



Leeds
CITY COUNCIL

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Report of the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods

Outer West Area Committee

Date: 15th October 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 fifth successful annual Farsley Festival was held in Hainsworth Park on the 4th July 2010, with around 400 people attending (covering the whole age spectrum). Events on the day included, football coaching, street theatre, storytelling, gardening and beach zone (s), circus skills, arts and crafts, giant inflatables and a slipper exchanged, and broadcasting on its very own radio station. The 6th 'I Love West Leeds' festival 2010 featured over 40 events spread over three weeks. The festival reached over 7,500 people and in addition, many more people will have seen the Lamppost Gallery which was exhibited on the main streets of Armley, Bramley, Rodley, Farsley and Pudsey.
- 3.2 The festival worked with all generations from primary age to older people. Ten primary schools took part in projects this year and over 100 older people attended a live music and tea dance event produced in partnership with the neighbourhood network scheme . Volunteers played a strong role in the festival with 40 volunteers helping to make 500 plaster hippos that were decorated by school children and further volunteers worked on a range of festival events. Libraries played a key part in the festival with hippo events taking place at libraries across West Leeds and live music taking place at Pudsey Library bringing new visitors in. Local partnerships with organizations like Pudsey Business Forum and the Pudsey Town Centre Manager enabled events to take place in Pudsey Park. Planning has already begun for autumn and winter events under the festival brand.

Enterprise & Economy

- 3.3 The Town Centre Manager (TCM) is making plans to hold the Pudsey Business Awards. The idea behind the event is to celebrate the excellent businesses that are in Pudsey, and highlight through the media the profile of the town. The event is due to take place in January with the closing date for entries by the 26th November and will be run in conjunction with Radio Aire.
- 3.4 It is hoped that the businesses event to attract new retailers to come to Pudsey and see for themselves what the town has to offer and the retail units available.
- 3.5 The summer events in Pudsey have been a big success. The "Teddy Bear's" picnic events were particularly popular, with around 200 people attending in the park. It is hoped to run this event more regularly next summer.
- 3.6 The "Reward Card Scheme" is proving as popular as ever. Last month saw the highest number of entries to date with over 60. Additional advertising may have helped to increase the numbers of entrants.
- 3.7 The shop local magazine has proven very popular and now has its own stand displaying the magazines in the Leisure Centre. This was purchased with money raised from the Pudsey carnival event. The next magazine is due out at the end of September, and an agreement has been reached with a local business to help distribute the publication.
- 3.8 The TCM is in the process of organizing events for Christmas. One of these events will be the Christmas market which will see a Santa's Grotto and Punch and Judy show. In addition, The Christmas light switch on will be held on the 19th November. A

number of surprises are planned for this event which it is hoped, will be bigger and better than last years.

Learning

- 3.9 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.

Transport

- 3.10 The bus station redevelopment is progressing well with a completion date scheduled for 31st October 2010. The traffic flow has now been reversed around Market Place in preparation for the buses pulling into stops on the central island. This has been introduced with few problems and enforcement has been supported by the Police.
- 3.11 The last Area Manager's report presented to the Area Committee in July informed the Committee that the Area Management Team was seeking funding through the Town & District Centre (T&DC) Regeneration Scheme to match fund Local Transport Plan funding for a second lay-by on the eastern side of Lidget Hill. Unfortunately, it has not been possible to secure funding for this through T&DC, however, it is the intention of the Area Management Team to ask the Area Committee to consider contributing wellbeing capital to this scheme (at a future Committee), in order to avoid losing the match funding from the Local Transport Plan.
- 3.12 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. Proposals to convert Lidget Hill car park, in its entirety, to 2 hours restricted parking, have however been objected to by traders on Lidget Hill. It is anticipated that a report will be submitted to Highways Board shortly outlining additional short stay restrictions. However, the detail will be finalised following further consultation.

Environment

- 3.13 One full time and one part time Community Environment Support Officer (CESOs) work specifically in Outer West within the West North West Environmental Action Team (EAT). They undertake a combination of pro-active patrols, programmed enforcement and reactive complaints. The CESOs work in hotspots throughout the Farnley & Wortley ward, although their work is predominantly based in the Bawns, Heights and Gambles. This was agreed through consultation with the Outer West Area Committee. Reactive work received by the EAT is allocated to all staff working in the Outer West including the CESOs. Intelligence from Members and Area Management influences the programmed work undertaken by the CESOs but they also have close direct links with local Members.
- 3.14 The CESOs have been involved in issues relating to domestic waste, fly tipping, overgrown vegetation and littering enforcement. They also undertake work with community groups, attend Housing Action Group meetings and work with the Community Payback Team to improve green spaces in Outer West. A large proactive enforcement initiative has been undertaken in the Bawns relating to the storage of and presentation for collection of household waste. This initiative made a large

contribution to the 160 notices served in the Farnley & Wortley ward during quarters 1 and 2 of 2010.

