

Report of the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods

To: Inner West Area Committee

Date: 20th October 2010

Subject: Area Managers Report

Electoral Wards Affected:
 Armley
 Bramley & Stanningley

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 against Leeds Strategic Plan and the Inner West Area Delivery Plan.

1.0 Purpose of This Report

1.1 This report informs Members of the progress against Leeds Strategic Plan and the Inner West Area Delivery Plan.

2.0 Background Information

2.1 The Area Delivery Plan is the delivery of the Leeds Strategic Plan in the Inner West area. This report identifies progress against the themes of the Leeds Strategic Plan.

3.0 Main Issues

Culture

3.1 The work of the Town Centre Manager in Armley has included developing a proposal with Leeds Ahead to install 'Art in Unusual Spaces'. The proposal includes interactive installations in two or three units for between four and six months and will

be commencing during October. The aim is to utilise vacant units, promote access to the arts and increase footfall on Armley Town Street.

- 3.2 Planning for the Armley Christmas lights switch on is underway. The risk assessment and traffic plan are now in place and a range of entertainment has been planned. Unfortunately, at this stage, no traders have been willing to contribute financially to the celebrations.
- 3.3 Community Sports Development delivered sports programmes over the school summer holidays, with 518 young people involved in the scheme. Activities took place at schools, leisure centres and sports clubs within Inner West. The activities included Leeds United coached sessions, trips to Yeadon Tarn, cricket, rugby and multi sports camps. The deadline for applications for the West Leeds Coaching Scholarship is 1st October. This will offer four young sport leaders in West Leeds the opportunity to enhance their sporting qualifications by providing a 12 month coaching scholarship. It aims to provide both financial and professional support for candidates by helping them to achieve recognised sporting qualifications and accessing professional mentoring opportunities. It is envisaged that the scheme will then enable communities to benefit from new coaching skills.
- 3.4 Armley Leisure Centre is launching a 'Back to Net' initiative with Sport England Netball. This is currently being advertised, particularly targeting young women and is due to be launched in November.
- 3.5 The Museums Service and City Projects team are currently looking at ways to revitalise Armley Mills. Initiatives have been put in place to increase attendance. A Conservation Management Plan has been drawn up and is at consultation draft stage. The plan identifies opportunities for its protection and enhancement and can inform any future proposals for the site. It will provide clear guidelines for the testing and evaluation of new development proposals or for material changes to the site. It will help inform appropriate uses for existing buildings, aid the preparation of long-term conservation programmes for the site and identify areas of neglect, and inform day-to-day decisions with regard to maintenance. Following on from the Conservation Management Plan, a development prospectus will be prepared in January 2011 for Armley Mills and Dunkirk Hill.
- 3.6 Over the summer holidays, Leeds Industrial Museum worked with several schools and delivered a series of workshops to teach children about science, technology and engineering. The museum also provided a week of family learning activities during July as part of the I Love West Leeds festival.
- 3.7 The new Community Gallery at Armley Mills has been named 'The MillSpace' and was opened in July as part of the 'I Love West Leeds Festival'. The gallery is hosting an artist in residence programme, currently showing work by local Armley artist Casey Orr entitled 'Wool'. The gallery has been used so far with local school and community groups. The programme for the gallery is guided by a steering group of local key arts people who are interested in making the wider museum as accessible and culturally creative and inspirational as it can be.

Enterprise and Economy

- 3.8 The Inner West area now has a new Business Facilities and Social Enterprise Manager (BFSEM) – Bill Graham – employed through BARCA Leeds under the Community Centres Consortium. A separate report on this agenda outlines the progress to date and future plans.
- 3.9 It should also be noted that four previously vacant units on Armley Town Street have now either been occupied or are about to be occupied. This includes proposals for a New Wortley Community Shop to be opened at no. 38 Town Street. The details of this proposal are included in the Inner West Community centres Consortium update report from elsewhere on this agenda.
- 3.10 The Economic Policy Team have been working in Inner West with partners including West Leeds Debt Forum, Leeds City Credit Union Ltd, Bramley Credit Union Ltd and NHS Leeds Health Improvement Team to organise a 'Break the Chains of Debt' event in Bramley on Saturday 23rd October. This will feature the Credit Union incentive of £20 when people open an account and use it to save.
- 3.11 The Armley Credit Union, which has been supported this year by the Area Committee, continues to grow. In quarter 2 (between 1st July and 30th September) there were 94 new adult members and 7 new child members.

Town Centre Manager (TCM) update

- 3.12 A business event will hopefully take place in the New Year, once planning approvals are in place for the Morbaine development. In the meantime, the TCM is preparing a promotional flyer to distribute to potential businesses.
- 3.13 The Armley Business Forum is sustaining reasonable attendance levels and adopting a more proactive approach to town centre issues. The Forum's request for an increased Police presence on Armley Town Street has been noted and Police support has notably improved.

Transport

- 3.14 Many of the schemes proposed for Inner West are on hold due to funding shortages. However, on Armley Town Street, works to install traffic calming measures, including carriageway narrowing, speed tables and speed cushions, started on site in August 2010 and are due to be completed in early October 2010. The works aim to reduce vehicle speeds and recorded injury accidents on a road which is currently rated as no.1 on the Council's 'Lengths for Concern' document.

Environment

- 3.15 The Armley Action Days which previously took place weekly are currently being reviewed and partners are considering the level of resources they can commit to this type of operation. 33 fixed penalty notices were issued in relation to littering in Inner West between April and September 2010. Domestic and commercial waste and noise issues have also been tackled with legal notices being served where appropriate.

- 3.16 The TCM will be developing the Keep Armley Tidy campaign in the New Year, in conjunction with local primary schools.
- 3.17 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.
- 3.18 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.

