



## Report of the Director of Environments & Neighbourhoods Directorate

### South Leeds (Outer) Area Committee

Date: Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2010

### Subject: Area Managers Report

<b>Electoral Wards Affected:</b> Ardsley & Robin Hood Morley North Morley South Rothwell  <input type="checkbox"/> Ward Members consulted (referred to in report)	<b>Specific Implications For:</b>  Equality and Diversity <input type="checkbox"/> Community Cohesion <input type="checkbox"/> Narrowing the Gap <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Council Function <input type="checkbox"/>	Delegated Executive Function available for Call In <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Delegated Executive Function not available for Call In Details set out in the report <input type="checkbox"/>

### Executive Summary

This report details a range of activities taking place within the Outer South Leeds Area, some of which are dealt with in greater detail elsewhere on the agenda.

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 September 2010.

#### 1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To bring to Members' attention in a succinct fashion, brief details of the range of activities with which the Area Management Team are engaged based on the Area Delivery Plan priorities, that are not addressed in greater detail elsewhere on this agenda. It provides opportunities for further questioning or the opportunity to request a more detailed report on a particular issue.

#### 2.0 Background Information

- 2.1 Members will recall at the March Area Committee, a new format for this report was introduced based on the Area Delivery Plan themes and priorities. Ward Members confirmed priorities for 2010/11 during the recent round of ward member briefing meetings and the 2010/11 Area Delivery Plan was approved at the last Area Committee.

### **3.0 Updates by Theme: Culture**

#### **3.1 Community Centres**

##### 3.1.1 Community Centres Sub Committee

The Outer South Community Centres Sub Committee last met on 11<sup>th</sup> August and the minutes and action plan were reported to last meeting. Unfortunately the meeting planned for November did not go ahead, a further meeting will be scheduled before the end of the year.

### **4.0 Updates by Theme: Enterprise and Economy**

#### 4.1 Morley Town Centre Management

Further to the report to the October Area Committee. The Morley Town Centre Management Board met on the 8<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> October. Minutes are attached at **appendix 1a and 1b** for information.

#### 4.2 Investment Partnership South Leeds (IPSL)

4.2.1 At the September Area Committee it was reported that the scoping work from the second Partner Engagement Group (PEG) had been reviewed by the IPSL Management Group and presented to the Steering Group. The PEG meeting planned for September did not go ahead. A report on the draft investment strategy is expected to be considered by the Steering Group in mid November following which a PEG meeting will be organised, probably in December. Following that a roving exhibition to be held in various South Leeds venues will be staged. This will provide a further opportunity for residents in South Leeds to comment on the developing strategy. Meanwhile, efforts to engage hard to reach groups, particularly BME, continue.

#### 4.3 Town & District Centre Regeneration Scheme

##### 4.3.1 Local Shops Initiative

Work on one shop front at 45 Queens Street has been completed. While we have received 3 further expressions of interest, making 5 in total, none have responded to our request for further information. The Morley Town Centre Management Board is considering ways to promote the scheme further.

##### 4.3.2 Pedestrian Trail

The painting and replacement of street furniture along Queen Street including a new spotlight to the War Memorial has been completed.

##### 4.3.3 Morley Bottoms

- The Project Team held its last meeting on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October. Minutes are attached at **appendix 2**
- It was agreed that no further meetings were required as the scheme was now progressing as an affordable housing project with its own project team in place.

#### 4.4 South Leeds Employment, Education and Training Group (SLEET)

To further strengthen links between the SLEET group and the Outer South Area Committee, the most recent minutes available are attached at **appendix 3**.

## 5.0 Updates by Theme: Learning

### 5.1 Children Leeds South Leadership Team

To further strengthen links between the Children Leeds South Leadership Team and the Outer South Area Committee, the most recent minutes 30<sup>th</sup> June & 21<sup>st</sup> October are attached at **appendix 4 and appendix 5**.

