenced in January 2010 to redevelop the former Horsforth library to provide a new youth centre for all of Horsforth and new area management offices. The work was undertaken by the Council's Property Maintenance division and was completed in June 2010. The WNW area management team moved into the building at the end of June. A launch of the new youth centre will be organised by the Youth Services. A date for it is to be arranged. A work programme for the youth centre is now being developed.
- 3.8 **PFI Round 6** - 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.
- 3.9 The Lifetime Neighbourhoods for Leeds Round 6 PFI project is the result of a partnership between Housing, Regeneration, Adult Social Care and Health. The project proposes the development of 675 homes for older people, a mix of extra care and general needs housing. The project has a citywide coverage, with 11 sites proposed for development. 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.
- 3.10 A business case has now been produced and was formally approved by Executive Board on 25th August 2010 and is anticipated to be submitted to the Homes & Community Agency in September 2010.
- 3.11 Of the sites proposed for inclusion in the project, two fall within the outer north west area committee boundary, these being Haworth Court (Yeadon) and Farrar Lane (Holt Park). Community and stakeholder consultation took place between March and June 2010. Many feedbacks have been received from local residents regarding both sites. Most of the comments are positive and there are no significant objections or issues that have been raised so far.
- 3.12 Outline Planning Applications have been submitted for both sites, with Farrar Lane being approved in principle on 15th July and Haworth Court being approved on 12th August. The Council should hear whether the project has been successful in securing funding either late 2010 or early 2011.

- 3.13 **Outer North West Week of Action** -From 1st to 4th June inclusive, a week of action was carried out in various sites across outer north west area to identify any issues on the environment and community safety, with the aim of reassuring the public and strengthening public confidence. West Yorkshire Police and WNW Area Management worked together during the week with officers attending the retail parks in the area to speak to drivers about vehicle security and keeping things hidden and to hand out satellite navigation cloths to remove windscreen marks. Women were also approached at Morrisons in Guiseley and Horsforth as well as Asda in Holt Park by officers to fix purse chains to tackle purse dipping and show them how to use them. Officers also identified key streets to door knock and offer property marking and crime reduction advice. Local residents were shown how to use the property marking pens to mark their property. The second Environmental Visual Audit was carried out on the last day of the week and targeted residential areas in Horsforth in preparation for the Operation Champion which was held at the end of June. All issues were noted down to be forwarded to relevant agencies for actions and followed up in the Horsforth Operation Champion.
- 3.14 **Operation Champion** – was held in Horsforth on 30th June. The day focused on anti-social behaviour (ASB) in the St James’ area with 220 ASB questionnaires distributed to residents and over 100 garden letters issued in the area. West Yorkshire Police undertook an insecure check on properties and had cause to advise 20 householders on making sure they locked their doors and windows. The DVLA clamped 4 cars for no tax and Civilian Court Officers collected over £2,000 in fines, due to the courts.
- 3.15 **Otley Neighbourhood Community Safety Plan** - is being developed to help prioritise the work needed in the area to manage crime and anti social behaviour. The plan will last a year and will be lead by the Neighbourhood Policing Inspector and Area Community Safety Co-ordinator. The plan will commence with a “face the people” event in October which will help establish local priorities from a resident perspective. The plan is a working document and is intended to be fluid and evolve as the year progresses.

Health and Wellbeing

- 3.16 **Swimming Pool Improvement Works** - Following the decision to end the Free Swimming Programme in June 2010, the Government has also confirmed that the remaining £25 million set aside for pool improvement works has also been withdrawn. This affects the proposed refurbishment of Aireborough Leisure Centre and Otley Chippendale Swimming Pool. The schemes are therefore suspended.
- 3.17 **Holt Park Wellbeing Centre** – The Treasury confirmed in June 2010 that the Holt Park Wellbeing Centre scheme had been suspended, along with a number of other capital projects. Adult Social Services have been informed that the scheme will be reviewed as part of the forthcoming Comprehensive Spending Review and that a decision is anticipated in mid-October 2010.

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 estimated 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 within the approved Capital Programme. Route 5 is from Cookridge to the City Centre. Work has not yet commenced. Previous problems identified at Cardigan Road relating to the scheme cost and external funding have been sorted out. The detailed revised design at Cardigan Road was approved. Approval for the route through the University of Leeds campus was expected by the end of August before orders for construction can be placed. Work is expected to substantially be completed within this financial year if there are no further delays.

Harmonious Communities

- 3.19 **Year of the Volunteer 2010** - Letters and emails were sent out in April and May to all contact lists to get nominations for the West North West Volunteer Awards. Award categories include health and wellbeing, neighbourhoods, across the generations, literacy and learning, sports/leisure/arts and culture, environment/parks and wildlife, Safer Leeds, inclusive volunteering, children and young people. So far we have received 16 nominations for the whole west north west area, including 6 from the outer north west. Members in each area will be requested to play a key role in selecting winners for their areas under the above categories.
- 3.20 A volunteer celebration event for the West North West area is planned to be held in November at the Banqueting Suite, Civic Hall. The event will be an opportunity for Area Committees to recognise the role of volunteers in improving their areas and thank them for their efforts.
- 3.21 **Horsforth Design Statement** – The consultation with Leeds City Council departments was completed and the draft design statement was revised to reflect the comments received. The document was then submitted to Planning Board in August for adoption as a Supplementary Planning Document and was successful in achieving this. A thank-you event was held in the Civic Hall in May to recognise the voluntary support of the group with the development of the Horsforth Neighbourhood Design Statement. The launch of the document is planned for the Autumn.
- 3.22 **Community Centres' Management** – Stanhope Drive Youth Centre in Horsforth is no longer fit for purpose due to its condition and the fact that it no longer meets local needs or those of its users. A decision has been made with the support of the three Horsforth Members to sell the building and to use the capital receipt from the sale to off-set the refurbishment costs at the Old Library on Town Street in Horsforth. The newly re-furbished building now houses the WNW Area Management Team on the first floor and Leeds Youth Service on the ground floor. Development department are

currently consulting with local residents in the Stanhope Drive area regarding the future development of the site.

- 3.23 **Cumulative Impact Policy** - A review of the Cumulative Impact Policy for Horsforth is being carried out by the Entertainment Licensing Section. Based on the information received from ward members, local policing teams, Environmental Health Service and an interrogation of the Section's own statistics, it is proposed that the New Road Side area is added in the review. This proposal is now part of the public consultation on the draft Licensing Policy which can be accessed at www.leeds.gov.uk/lpc. Licensing have attended a drop in session in Horsforth and have placed copies of the proposals in libraries, one stop shops and leisure centres across the district. Comments can also be made via an online questionnaire. The consultation ends on 1st October. The final draft will be going to Council in November for approval and adoption.
- 3.24 **Yeadon Conservation Area Review** – work on the conservation area review for Yeadon commenced in August with the research and the pre-consultation community involvement stage. This will take up until October and then the public consultation will take place during November and December for consideration for adoption by Planning Board in January.

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