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## Report of the East North East Area Manager

### North East (Outer) Area Committee

Date: 21<sup>st</sup> March 2011

### Subject: Area Delivery Plan 2008-11 Update

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#### Electoral Wards Affected:

Alwoodley, Harewood, Wetherby

Ward members consulted  
(referred to in this 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

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## Executive Summary

This report provides members of the Area Committee with an update on progress on the actions in the 2008-11 Outer North East Area Delivery Plan (ADP). The Area Committee is asked to note the contents of the report.

The report updates the Area Committee on the progress of the delegation of the environmental services due to take place in the new municipal year.

## **Purpose of this Report**

1. This report provides Members with an update of activities in the Outer North East Area relating to the priorities set out in the Area Delivery Plan (ADP).
2. It provides examples of work/activities in the area since the last update to the Area Committee in December 2010, highlighting progress against each of the ADP themes.
3. The report also provides members with an update on progress to delegate environmental services to Area Committees from June/July 2011.

## **Background Information**

4. Area Committees are required by the Executive Board to approve and produce an annual Area Delivery Plan.
5. The current ADP (for 2008-11) has been developed to follow headings contained within the Vision for Leeds document. It is a local expression of the city's commitment to the Local Area Agreement and partnership working. The themes of the ADP are:
  - Culture
  - Enterprise and Economy
  - Learning
  - Transport
  - Environment
  - Health and Wellbeing
  - Thriving Neighbourhoods
  - Harmonious Communities
6. The Outer NE Area Delivery Plan for 2008-11 was approved by Area Committee on 15th September 2008. The plan has been subject to an annual refresh and the latest version was approved by the Area Committee in March 2010.
7. A simple, cheap to produce, public version of the Area Delivery Plan is circulated to libraries, parish councils, and community organisations in the area. Copies are available from the Area Management office.

## **Quarterly Progress on Actions/Activities Delivering ADP Priorities**

### **Culture**

8. The priority of the Culture theme is to help provide sporting and cultural activities in local venues and encourage the whole community to participate in such activities.
9. By providing constructive and attractive projects the intention is also to divert young people away from anti-social behaviour and help them develop life skills and interests.

10. Appendix A presents many examples of activities which took place in the final quarter of 2010/11 to support the Culture theme priorities.

### **Enterprise and Economy**

11. The priorities for this theme are to help provide more advice and information on education, training and employment opportunities as well as encouraging more business and economic activity in the area.
12. Partners involved in its delivery are schools, extended services, Jobcentre Plus and local business. Youth services also contribute through the provision of accredited courses.
13. Some examples of actions/progress in the last quarter are:
- A session led by a member of staff from Jobcentre Plus took place in the Alwoodley Children's Centre in January to meet parents and provide advice and guidance on job search and job opportunities. Staff from the Family Hub were on hand to discuss any childcare needs.
  - Employment opportunities advice sessions are also available at Northcall. Regular "Gizzajob" sessions started in February 2011 and will run every Thursday for 10 weeks.
  - On Fridays, appointments with a Jobseeker Adviser are now available at the Moor Allerton library (see photo). Clients can assess their employment options; produce or improve a CV; fill in application forms; prepare for an interview; use the internet for job searching and find out about courses and training.



### **Learning**

14. The main priorities under this theme are to engage more young people in learning, reduce persistent absenteeism and to provide learning opportunities for all.
15. Below is a list of examples which illustrate a variety of schemes on offer and show a range of partner organisations involved.
- As a corporate parent, Leeds City Council has responsibility for safeguarding of vulnerable children and to ensure that its staff are adequately trained. There is a programme of training courses available to staff and / or parents and information is regularly disseminated through the extended services clusters, Children Centres and area management office.
  - Ethnic minority residents in Alwoodley are able to take advantage of free English classes for speakers of other languages. The course started in January 2011 at the Children's Centre and so far, 10

- parents have participated.
- Police, too, are contributing to learning and education. PCSOs in Wetherby have organised 'Child Internet Safety' sessions. The sessions are aimed at young children and are presented by two PCSOs who have been specially trained in the safety aspects of surfing the net. Children are given guidance on how to have fun on line, how to stay in control, and how to report when things go wrong. The sessions last from 30mins to 1 ½ hours, and include films, interaction, and visual presentations. Parents are actively encouraged to attend.

