



Leeds
CITY COUNCIL

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Report of the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods

Outer West Area Committee

Date: 28th January 2011

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.

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 A Community Development Worker is now in post for the Swinnow community, employed through Healthy Living Network Leeds. This post, which was funded by the Area Committee, will build community capacity by:
- Increasing involvement in the neighbourhood by local people (who will hopefully help to form a new management committee for Swinnow Community 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 The post holder has been in post since mid December 2010 and will be asked to report on progress to Area Committee and Pudsey & Swinnow forum in due course.
- 3.3 Unfortunately, the Expression of Interest submitted to NESTA (National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts) for Swinnow to be one of 10 national 'Neighbourhood Challenge' pilots was unsuccessful. The Neighbourhood Challenge is a new programme from NESTA, working with the Big Lottery Fund, to support community-led innovation.
- 3.4 A Community Carol Concert took place in Pudsey Park bandstand on the 12th December. The event went well but severe weather resulted in fairly low numbers. It is hoped that improved publicity next year could increase attendance.

Enterprise & Economy

- 3.5 Phase 2 of the Farsley Town and District Centre (T&DC) scheme is progressing with work starting on Andrew Square car park in February 2011, and the unadopted road to the rear of the car park adjacent to Marsden Court flats, which will eventually be adopted by Highways. Work will see the re-modelling of the car park, followed by re-furbishment of the public toilets which will begin in March, new streetscene furniture and heritage style street lights. Area Management are currently in the process of reaching agreement with Marstons brewery to undertake work to the "ginnel", opposite Andrew Square Car Park, which is in part owned by them. Once permission is received, public notice will be given to establish a Creation Order, which will seek permission to turn the whole of this land into a Public Right of Way.
- 3.6 The Town Centre Manager (TCM) for Pudsey has reported that the success of the Pudsey Reward Card Scheme is continuing. The number of retailers and shoppers involved in the scheme continues to increase. Many new businesses have signed up over the last few weeks and there are now almost 70 participating in the scheme.
- 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 the Markets Service 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. The first Vintage Fair and Farmers Market was held on 11th December with a variety of new traders attending. All 25 stalls were filled and many traders commented that they had sold well and would attend again.

- 3.8 The TCM is now planning more speciality markets in the coming months, with an Asian Bazaar and a Chocolate market amongst the events being organised.
- 3.9 Radio Aire have been supportive and publicised the Vintage Fair on air in the week leading up to the event and their Street Team attended on the day. The TCM also distributed posters and flyers around Pudsey and will look into more ways to promote forthcoming markets.
- 3.10 The Pudsey Business Forum is continuing to run with good attendance. It now operates a number of self generated events such as a Christmas 'best dressed shop window competition' and the Easter egg hunt. 10,000 copies of the forum-run 'Shop Local' magazine were distributed in November / December, containing advertisements and editorial features by Pudsey businesses.

Learning

- 3.11 At the last Area Committee, Members asked for a further update on Youth Service provision in the Farnley & Wortley ward as they had been alerted to Youth Service difficulties with accessing premises to deliver their work in that area. The Youth Service has advised that workers and young people have been encouraged to adopt a 'participation model'. This involves young people taking on responsibility and engaging with the committee at the community centre to try and build improved relations. This approach has worked well elsewhere and has started to be effective in improving the situation in Farnley. Around 12-14 young people are now attending a Wednesday evening session within the community centre, whilst youth workers have succeeded in preventing two young people with ASBOs entering the building and disrupting the session.
- 3.12 In addition, a number of young people from Farnley have been integrated with a Youth Service session at Bramley Community Centre. The Bramley session is very successful and the young people within the group demonstrate good behaviour, whilst the resources are more appropriate than those at Hillside. The aim is therefore to enable the young people from Farnley to be part of a positive group and take this back to their own area.
- 3.13 The mobile provision continues to be deployed in Farnley, adjacent to Hillside community centre, several times a week. The youth worker for the area has been tasked with engaging in talks with Lawns Park High School with a view to delivering some youth work from the school. The mobile already goes into the school at lunchtime and it is hoped that this partnership will develop.
- 3.14 Members should also note that Crawshaw School has expressed an interest in using Swinnow Community Centre five days per week for their alternative provision. Initially it was proposed to use the centre full time. However, it has now been confirmed that the school use is likely to be on an ad-hoc basis. As well as improving the school's ability to deliver their provision, it will also generate a significant income for the community centre, thereby increasing its sustainability.

