



Leeds
CITY COUNCIL

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Report of the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods

Outer West Area Committee

Date: 17th December 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 (particularly in light of the fact that the Plan is virtually at the end of its three year period) 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 (ADP) 2008-11 as agreed by Executive Board in July 2008. The report is structured around the Leeds Strategic Plan themes. The report specifically provides an update on the 2010/11 ADP priorities (annual update).

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 Interviews have taken place in November to appoint a Community Development Worker for the Swinnow community who will build community capacity by:
- Increasing involvement in the neighbourhood by local people (who will hopefully help to form a new management committee for the centre) by developing local activities such as Mum's and Tots groups, exercise classes, gardening and knitting clubs;
 - Creating a more engaged and cohesive community who know each other and are willing to support their neighbourhood;
 - Increasing the take up of advice and support leading to improved economic and social well being;
 - Developing a thriving community centre which serves local people;
 - Improving the perception of community safety as young people are more engaged.
- 3.2 It is hoped that the new appointee will commence work in the New Year. In addition an Expression of Interest has been submitted to NESTA (National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts) for Swinnow to be one of 10 national 'Neighbourhood Challenge' pilots. The Neighbourhood Challenge is a new programme from NESTA, working with the Big Lottery Fund, to support community-led innovation. It aims to show how community organisations – when equipped with the right skills, practical tools and small, catalytic amounts of money – can galvanise people to work together to create innovative responses to local priorities, particularly in neighbourhoods with low levels of social capital.
- 3.3 Healthy Living Network (HLN) are leading on this application with LCC as joint partners. If the bid is short-listed, HLN will attend a networking event in December to progress the scheme. If Swinnow is selected as a 'Neighbourhood Challenge' pilot, it is envisaged that the scheme would compliment the newly appointed Community Development Worker. A further update will be brought to the January Area Committee meeting.
- 3.4 Pudsey lights switch on in November, saw a bigger and better event than previous years with a fun fair, Santa's grotto, a band called "Hussel" and Titan the Robot. The event was well attended, and enjoyed by all even though it was a wet cold evening.
- 3.5 Finally, a community Carol Concert will be held in Pudsey Park bandstand on the 12th December 2010 at 2.30pm, with the Hade Edge Brass Band in attendance. The event will be advertised through the Churches Together congregation, and in Pudsey shops/community buildings.

Enterprise & Economy

- 3.6 The Town Centre Manager (TCM) has reported that the Pudsey Reward Card Scheme goes from strength to strength, with the number of retailers involved and participants. Feedback from winners of the vouchers is very positive and all are very keen to support the "Shop Local" Campaign message.
- 3.7 Plans are being formulated by the TCM which focus on building a new client base, and additional stall holders for Pudsey market (these plans are supported by Markets within Development who have offered the TCM a budget of £8,000 for 2011/12). The

plan is based around attracting younger people to the market by offering a variety of products and themed markets, which will include a regularly held Retro Fair and Farmer's Market (the first of these will be held on the 11th Dec). It is hoped that the Farmer's Market can be moved from the last Thursday in the month to the last Saturday, with the rationale being that young people can not attend when held on a Thursday, and that Saturday is the worst day of trading for the "normal" market.

- 3.8 Promotion for these events will be done via Radio Aire and their street team who will be handing out flyers and promotional material, in addition, posters will be delivered and flyers handed out in the University and other student bodies.
- 3.9 The business forum in Pudsey is also continuing to run with good attendance. The forum now runs a number of self generated events such as Christmas best dressed shop window competition, and the Easter Egg Hunt.
- 3.10 Phase 2 of the Farsley Town and District Centre (T&DC) scheme is progressing with work starting on Andrew Square Car park in January 2011. Work will see the re-modelling of the car park, followed by re-furbishment and re-opening of the toilets, new streetscene furniture and heritage style street lights.
- 3.11 Plans are also progressing to turn a local footpath into a formally adopted public right of way, which will also see the re-surfacing of the footpath which is somewhat worn and unsafe. However, permission has to be gained from Marstons brewery to carry out this work, as they own part of the footpath. To this end, negotiations are currently underway.
- 3.12 Jobs & Skills are supporting recruitment for a number of city centre employers. West Leeds residents have or could benefit from these opportunities. Examples include Waitrose, the Leeds Arena, Trinity and Eastgate developments and the Census. Through Jobs & Skills, all business have been offered training from a number of different sources. Jobs & Skills are currently engaged with the Chamber of Commerce to help support businesses with any training and development needs as well as engaging with Business Link. The response from businesses has been poor and ways of getting business to engage and make the most of these opportunities while they are available are being explored. Jobs & Skills are also targeting people who might be thinking of starting a business through advertising the availability of free business advice and support. Flyers and posters are being distributed.
- 3.13 Jobcentreplus hosted a benefit / provision awareness session for West North West Homes Leeds frontline staff. The event was well attended and extremely well received. It has provided the frontline housing advisors with a much greater awareness of benefits and support available to help customers back into work and has strengthened the partnership work in the locality. Further follow up work is planned to build on the knowledge given to determine progression and to look at how locality work can be developed, although no firm dates have been agreed.