## **Environment**

16. This theme covers various aspects of environmental work, such as keeping towns and villages clean and litter free, action against fly tipping, and enforcement action against persistent offenders. It also encourages working with local residents, In Bloom groups and friends of parks, both on a routine basis and to contribute to special events, such as Yorkshire In Bloom competition. The overall aim is to enhance the quality of towns and villages, public green spaces and enable people to enjoy natural amenities.
17. Difficult environmental issues are primarily dealt with at tasking meetings. These are multi-agency meetings designed to deal with complex problems. Two examples of recent actions include a need to deal with disorder left by young people congregating in parks and a clearance action taken in a house of a man with mental health problems. The first one required youth services to be involved; the latter, engaged adult social care officers.
18. In Alwoodley, a number of improvement schemes to parks and green spaces are about to be approved by the Director of Resources. When completed, the area will have seen an investment of £50k. The projects are:
  - Access improvements to Osprey public open space,
  - Refurbishment of the King Lane play area at Crag Lane Recreation Park,
  - Access controls and benches at Crag Lane Recreation Park
  - Additional access control at Alwoodley Recreation Ground
19. In Wetherby ward, officers are working on a major scheme to improve all 7 key roundabouts in the ward. Parks and Countryside officers have produced a proposal and a significant sponsorship is expected for one of the roundabouts. When completed, the scheme will improve the quality and aesthetic value of the roundabouts which is likely to affect the results of the Yorkshire in Bloom competition.

## **Health and Wellbeing**

20. The aim of this strategic theme is to provide a range of opportunities for people to get involved in sport and recreation and to develop healthy lifestyles. The paragraphs below describe a range of health and wellbeing related schemes on offer in the locality.

21. Outer North East Leeds' health indicators are above city average. However, there are pockets of need dotted throughout. Children Centres in the area work with families to support them in the development of healthy lifestyles and to provide them with training and advice on health issues.
22. Voluntary and community sectors work with a number of vulnerable groups. Area Committee provides funding to voluntary sector organisations (Maecare, Northcall, Open House) in support of their work with vulnerable groups. Examples of health and wellbeing related work carried out by the voluntary sector organisations include:
  - At Northcall, a specialist NHS advisor is providing support to people who wish to stop smoking.
  - MAEcare, are putting on a gentle Yoga exercise sessions at St. Paul's church. There is also EXTEND, a stretching exercise class to improve mobility, at Saxon Court. It started in February.
  - Marjory and Arnold Ziff Community Centre hosts two different dance classes. Both provide a cultural outlet as well as exercise. One is a traditional tap dance and the other is Latin inspired, calorie burning dance, fitness party – Zumba.
23. Most youth club sessions are currently using the first 30 minutes to promote C-Card and encourage young people to think about good sexual health.
24. Throughout the Outer North East, The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) in partnership with Leeds City Council offer help to families in receipt of various benefits, who have young children. Families can access free safety equipment such as: stair safety gates, window restrictors, non slip bath or shower mats, fire guards, locks for kitchen cupboards and corner cushions. In Alwoodley, 50 families have been assisted.
25. Telecare is a new initiative which uses monitors to help people feel safer in their homes. In January, Feel Good Factor, in association with Leeds City Council, hosted an event to help promote potential benefits of Telecare. The event was open to all in East North East wedge and showed how a range of equipment linked to a social alarm or to a carer in the same property can summon help when necessary.
26. An MSc student is working with the Area Management Team to carry out a health audit in Moor Allerton neighbourhood to contribute to the work of Moor Allerton Partnership (MAP). The aim of the exercise is to gain a better understanding of health issues in the area, engage community in a discussion on health needs and prepare to enter a dialog with local GP's who will soon have a responsibility for commissioning healthcare for local residents. The results of the findings will be reported to MAP and discussed at Alwoodley ward member meeting.

