

Report of the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods

To: Outer North West Area Committee

Date: 8th November 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 **The Carbon Reduction Small Grant Scheme** is now being developed by the west north west area management team under the guidance of the Area Committee. The

aim of the scheme is to encourage and assist a variety of tree planting projects that will help raise the awareness of climate change and contribute to reducing the amount of CO2 emissions present within the outer north west Leeds area. Projects that involve children, young people and the community in the planting and maintenance of trees will be encouraged. Approaches to local businesses will be made to request additional funding to be contributed to the scheme to encourage corporate social responsibility and to maximize the potential funds available for the scheme.

- 3.2 The scheme proposal and leaflet were submitted to the Area Committee in September and were approved in principal, subject to further consideration and approval from the Environment and Streetscene subgroup of the scheme details. Further work has been undertaken following the Area Committee to complete the scheme application pack including the application form, leaflet and guidance notes. The area management team aims to submit the scheme application pack to the subgroup at its November meeting for consideration.
- 3.3 The wellbeing-funded project, 'Green Check Energy Savers', delivered by Groundwork-Leeds has been a success and will complete in the next quarter. So far, the project has been delivered to 9 schools in the outer north west area, including Horsforth Newlaithes Junior school, Horsforth St Mary's Catholic Primary school, Tranmere Park Primary school, Otley All Saints C of E Primary school, Otley the Whartons Primary school, Rawdon Littlemoor Primary school, Horsforth West End Primary school, Rufford Park Primary school and St Oswalds C of E Junior school. Westgate Primary school will receive workshops and assemblies in October to complete the project. Due to its success, Groundwork has been given extra funding from 4 schools, including 2 from outer north west area to deliver 40 climate change/energy assemblies over the next year to continue the project.
- 3.4 A number of environmental projects that received wellbeing-funding have been rolled out and starting to bring about positive outcomes to help improve the environment of the area. These include:
- Parks and Countryside's projects to provide additional staff resources at Wharfemeadows park and Yeadon Tarnfield park in Otley and Yeadon and site-based gardeners for Guiseley and Rawdon,
 - Health and Environmental Enforcement Services provision of additional anti dog fouling enforcement patrols in Otley, and
 - Prince Henry's Grammar School's project to improve the appearance of the external entrance area to the school and the Chippendale swimming pool with planters filled with a colourful selection of bedding and perennial plants.
- 3.5 The West North West Area Management Team are assisting 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.

Thriving Communities

- 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 for distribution this month. The leaflet will give information regarding 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. The WNW area management team is now coordinating the work including the technical design, production and promotion of the leaflet. The leaflet is being funded from the small grant scheme.
- 3.7 **The 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 led by the Neighbourhood Policing Inspector and Area Community Safety Co-ordinator. The plan commenced with a “face the people” event held on 2nd October at Oley Courthouse which helped establish local priorities from residents who attended. The plan is a working document and is intended to be fluid and evolve as the year progresses.
- 3.8 **West Yorkshire Police’s community safety projects** funded by the Area Committee have been carried out across the outer north west area. They include off-licence test purchasing scheme, capture car, off-road police motorcycles and the speed indicator device project.
- 3.9 There have been 8 test purchasing operations and 5 alcohol-fuelled, anti-social behaviour operations carried out since the start of the project in December 2009. Nearly 200 premises in the area have been visited with 15 premises failing and selling alcohol to an underage test purchaser. All have been given Fixed Penalty Notices and referred to the police’s licensing liaison officer who will arrange to speak to all the premises involved. Leeds City Council Licensing section has also been made aware of the offending retailers.
- 3.10 There have been nearly 80 deployments of the Capture Car in outer north west area since the start of the project in December 2009. Although this tactic has not generated any ‘hits’ in the outer north west area, its use across the area has proved successful as a deterrent to car theft.
- 3.11 The off-road motorcycle team continue to carry out regular patrols at least 2-3 times per week, to all greenspaces, car parks, public footpaths (where accessible) and bridleways across the 4 wards. Anti-social behaviour issues and priority crime areas within the wards receive extra patrols to help increase community safety and satisfaction.
- 3.12 The speed indicator device (SID) arrived in February 2010 and was deployed immediately to all areas of concern across the outer north west area. New areas of concern continue to be highlighted. Improved road safety has been achieved by deploying SID to repeat locations to help enforce the message. As a result, speeds have been reduced.