## 6.0 Updates by Theme: Environment

### 6.1 Cleaner Neighbourhoods Sub Group

6.1.1 The Cleaner Neighbourhoods Sub Group met on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> November to discuss environmental issues and actions highlighted in the Area Delivery Plan (ADP). The minutes (**appendix 6**) and action plan (**appendix 7**) are presented for Members information.

### 6.1.2 Well being Funding

The Area Committee have allocated £3,000 revenue Well being Funding to support the work of the Cleaner Neighbourhoods Sub Group. The group have identified out of hours patrols and signage to tackle dog fouling, and education on littering in primary schools as projects to be funded.

### **Tackling Dog Fouling Issue**

Additional patrols by the Enforcement Team to tackle dog fouling have started in the Outer South at locations agreed by Members. Consultation by Members is ongoing regarding sites at park entrances for the A4 metal signs. Once locations are confirmed, production can begin.

### **Anti Littering Workshops**

Groundwork have been commissioned to deliver a local clean up and an hour long workshop on the environment and litter with pupils. Due to littering issues on Wide Lane the Cleaner Neighbourhoods Sub have agreed to invite Newlands Primary School to host the workshop. Members are asked to consider allocating further funding to Cleaner Neighbourhoods in the Well being Report.

### 6.3 Garden Maintenance Service

6.3.1 The Garden Maintenance Service Scheme operated by Morley Elderly Action (MEA) commenced on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010 with 223 clients. Over the summer months MEA completed a number of promotional activities and the client base has now reached 246. The vast number of clients are receiving a regular fortnightly or monthly service. This is broken down below by ward:

<b>Ward</b>	<b>Number of Clients</b>
Ardsley & Robin Hood	61
Morley North	45
Morley South	62
Rothwell	78

- 6.3.2 In response to Members requests, MEA have been targeting promotion of the scheme to new clients.

Untidy gardens were identified by the Harrops NIP steering group as an issue. During August, a Customer Involvement Officer from Aire Valley Homes identified 9 tenants on the Harrops estate in Morley as eligible for the service. These tenants received a leaflet providing details of the scheme on 2nd August. A tenancy management officer has also visited the residents to promote the scheme.

Drighlington Pensioners Association were contacted to promote the scheme to their members. An offer by Morley Elderly Action to visit the group and talk to them through the scheme was declined and instead, leaflets were circulated at a meeting.

MEA staff visited a lunch club held at Westerton Community Centre, Tingley, on 1<sup>st</sup> July to present the scheme to residents. This had a positive impact and saw the total number of clients from the area reach 17.

Policing and Community Together meetings for Lofthouse and Robin Hood, and Thorpe were used to promote the scheme to local residents. Leaflets were circulated at meetings detailing the service.

- 6.3.3 Issues that had been identified with the operation of the service in Rothwell have been resolved through new monitoring processes. Weekly timesheets are completed and submitted by all gardeners. Random checks are completed on gardens that have recently received a service to monitor standards. This includes two site visits a months and a short telephone questionnaire with a randomly selected client.
- 6.3.4 MEA are aware of the need to bring the Rothwell Gardeners subsidy in line with the Morley subsidy. The main action to achieve this will happen in the second year of the service when, as outlined in the original project proposal, the gardeners will receive their annual increment of £1, taking the subsidy to £5 and the overall fee to £15 hourly rate. However, the Roots Community Gardening (previous Care and Repair Gardeners) will remain at £5 subsidy and an overall fee of £15 an hour. Discussions between the Roots Community Gardening company and MEA have agreed that new gardeners for the Rothwell area are required to meet demand and ensure the sustainability of the service, by not becoming reliant on one gardener for an area. New gardeners in Rothwell will be employed on the same subsidy level.
- 6.3.5 Requests for the service continue to be made weekly, even during November. These requests are generally for one off maintenance jobs at the end of the year but with a request to become a regular client in 2011/12. Praise and positive feedback are regularly received by MEA from clients of both the scheme and the gardeners.