Transport

- 3.15 Following a meeting with local traders in October 2010, the proposal to create additional short stay car parking spaces in Pudsey has been revised. The original 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 Robin Lane car park to 2 hour restricted spaces. The existing short stay spaces in Lidget Hill and the Leisure Centre car parks will be retained.
- 3.16 A report outlining the proposals was submitted to Highways Board in December. The Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) were advertised on site from 31st December for three weeks. If there are no objections, the restrictions will be enforceable from late January.
- 3.17 An issue raised by the Crimbles allotment holders has been resolved by Traffic Management. Seven five hour spaces have been proposed and were approved by Highways Board on 14th January. The scheme is due to be signed off by the Chief Highways Officer shortly.
- 3.18 Minor TROs are also currently being advertised on site for Priesthorpe Avenue, Ashfield Avenue, Smalewell Road (Pudsey) and Stanningley by-pass station access.
- 3.19 The Lidget Hill lay-by scheme has now been resolved, with funding contributions of £20,000 Local Transport Plan, £10,000 Area Committee funding agreed at the December meeting and the final £10,000 has now been approved by the Town & District Centre Regeneration Scheme Programme Board. The scheme is due to start on site before the end of March 2011 and will hopefully improve traffic flows and ease congestion in Pudsey town centre, as well as improving the appearance of Lidget Hill and improving the safety and amenity of parking in that area.

Environment

- 3.20 Work is taking place 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. A full report is presented elsewhere on this agenda.

Health & Wellbeing

- 3.21 Recent statistics have shown that West Leeds has one of the highest levels of teenage pregnancies in the city. In an attempt to address some of the underlying issues Sexual Health Development Team arranged a networking event on 13th January 2011 at Stanningley Rugby Club. This brought together a range of service providers to look at their current services and what could be implemented in the target areas to make a significant impact. Although the main focus of the pilot scheme will be around the Broadleas and Raynviles estates in Inner West, high teenage pregnancy rates in Farnley mean that some of the work will be focused around Swallow Hill and Farnley Park schools and their local communities.
- 3.22 The networking event highlighted the success stories that have occurred along with some potential schemes that could be developed. The result will be the creation of a West Leeds wise action plan that will show the current provision and the projects that

could be developed with both local and city-wide providers. Once the action plan is fully developed it will be made available for Member's information.

- 3.23 Adult Social Care and Parks & Countryside are currently considering options for a 'Changing Places' toilet. Such a facility is for people with profound and multiple learning disabilities as well as other serious impairments such as spinal injuries, muscular dystrophy, multiple sclerosis or an acquired brain injury, often need extra facilities to allow them to use the toilets comfortably. Changing Places toilets are different to standard disabled toilets with extra features and more space to meet these needs.
- 3.24 The Aiming High Funding that supports the delivery of the Changing Places Toilets has been put on hold by central government as a part of the Comprehensive Spending Review. However, Adult Social Care officers are in regular contact with the Aiming High project team who have indicated that at least some of the funding will eventually be released. If the funding does become available, local options will be examined in conjunction with ward Members. These include conversion of the existing toilet block at the entrance to the park and expansion of the current disabled toilet within Pudsey Leisure Centre.
- 3.25 Food access issues on the Cottingley Springs traveler's site are being considered through the Gypsy Traveler Partnership forum. A meeting took place in mid January to consider options and possible solutions will be reported to the next Area Committee.
- 3.26 A separate report is included elsewhere on this agenda updating Members on the transfer of the public health function from the PCT to the Council.

Thriving Places

- 3.27 A 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.
- 3.28 Phase 1 of the Lower Wortley Road Improvement Scheme is now complete, with only the artwork for the Bull Ring to be installed once they have been worked up from designs drawn by school children from the local Primary school (Lower Wortley). Work is expected to be in place by the end of February 2011.
- 3.29 The Gambles and Heights LAMP is drawing to a close after two and a half years, in which time vast improvements have been made in the areas of crime and grime on the estates. An exit strategy is being drawn up by Area Management, which will allow the longer term issues such as young people, anti-social behaviour, and Health and Well-being in its widest sense, to be addressed, via the Health and Wellbeing and Young People's sub groups. In addition, representatives of the estates who have been part of the LAMP working group will be equipped with relevant contact details of partner agencies to contact to report any other issues as and when they occur, in order to ensure some sustainability for the work achieved to date.
- 3.30 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 their and with Planning for information etc.

- 3.31 Discussions have taken place with ward Members and the Executive Member for Leisure to re-examine the potential for providing public toilets within the former front entrance to Pudsey Leisure centre. Currently there is no funding identified for this scheme, but the scheme is being developed and costed and funding options are being explored.

Harmonious Communities

- 3.32 West North West Area Management team are currently planning their involvement in the 2011 European Year of the Volunteer. It is anticipated that a celebration event such as that held in November 2010 will be held to recognise the contribution of volunteers in West North West Leeds.

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 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 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