Health & Wellbeing

- 3.19 The West North West Health & Well-being partnership meets bi-monthly to address priority issues in the area, including alcohol related health issues, excess winter death, dementia and NHS healthchecks. GP data on patients that are regularly admitted to A&E (5-10 times p/a) is currently being collected. Work is being done to identify these patients and refer them to treatment services. The NHS healthcheck for 40-74 year olds is being rolled out city-wide, starting with GP surgeries in the most 10% most deprived SOAs. It will be offered by all GPs by 2012. Other healthy lifestyle initiatives including training local people how to cook healthy meals, walk trainer groups and health promotion courses offered in schools under the Change4life programme are currently being developed across West North West. Evaluation of the schools based programmes has shown that parents responded well to health messages delivered by children.
- 3.20 Dementia services are being developed in libraries in Inner and Outer West.
- 3.21 NHS Leeds are leading on a health needs assessment in New Wortley through the LAMP. This aims to map provision of activities and identify gaps in services and facilities, with a particular focus on health provision. It will be achieved through detailed consultation with local residents and partners. This detailed work will be complimented by the mapping work which has been undertaken to highlight healthy lifestyle interventions for West North West provided by the statutory, voluntary and private sectors.
- 3.22 NHS Leeds also planned and delivered two Winter Wellbeing Pick-up events, one on 15th September at the Feel Good Factor in Chapeltown and one on 17th September at the Public Health Resource Centre in Armley. Approximately 50 professionals attended to pick up their own resources, advice, toolkit and network with other service

providers. The figures were relatively high compared with the usual attendance of 60 people accessing the centres each month. The events provided information, advice and support to agencies wanting to develop their own winter wellbeing events for the people they work with, including a toolkit for planning an event. Approximately 30 professionals attended. Those attending will be contacted in autumn 2010 to identify how the information they obtained has been used and to explore how many people have benefited from the information provided.

Thriving Communities

- 3.23 A detailed community safety update report will be presented to the Area Committee in December.
- 3.24 In order to assist the enforcement of the Armley Designated Public Places Order (DPPO), posters have been prepared in community languages including Czech, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish, Russian and Slovak to explain the DPPO rules. Following early efforts to educate people on the DPPO restrictions, the scheme has now moved into an enforcement phase to tackle persistent offenders. In future, the Police will provide figures on numbers of fixed penalty notices issued as the project moves into the enforcement phase.
- 3.25 Further to discussions at the last Area Committee regarding concerns about drinking on Armley Town Street, the Area Management team have met with Police, Town Centre Manager, Extended Services and Slovakian families. The meeting was supported by a translator. The partners have agreed a number of actions to address this issue.
- 3.26 The Area Committee agreed support for the Edinburghs dispersal order in Armley, at its June 2010 meeting, to tackle crime and ASB. Actions include enforcement through the development of 5 Anti-social Behaviour Orders for nominals who have failed to engage with agencies. Two signpost workers based at Bell Vue police station are working with identified problematic families in this area developing interventions. A West Yorkshire Police Community Trust application has been put forward by Christ's Church Youth Project to deliver targeted intervention to young people in this area.
- 3.27 Operation Abbreviate continues to target issues in relation to drugs and sex workers with partner agencies in the New Wortley area. Additional resources include funding of £9000 from West North West Homes Leeds, which has been used to fund an 18 ½ hour post from early September. The 12 month post is managed by BARCA to target sex workers and problematic drug users in the community and explore relevant support and intervention initiatives.
- 3.28 Two sessions were held in September at Swallow Hill targeting year 6 pupils with police ASB staff, West Yorkshire Fire Service and Youth Services. The sessions aimed to raise awareness of issues effecting and influencing young people such as ASB, drugs, alcohol and promoted local activities that young people can get involved with such as the Friday Night Project based at the Lazer Centre.
- 3.29 There has been joint working between the Police and Trading Standards regarding the sale of alcohol to minors, particularly in Armley, due to the high numbers of alcohol related hospital admissions. There are plans for a training session for owners of licensed premises regarding good practice of the sale of alcohol.

Harmonious Communities

- 3.30 The Community Centres Consortium update report elsewhere on this agenda provides information on the priority neighbourhoods of Fairfields, New Wortley and the Wythers. The Fairfields is benefiting from Aramark, an American catering company based in Leeds, who are supporting the community centre with volunteers to help with clean ups and offering mentoring for local people to develop skills in catering, accounts, administration and businesses planning. This is part of their corporate social responsibility agenda.
- 3.31 The CCTV scheme for the Broadleas is being progressed utilising funding from the Area Committee and ALMO Area Panel. It has been confirmed that the scheme will need planning permission and this will be submitted once the Area Committee has confirmed its revenue funding.
- 3.32 At the Community Safety Divisional Partnership, the estate was highlighted as a hotspot for criminal damage. The Youth Inclusion Programme is hoping to develop a programme of activities during October half term, subject to funding.
- 3.33 The Police and partners delivered a community engagement event at Armley Mosque on 18th September. The event was to raise awareness and encourage the local community to access LCC and other services, including career opportunities and to foster good relationships between the local community. Over 200 people attended the event throughout the day. The intention is that this event will build on a cohesive community improve knowledge and awareness of services particularly as this area has a diverse community.

4.0 Implications for Council Policy and Governance

- 4.1 The Area Delivery Plan for Inner West is administered through the West North West Leeds Area Management Team.
- 4.2 Well-Being projects develop from Inner 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.

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 The Inner West Area Committee is asked to
- note the contents of the report and comment on any aspect of the matters raised
 - suggest items for inclusion on future Area Manager's reports

Background Papers

none