## **7.0 Updates by Theme: Health and Well Being**

### **7.1 Health and Well being Partnership**

- 7.1.1 The South East Health and Wellbeing partnership met on the 30<sup>th</sup> September. Minutes from the meeting are available at **appendix 8**.

## 8.0 Updates by Theme: Thriving

### 8.1 Divisional Community Safety Partnership (DCSP)

8.1.1 The DCSP are keen to maintain a strong link between the partnership and the Area Committee. Councillor Robert Finnigan attends the DCSP as the Outer South Area Committee representative. A summary of the October minutes is available at **appendix 9**.

### 8.2 Operation Buzzer

8.2.1 Morley Neighbourhood Policing Team continue to work with local off licences through 'Operation Buzzer', which aims to tackle underage drinking in the Morley area. Information on the operation has been circulated to colleagues at Aire Valley Homes, Parks & Countryside and Streetscene to ensure that relevant staff know how to support the operation by reporting the colour coded discarded bags, bottles and cans.

### 8.3 Operation Champion

Operation Champion was held in Tingley and East Ardsley on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> October. It achieved the following:

- Aire Valley Homes Arrears Officers (including a manager) undertook 20 targeted visits each day to tackle arrears and undertake annual tenancy visits as required.
- Tenancy Officers managed the Environmental Visual Audits, participated at briefings; undertook joint visits to 5 ASB targets (day 2); provided intelligence for 3 potential domestic violence cases; and identified 5 properties for further garden procedures action. Liaison with Environmental enforcement with regards to action on a problematic property.
- AVH Tenancy Support Officer undertook work on garage sites (repairs and pre-letting inspections).
- AVH Estate Caretakers had a brief that included 4 activities in Tingley and 5 for East Ardsley to undertake work that improved the environmental impact of the areas. Litter cleared; vegetation cut back; ginnels cleaned – improving access and estate appearance. Local positive comment regarding clearance of The Grove to Bradford Road Ginnel.
- Neighbourhood Policing Team School Liaison Officers actioned 10 home visits in relation to truancy
- 17 re-visits were carried out by the Safeguarding Team to victims of domestic violence.
- Off road Biker actioned 6 stop checks, 1 vehicle seizure and 2 traffic reports.
- Road Traffic actioned 1 hour on Royston Hill and found no speeders.
- Road Traffic actioned 45 mins on Lowry Road and offered verbal warnings to 2 speeders. (minor infringement)
- The Civilian Warrants team working with the NPT carried out 3 arrests and recovered £3000 in unpaid fines.
- Arson Task Force carried out visits to local shops. 5 premises have signed up to the "Strike Out" campaign to restrict sales of lighters/matches to young people.

During 2011, Operation Champions are due to take place in Morley North ward in March and Morley South in October.

## 8.4 Children and Young People Working Group

8.4.1 The Children and Young People Working Group met on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2010, to discuss issues and actions highlighted in the Area Delivery Plan (ADP) relating to children and young people. The minutes at **appendix 10** are presented for Members information.

## 9.0 **Updates by Theme: Harmonious Communities**

### 9.1 Community Engagement

9.1.1 A steering group to oversee the Gildersome participatory budgeting (PB) has been established and met for the first time on 21<sup>st</sup> October. Chaired by Cllr Bob Gettings, the group agreed a name for the project 'Gildersome Go for Gold' and the following consultation plan to be implemented 8-21<sup>st</sup> November:

- Door knocking exercise to all Aire Valley Homes properties
- Consultation postcards and return boxes in key community buildings (Meeting hall, Library, Churches, Children Centre)
- Posters in local shops
- Youth Service Manager to undertake consultation with young people.
- Birchfield and Gildersome Primary Schools to distribute postcards through pupils
- Consultation at Gildersome Light Night on 19<sup>th</sup> October.