Learning

- 3.14 The youth service is seeking alternative ways of engaging young people in Farnley and Wortley due to difficulties encountered around use of the local Secondary School and Hillside Community Centre. Youths are currently being taken to the Bramley Community Centre, where specialist provision is available, e.g Chill out rooms, music rooms etc.

- 3.15 Community Sports Development have developed a 12 month coaching scholarship for young people (under 25's), which is aimed at providing coaching tuition for unemployed young people, with a view to helping them to find employment. Two applications have been received from young people in Outer West. Community Sports Development will be supporting applicants to achieve significant development through this programme.

Transport

- 3.16 Pudsey Bus Station became operational on 14th November and services are operating well from the new facility. The site will be fully completed and clear of all cabins and debris etc by 1st December and a formal opening took place on Monday 29th November. Metro has confirmed that it is able to fund six additional planters to be located around Market Place to enhance the appearance of the area. Pudsey in Bloom has confirmed that it is happy with these proposals.
- 3.17 Following a meeting with local traders in October, the proposal to create additional short stay car parking spaces in Pudsey has been revised. The proposal was to convert all spaces in Lidget Hill car park to 2 hour restricted spaces. However, following consultation with traders, the proposal has been revised to convert all 48 spaces (including 3 disabled bays) in Lidget Hill car park to 2 hour restricted spaces. The existing short stay spaces in Lidget Hill and the Leisure Centre car parks will be retained. A report outlining the proposals is to be submitted to Highways Board in early December.

Environment

- 3.18 The issue of funding the one full time and one part time Community Environment Support Officer (CESOs) who in Outer West within the West North West Environmental Action Team (EAT) is dealt with elsewhere on this agenda.
- 3.19 Streetscene services are progressing with a pilot scheme in West Leeds to review street cleaning services as part of the Streetscene Change Programme. 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. Streetscene Services will be briefing Members as the pilot develops and further details will be reported to the Area Committee in due course post pilot, which is expected to take place in December.
- 3.20 Work on the enhanced Environmental Services delegated functions to Area Committees, to bring together services identified in the Streetscene report presented to the last Area Committee.
- 3.21 Project Board has now been established to oversee delivery which includes Senior Officers from Environmental Services, Regeneration and Governance. The project is being led by Helen Freeman, Chief Environmental Health Officer.
- 3.22 A work programme has been produced which aims to achieve the delegation of the services being pulled together by the beginning of the new municipal year. The main tasks to be achieved are:
- Integrating the currently separate services and recruit to the new structure;
 - Mapping current resources and assessing the environmental management needs of localities;

- Delivering a programme of Member Development to equip the Area Committees to take on the new responsibilities and manage the Service Level Agreements;
- Design and agree the Service Level Agreements with Agreements;
- Design and agree the Service Level Agreements with Communities.

3.23 A full progress report and module of Member Development will be provided for the next Committee cycle.

Health & Wellbeing

3.24 The West North West Health and Wellbeing Partnership meets every two months to address priority issues in the area in relation to health. The last meeting was held on the 24th November. A working draft of the City Priority Plan for health and Wellbeing 2011-15 was presented to the meeting detailing the strategic priorities for the next four years. The consultation has commenced on this via the Vision for Leeds but further contributions were requested on local priorities and targeting of local partnership actions to incorporate into the final plan. Consultation will take place with the Council's Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Boards, the third sector and NHS Leeds.

3.25 The Partnership meeting also receive a presentation on Telecare Leeds which is an exciting new initiative which used simple monitors to help people feel safer in their home. The Telecare service builds upon the already existing Care Ring emergency alarm service operated by the Council. It is an intervention which helps to address one of the West North West health and wellbeing priorities of excess winter death.