- 3.13 **CASAC Burglary Reduction** – The project completed in September 2010. During the first two quarters of 2010/11, a further 31 properties were visited and target hardened. Throughout the project, 440 properties across 4 wards of the outer north west area were visited and 418 properties were target hardened (106 in Adel & Wharfedale, 100 in Guiseley and Rawdon, 92 in Horsforth and 120 in Otley and Yeadon). CASAC has exceeded the targets set out in the original funding agreement by 58 outputs and at the same time has ensured that each ward has had at least 90 properties target hardened. The project has run slightly over the agreed timescales due to the availability of alternative funding by the end of March 2010. 20% (85) of the evaluation forms have been returned so far. 100% said they were satisfied with the standard of work carried out and 97.5% felt more secure as a result of the CASAC visit.

Health and Wellbeing

- 3.14 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.
- 3.15 A number of wellbeing-funded projects to improve community sports and play facilities in the area have been completed during quarters 1 and 2 including the extension of the activity trail in Yeadon Westfield Infant school, the rewiring of the Scout and Guide headquarter building in Horsforth, a improved access ramp for Horsforth Hall Park and the refurbishment of the kitchen in Leodiensians Junior Rugby Club. The refurbishment of the small lounge of Horsforth Yarnbury Football and Rugby Club and the provision of a new roof for Old Modernians Association are also expected to be completed in the next quarter.
- 3.16 Wellbeing-funded projects to support older people in outer north west area are all underway. AVSED (Aireborough Voluntary Services to the Elderly with Disabilities) has purchased a new, 16 seater, fully accessible and adapted minibus for use by the older disabled residents of Aireborough. The minibus was delivered in August and officially launched at AVSED's Volunteer Celebration party later in the month. The chair-based exercise class run by OPAL (Older People's Action in the Locality) is held on a weekly basis. The class has about 15 attendees and is led by a fully qualified instructor and an OPAL member of staff. It helps reduce isolation and has noticeably improved health and wellbeing for its participants. The wellbeing fund also contributed towards the day trip for 300 older people from Guiseley to Southport in August.

Harmonious Communities

- 3.17 **Year of the Volunteer 2010** - Letters and emails were sent out in April and May to all contact lists to gain nominations for the West North West Volunteer Awards. So far we have received approximately 20 nominations for the whole west north west area, including 6 from the outer north west. Members of the Area Committee will be requested to play a role in selecting a winner for their area.
- 3.18 A volunteer celebration event for the area is planned for the 9th November at the Banqueting Suite, Civic Hall. This will be an opportunity for the West North West Area Committees to recognise the role of volunteers in improving their areas and to thank them for their efforts. It is suggested that all the nominees will be given a certificate and a small gift to recognise their contribution to the area. There will also be one nominee from each ward who is selected by ward members as someone from the community who has made an outstanding contribution to the ward. There will be refreshments, performances from volunteer groups in the community and stalls to showcase the work of community organisations.
- 3.19 **Horsforth Design Statement** – The document has now been adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document. The document will be officially launched on December 4th and copies will be available for sale in local venues.
- 3.20 **Conservation Area Reviews and Appraisals** – Work has been progressing on all six wellbeing-funded conservation area reviews and appraisals across the outer north west area. Conservation areas under review and appraisal include Guiseley, Bramhope, Yeadon, Rawdon Micklefield/Littlemoor, Rawdon Little London/Cragg Wood/Low Green and Horsforth Cragg Hill/Woodside. Leeds City Council's Sustainable Development Team are leading on these reviews and appraisals which will be completed within this financial year. Further funding has been committed to carry out a conservation area appraisal in Tranmere Park in Guiseley. This new project will start in April 2011 and is expected to be completed by March 2012.

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