## Thriving Places

27. The main priorities in this strategic theme relate to making the neighbourhoods safer and better places to live in. Partners include the police, area management, housing and youth organisations, as well as voluntary sector colleagues. Agencies co-operate to identify problems and act on intelligence to improve living conditions for local residents.
28. Local Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPT) continue to work with partners (housing agencies, youth services, area management, voluntary sector organisations, extended services and others) through 6-weekly tasking meetings. There are two tasking teams in Outer North East Leeds area; one covering Wetherby and Harewood wards and the other covering Alwoodley ward. The local policing priorities are established through intelligence, analysis of statistics and public consultation. Below are a few examples of issues identified and dealt with in the last quarter of 2010/11.
29. Officers from Wetherby NPT joined forces with Trading Standards to conduct a joint operation involving under age youths attempting to purchase alcohol on licensed premises. Two young people (15yrs and 16yrs), accompanied by plain clothed officers tried to buy lager and other alcoholic drinks in Wetherby and villages. In most cases they were refused, in others, they were asked for age identification and then refused. However, three premises sold alcohol to the youths. Staff at one pub and one supermarket received £80 penalty tickets and the licensee of another pub is to be interviewed by Trading Standards.
30. The priorities in eastern villages (Walton to Bramham) are mainly speeding and anti-social behaviour. In particular:
  - Boston Spa - speeding through High Street and Primrose Lane;
  - Bramham - anti-social behaviour on Freely Fields;
  - Walton - speeding through the village.
  - Additionally, in Boston Spa – lead thefts are persisting due to a high price of metal. Officers from Wetherby NPT have arrested 6 individuals who are all on police bail pending further investigations.
31. In western villages (Linton to Shadwell) priorities included:
  - Bardsey - parking problems at Bardsey primary school
  - Collingham - speeding vehicles, A58, Brookside towards Leeds
  - East Keswick - parking problems on Whitegate
  - Harewood- parking problems around Gateways school
  - Linton- speeding cars through village
  - Shadwell- parking problems around Shadwell primary school.
32. In order to increase general feelings of safety and reduce fear of crime, a free home security surveys are being offered to local residents with leaflets being delivered to homes in Wetherby. These surveys are being carried out by local PCSOs and the police encourage public to take advantage of this service.

33. In Alwoodley, community safety priorities included the need to detect and reduce burglaries, theft from vehicles (particularly on the golf course estates off Nursery Lane). Also to tackle anti-social behaviour and drug dealing around the Cranmer Bank shops and nearby ginnels. As a result, there has been an increase in policing patrols in the area.
34. Crime prevention messages have been delivered by local PCSOs. Posters have been put up about keeping vehicles and houses secure (closing and locking all doors and windows) and about leaving valuables such as sat navs, keys, phones, bags, and presents on display.
35. Additionally, to help Alwoodley residents stay safe, a new scheme, an interactive 'virtual house' video, has just been launched. The 'virtual house' allows people to walk through the downstairs of a property and gives security advice. It is available on the West Yorkshire Police website, Neighbourhood Policing Team – Alwoodley.
36. Youth Services are working with young people to address anti-social behaviour in the Cranmer Bank area. Together with the Alwoodley Extended Services and using Activities Fund, a summer programme of activities is being developed at present. The aim is effectively to target and support disadvantaged young people to divert children from anti-social behaviour and encourage them to take part in the many activities on offer.
37. In order to allow communities to take advantage of the changing legislation, in particular, the Localism Bill, a Planning Conference took place in Boston Spa village hall on 1<sup>st</sup> March. It was organised by the Community Planner and Area Management officers. It attracted 42 participants, with all the Town and Parish Councils represented. The morning session explored new responsibilities and opportunities derived from the emerging localism agenda. In the afternoon a number of practical, planning exercises were arranged. The feedback from the event was very positive. The participants found it highly informative. It is hoped that the lessons learned will help Parish Councillors to improve local services and quality of life for residents.