3.26 The meeting also received an update on the next steps that are being taken in tackling alcohol challenges in West North West Leeds which will include work to be undertaken with General Practitioner's and Adult Social Care on the "frequent flyers" (those who are admitted to hospital more than 3 times a year with alcohol conditions) to look at a team approach to treating people in their communities.

3.27 A task group has been established to address the issue of teenage pregnancy across West Leeds, representatives from the Outer West Area Management Team are part of this group, alongside Councillor A. Blackburn. Leeds has consistently high teenage pregnancy rate and within Outer West Leeds post code areas LS12 5 (Farnley) and LS28 7 (Pudsey) are particularly high.

3.28 The next steps for West Leeds are the establishment of a local tasking group to map existing services, identification of gaps and planning appropriate responses in full consultation with children and young people and their families and carers. An all day event is planned (provisionally booked for the 13th January 2011) at Stanningley Rugby Club, to raise the profile of the work and provide an opportunity for partners to share ideas and good practice. A local area action plan will be published at the end of March with clearly identified roles and responsibilities.

Thriving Places

- 3.29 A full Community Safety annual 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.
- 3.30 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.
- 3.31 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.
- 3.32 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. An action plan has been drafted for the Health and Wellbeing sub group, and is being actioned by National Health Service Leeds, Extended Services, Area Management, Children's Centre's, Barnardos, Jobs and Skills, local churches, Healthy Living Network, Youth Service, Armley Juniors and Sports Development. This group covers a wider geographical area than just the Gambles and Heights (although the focus remains here), however, the widening of the area has allowed the likes of the Bawn's and Tongs estates to be picked up on the group's agenda.
- 3.33 The Healthy Young People's Service has now been set up at Wortley Beck Health centre in partnership with the extended services co-ordinator and a nurse and Doctor. The frequency of the service will be dictated by the number of attendees so all partners will be promoting this to their networks to support the group.
- 3.34 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.
- 3.35 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.

- 3.36 The November meeting of the Council's Planning Board gave formal approval to a final version of the Farsley Village Design Statement, consequently, the final document is now being printed. The document will be launched in Farsley Library in the near future, with the involvement of local Ward Councillors, and documents will be kept there and with Planning for information etc.

Harmonious Communities

- 3.37 A Community Charter has been developed to serve as a shorter and more accessible version of the Area Delivery Plan which will help to communicate the Council's and its partners' commitment to addressing important local issues in the coming year. Printed copies of the charter will be made available to the public in a range of locations across the area (see attached)
- 3.38 The Area Management Team organised a West North West Volunteer Thank You Event on 9th November as part of the Leeds Year of Volunteering 2010. This was an opportunity for the Area Committees in West North West Leeds to recognise the role of volunteers in improving their area and thank them for their efforts.
- 3.39 The event took place in the Lord Mayors banqueting suite of the Civic Hall with the participation of the Lord Mayor of Leeds (Councillor James McKenna), local Councillors as well as approximately 120 volunteers and their supporters. Certificates of appreciation were presented to 28 volunteers who had been nominated for their valuable contribution to West North West Leeds. In addition, an award was also given to one volunteer from each of the four Committee areas for their outstanding contribution. Entertainment was provided by Bramley Primary School's choir and The Citizens Orchestra and volunteers had the opportunity to network with other organisations. An evaluation of the event generated very positive comments – attendees enjoyed the event, felt it was well organised and felt the venue was appropriate. Comments included:
- "the choir was extremely good and the citizens orchestra. Thank you to everyone who made this evening so enjoyable
 - "Very Good, it was a nice way to say thank you"
 - "Lovely to see so many selfless people being appreciated. Particularly enjoyed the children's singing and the citizens orchestra"
- 3.40 Members are being asked to note that an exercise is taking place 'The Spending Challenge' to gather the views of local residents and groups on the spending challenges the Council will need to deal with over the next 4 years. Leeds City Council will have to find savings of £150 million over the next four years. It is currently undertaking a number of restructures within various departments of the council as well as offering voluntary severance and early retirement to eligible staff. The Council will now be carrying out 'The Spending Challenge' exercise to collate the views of community groups across the city on spending priorities. Residents can also undertake this exercise online and this opportunity will be advertised on the Council website.
- 3.41 A copy of the spending challenge form that community groups and residents will be asked to complete is attached at Appendix 1. This exercise has the support and endorsement of both the executive board and the corporate leadership team.

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.

7.2 Area Committee is asked to support local participation in the spending challenge exercise outlined at Appendix 1

Background Papers:

None