- 3.15 Unfortunately there has been a central government 'in-year' cut to the funding for the CESOs, with immediate effect. Area Committees are currently being asked to consider whether they may be able to assist with funding these posts to ease central budget pressures. The cost to the Outer West Area Committee would be £3,378.57 per month for staffing costs, not including vehicle costs, mileage or uniforms. From the 1st October to 31st March a sum of £20,271.42 would be required. If the Area Committee would be willing to contribute from the 1st November, this would require funding of £16,892.85.
- 3.16 Streetscene Services are commencing a pilot scheme in West Leeds to review street cleaning services as part of the Streetscene Change Programme. The programme covers a range of issues agreed at the end of the industrial action in November 2009 and in particular the move to more 7 day a week street cleaning arrangements across the city. The intention is to transfer Street Cleansing staff on to a 4*3 shift pattern from their current standard five day working week. This will mean although fewer staff will be in place, they will be available seven days per week to tackle environmental hotspot areas. It is envisaged that this will be particularly useful in the town and district centres such as Armley to tackle litter from take-away and drinking establishments.
- 3.17 The West North West Area Management Team are assisting in Streetscene Services in reviewing current cleansing frequencies to identify which areas need more regular attention. This work involves mapping out current levels of service provision and resource deployment and will be an essential building block of the enhanced delegation approach envisaged. This work will be completed in the next few months and will be instrumental in helping Members to understand the current service provision in their area and how that can be changed moving forward. Streetscene Services will be briefing Members as the pilot develops and further details will be reported to the Area Committee in due course.
- 3.18 The Area Committee has funded a feasibility study to create a series of ponds as part of the Wadlands Wetlands project in Calverley. A visual site survey and analysis of the existing topography and vegetation both within the site and in the immediate vicinity have been carried out. The findings were used to prepare draft landscape proposals. The detailed design is now being developed and it has been confirmed that the proposed scheme would be classed as engineering works and would therefore require full planning permission.
- 3.19 Groundwork Leeds, who were commissioned to carry out the feasibility study, have started to explore the criteria for Green Leeds and Biffaward funding. This has led them to undertake detailed research into the Leeds Biodiversity Action Plan and management plans for key species it is hoped will be introduced in to Wadlands. Rodley Nature Reserve have also provided some early advice on design and construction methods and Groundwork Leeds have been in contact from the national charity 'Pond Conservation' particularly in relation to their 'Million Ponds Project'. Leeds City Council's Species Conservation Officer has provided advice on creating ponds to attract particular species.

Health & Wellbeing

- 3.20 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 which are pertinent to health and wellbeing.
- 3.21 It is also hoped that this group can begin to work alongside Children's Services, to address the high rates of teenage pregnancy in the Farnley Wortley ward.

Thriving Places

- 3.22 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.
- 3.23 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 (Andrew Square car park, toilet area and ginnel). Designs for the scheme are virtually finalized (design freeze stage), with a view to tenders going out the first week in November, with a start date on site in January 2011.
- 3.24 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. Unfortunately, Area Management had been informed that following on from the recent capital review that has taken place within the Authority, funding will not be forthcoming from T&DC for heritage lighting, as it is considered that the new lighting which has been implemented as part of the PFI scheme is fit for purpose.
- 3.25 The Town Centre Manager is currently looking into how funding might be acquired for the replacement of the pedestrian barriers in Pudsey Town Centre (with heritage style railings) which are looking very old and damaged in some places. A request for funding is likely to be submitted to the December Area Committee meeting.
- 3.26 Phase 1 of the Lower Wortley Road Improvement Scheme has now been completed. Unfortunately, several of the trees that were planted as part of the scheme (at a very dry time in the summer) have died, for which the contractor has accepted full responsibility, and will in late Sept, early Autumn re-plant new trees, and maintain them until they are established. In addition, to this misfortune, damage has been sustained to the Branch Road steps (car accident), which had been re-modeled. This land belongs to Highways, who have been informed of the damage, and will rectify this. Finally, the artwork has been chosen for the Bull_Ring from designs drawn by the local Primary School. The work is expected to be in place by November 2010.
- 3.27 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 had its first meeting in September which set out the priorities for the group in the area and started to map out the current

provision available to young people in the Farnley & Wortley area. Future plans include the creation of a support pack outlining all of the available opportunities and a more joined up approach to delivery to maximise impact in the current financial climate. Attendees includes he likes of Area Management, Extended services, Youth Services, Armley Juniors and the Police. An appendix (1) is attached outlining the work of the priority neighbourhoods in Outer West.

- 3.28 Locally, the Police are working with the Youth Service on diversionary projects to reduce ASB and this appears to be having some notable impact. For example, the 'Wateringcote' project in the Waterloos area of Pudsey has been a very successful partnership project to address anti social behaviour. Residents at the recent Pudsey & Swinnow Forum confirmed this success. A full report on the scheme is available from the Area Management Team.
- 3.29 The Area Management Team has, through discussions with Healthy Living Network Leeds, advanced plans to develop a 12 month Community Development Worker to support the Swinnow neighbourhood, and indirectly Swinnow Community Centre. A recent restructure of HLNL means that it is likely that the Area Committee will benefit from more hours work through this project as the community development post which would deliver this work has been re-graded downwards.
- 3.30 The worker will aim to develop a range of services and activities such as:
- develop a local sports group to use the large green space facing the centre plus the new play area which will be installed by Parks and Countryside;
 - develop a Mum and Tot's group in partnership with adjacent library;
 - work with the Youth Service to develop a girls group;
 - deliver an arts and craft session for older people;
 - develop a gardening/grow your own club;
 - signpost local people to information, advice and guidance regarding jobs and training, health
 - signpost young people who are not in education employment or training to information advice and guidance;
 - deliver capacity building courses around money management, healthy eating and exercise.
- 3.31 It is hoped that the Development Worker will through their work, inspire more use of the Community Centre, and hopefully in turn, encourage users to join a new Management Committee for the centre (unfortunately the Committee has recently disbanded).

Harmonious Communities

- 3.32 In terms of community engagement, plans are underway following the success of East North East Area Management's pilot, to roll out the Area Charter for West North West. The idea of the Charter is to raise the profile of the Area Committee and Area Management Team with the community, and inform them of the kind of work that we are involved in. This will hopefully, encourage two way communication. Approximately, 2,000 Charters will be printed for the West North West wedge.

3.33 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/wnwareamanagement 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