### **Harmonious Communities**

38. ADP priorities for Harmonious Communities strategic theme relate to the involvement of communities in the decision making process, participation in community life, support (including financial) to local groups, Parish Councils and resident organisations as well as developing use of local facilities and amenities. This is a promise shared by all partners.
39. This priority is dictated by the Area Committee's delegated function for community engagement and consultation. The aim is to make sure that a representative sample of population, including hard to reach groups, is given an opportunity to get involved in local decision making. Taking into account the large geographical area and travel constraints, number of scattered communities and difficulty with organising large scale events, Outer North East Area Committee favours using existing meetings and activities to engage with local people. By going to where people already congregate,

officers can make sure that more people are given an opportunity to contribute; e.g. to the development of the Area Delivery Plan. A report elsewhere on this agenda gives a summary of community engagement activities organised to help with the preparation of the Area Delivery Plan for 2011/12.

40. An example of one such group is the Alwoodley Parents' Forum. It meets monthly at the Children Centre. It enables parents to have a say in the type of services available from the Centre, comment on developments and share mutual support. It also provides Area Management Team with an opportunity to reach and engage with this group of people and their specific needs.
41. The Area Management Team continue to support Town and Parish Council Forum in accordance with the Town and Parish Council Charter. At the last meeting the main themes were: information on support available to rural voluntary sector from Voluntary Action Leeds, planning enforcement and the forthcoming planning conference. The next meeting of the Forum is on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2011.
42. Area Management Team work closely with local residents to improve the conditions and use of community facilities. There are only two LCC community centres in the locality but village and church halls are also available. Plans to improve children play parks and green open spaces are currently being finalised. (see 21 above)
43. The purchase of the Lingfield Pub by an Islamic organisation to be turned into a multi-faith centre with sports and community facilities, continues to concern the local community. In order to explore issues of faith and culture, Open House holds a monthly Saturday discussion open to all. A public meeting with the new owners has also been held to explore future plans for the facility.

## **Delegation of Environmental Services to Area Committees**

44. Area committees are due to take on additional responsibilities for the environment through the Delegated Functions Schedule, starting in the new municipal year. Meetings have been held with the ward members to look at and examine potential service level agreements (SLA) each area committee will be developing with Environmental Services. The delegation of services will be monitored, managed and reviewed by those SLA. Appendix B provides a summary of the process to date and explains how it is going to be developed further. A follow up report will be submitted to the Area Committee in the summer.
45. The scope of the delegation includes the following services:
  - Mechanical street cleansing;
  - Manual street cleansing (litter picking);
  - Litter bin emptying;
  - Flytipping removal & enforcement;
  - Leaf clearing;



- Dog controls (strays, fouling);
- Highways enforcement;
- Graffiti enforcement work
- Domestic and commercial waste storage and transportation control;
- Overhanging vegetation control; and
- Litter control (Fixed Penalty Notices, flier controls etc.)

## **Implications for Council Policy and Governance**

46. The priorities for the Area Delivery Plan mirror the priorities of the Leeds Strategic Plan. These improvement priorities are agreed between all the partner agencies and with government office as the local area agreement (LAA). Local interpretations of the priority outcomes for the area have been developed. Within each priority actions are delivered in consultation with key stakeholders in the local area.

## **Legal and Resource Implications**

47. The Wellbeing Fund is used to finance projects which meet the objectives of the Area Delivery Plan. Area Management work with Council services, partner agencies and local communities to take a strategic approach to using the Wellbeing Fund which ensures best use of the funding.

## **Conclusions**

48. The Area Delivery Plan sets out the key actions for 2008 - 2011 for Outer North East Leeds. Projects meeting the objectives of the Plan are funded through the Wellbeing Fund. This report provides members with an update on progress in implementing the actions contained within the ADP.

## **Recommendations**

49. The Area Committee is asked to:
- note the contents of the report and the work carried out in meeting the ADP priorities for Outer North East area.
  - receive an update on the progress made in relation to the proposed delegation of Environmental Services to the Area Committee in June 2011.

**Background Papers:** Area Committee Roles and Functions 20010/11