9.1.2 Following collation of the consultation results, priorities will be identified and an application process will begin. A spreadsheet of community groups in the area is being compiled to circulate application forms to.

### 9.2 Community Charter

9.2.1 At the June meeting Members approved the draft content, as well as the Area Committee Chair signing off the final version. Copies will be available at the meeting.

### 9.3 Harrops and Bridge Street Neighbourhood Improvement Plan

9.3.1 The newly established Tingley Bar Residents Group continue to meet, speakers invited to the group include the Youth Service, Neighbourhood Watch, Aire Valley Homes and the Anti Social Behaviour Unit. To increase attendance at the residents meetings, the Priority Neighbourhood Worker is working with the residents on promotion, and reviewing when and where the meeting are held.

9.3.2 Following concerns raised by residents over ASB levels on the estate, information was circulated on how to join a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and nuisance diaries to record incidents. Each household within the area has received two letters from Aire Valley Homes and Morley Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT), detailing how to report incidents of ASB. At the November Steering Group, Morley NPT informed the group that there had been an increase in incidents of ASB being reported by residents within the area

9.3.3 To provide more activities for children and young people, the steering group commissioned Groundwork to deliver a Junior Wardens Scheme and Leeds City Council Sports Development to provide a number of sporting activities at Hembrigg Park in Morley over the October Half Term Week. Morley NPT have also reported a decline in ASB incidents involving young people as a result of diversionary activities organised for young people in the area

#### 9.4 Thorpe Neighbourhood Improvement Plan

9.4.1 Partnership working continues to be successfully coordinated through the Thorpe Neighbourhood Improvement Plan to tackle identified issues. The limited public transport service in the village was identified as a barrier for children and young people to engage in activities organised over the summer holidays. The steering group provided a mini bus to enabling 9 young people to attend the activities. Work continues with Metro to look at addressing transport concerns within the village.

9.4.2 The steering group have overseen a number of improvement works to Stanhope Community Centre to increase its use by the community. To promote the works, an Open Day was organised for the 23<sup>rd</sup> October at the centre. The Halloween themed event and involved all partners from the Thorpe NIP and was well attended by the community. To continue support to build capacity and pride amongst the community, a Christmas event is being arranged.

9.4.3 Work to tackle environmental issues has seen residents from Dolphin Lane supported in planting bulbs around Stanhope Community Centre with the aim to improve community surroundings.

### **10.0 Ward Based Briefings**

10.1 A recent round of ward based briefings were completed during September and October. A number of issues were raised that are of relevance to all ward Members.

10.2 South Leeds Youth Hub set to open in late January 2011. Tour invitation from the Project Manager to visit the hub, two slots Mondays 4pm-5.30pm and Fridays 1pm – 3pm. Issues highlighted by Members on how young people from the Outer South will access the centre are recognised by the Project Board, who have set a target that 40% of young people who are accessing the centre to be from outside the LS10 postcode.

10.3 Highways have confirmed that the previous embargo on new grit bins has been lifted and they can now be purchased by Ward Members and community groups. However, the monitoring and maintenance of any new bins, rests with the community group or locally nominated 'champion'. Area Management and Highways are in conversation regarding various issues to do with the core service provision to residents in the Outer South.

10.4 A corporate target has been set that by April 2011 Leeds City Council, will have secured an 'Excellent' status for its equality standards. Area Management are supporting this work through delivering the South East Area Management Equality Action Plan. This includes completing Equality Impact Assessments for certain Well being projects, submitting an equality storyboard, and delivering and evidencing a range of activities to demonstrate equality principles in practice.

## **11.0 Recommendations**

11.1 The Area Committee is asked to:

a) note the above information and make comment as appropriate.

### **Background Papers:**

- Area Managers 19<sup>th</sup> October 2010
- Well Being Report 19<sup>th</sup> October 2010
- 'Department of Communities and Local Government: Extra Support for Town Centres', Regeneration Management Team Meeting, 14<sup>th</sup> October 2009