



**Leeds**  
CITY COUNCIL

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## Report of the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods

### Outer West Area Committee

Date: 25<sup>th</sup> March 2011

Subject: Area Leader'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 (Becky Gunn) is now in post for the Swinnow community, employed through Healthy Living Network Leeds. At Appendix 1 is an update report from the worker, outlining work to date and future plans and output measures.

#### Enterprise & Economy

- 3.2 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.
- 3.3 The Town Centre Manager for Pudsey is currently working with a marketing company looking at ways of promoting Pudsey and the Shop Local brand. The company is called Corvid Creative and they are looking at doing a number of innovative schemes which will promote the town via the internet and mobile phone technology. This will involve working with the company behind this scheme who are called Qype. Corvid Creative have offered to help with the design of the Pudsey Shop Local Magazine for free, because the Qype scheme will be the first pilot scheme in Europe where a whole town has full coverage.
- 3.4 The reward card scheme has now been running for 12 months and has been a big success. £600 in shopping vouchers have been given away to 12 very grateful local shoppers. There are now over 70 retailers participating in the scheme with more expressing an interest weekly. Plans are progressing to publicise this success into the local press and wider a field.
- 3.5 Empty retail units are never good for any Town Centre's image or prosperity or image, there is a possibility that Costa Coffee may be interested in taking over the old Jump Estate Agency, although this has not yet been confirmed. There is hopefully also a business interested in taking over the vacant Café Atlanta shop unit.
- 3.6 The first Retro Market held in Pudsey was a fantastic success, with stall holders commenting on how good the day was. Footfall was up, as were takings on the day. The next big event for the market will be, the now annually held Easter market event. The theme for this year's Easter market is a chocolate. Already, there has been a massive response from traders wanting to get involved with this market. I think it will be a fantastic day. In addition to the chocolate market, the events that are traditionally associated with this market e.g. Easter Egg Hunt will be available.
- 3.7 The business forums continue to run with attendance being very good. The forums are now running a number of self generated events such as a "Christmas Best Dressed Shop Window Competition", the Easter Egg Hunt, and help with the bands in the park concert which was a big success last year and attracted some excellent sponsor ship.

- 3.8 In terms of publicity for the Town Centre, the website [www.shopinpuddsey.co.uk](http://www.shopinpuddsey.co.uk) continues to get many hits and because it is linked to the Radio Aire web site and receives traffic directed from that. The Shop Local magazine is out and has much more editorial content in it this time round, the magazine looks very good and is self funding. It is my intention to offer businesses the opportunity to develop their businesses through a series of training programmes and help from Leeds Chamber of Commerce. We will need a minimum number of businesses to get involved to make the programme worth while running. It will cover a number of topics which retailers will find very interesting.

### Learning

- 3.9 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. A report appears elsewhere on this agenda fulfilling this request.
- 3.10 Recent statistics have shown that West Leeds has one of the highest levels of teen pregnancy in the city. In an attempt to address some of the underlying issues Leeds City Council, Sexual Health Development team arranged a networking event on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2011 to bring together a range of services to look at their current services and what could be implemented in the target estates in the coming months to make a significant impact. Update After the success of the event a follow up meeting has taken place to establish some of the most effective routes moving forward. The multi-agency meeting identified some of the current gaps in provision and areas of need as a result of the discussions at the event. As part of the action planning process around 20 specific actions were identified that are to be taken to the young people for further discussion. The action plan will only be drafted as a direct result of the young peoples thoughts and the ideas drafted at the agency meeting will only act as a guide.
- 3.11 One of the main issues raised that the event was around communication and people being aware of what other activities are currently ongoing. To try and address these problems an e-bulletin has been drafted and sent out to all partner agencies. It is hoped that this will happen on a regular basis to reduce the chances that work will be duplicated.
- 3.12 In light of the recent announcement to close certain Libraries across the City (some of which are in Outer West) Area Management are exploring avenues to see if it is possible to retain some of the books (in particular children's books) from the libraries that are due to close, with a view to locating them in local community buildings such as community centres, and Housing Offices, in order for the community to access them.
- 3.13 There has been a slight delay to the improvements to the West Leeds Country Park Visitor Centre as the person dealing with the matter in Corporate Property Management is absent from work on long term sick. Work to modify the external doors to accommodate their remote opening is currently taking place. Corporate Property Maintenance are awaiting costings from Property Maintenance for the two outstanding items – enabling disabled access via the steps and the reconfiguration of the DDA toilet furniture. It is unlikely that the access can be achieved via a ramp as the gradient would be too steep. Therefore prices are being obtained for a wheelchair stair lift. These details should be available by the end of March and work will start on site in the near future.

- 3.14 Three candidates have been taken on as part of the Coaching Scholarship which the Area Committee funded in the past year via Sports Development, which is aimed at equipping people with appropriate skills for employment through training. An eighteen year old male from Calverley has been enrolled on a level 1 Tennis coaching, First Aid and child protection course. Once qualified, the individual will be offered mentoring opportunities with existing coaches. In addition, a twenty year old male from affiliated to Wortley Boys football club, is taking a level 2 football and child protection course, with the aim of running teams for Wortley boys. Finally, a nineteen year old female from Farsley who is affiliated with the Gymagic Gymnastics club in Pudsey is hoping to take her gym award, with a view to starting a new gym class at Gymagic.

### Transport

- 3.15 The Lidget Hill lay-by scheme in Pudsey town centre, which aims to improve the appearance of Lidget Hill and improve the safety and amenity of parking in that area, is progressing. The scheme has been approved by Highways Board and Chief Officer Approval should be in place shortly. The contractor is ready to undertake the works and it is anticipated that this should be started onsite and hopefully completed by April. Local businesses have some concerns about the construction works and the impact this will have on them. Traffic Management have confirmed they will work with the businesses and contractor to minimise impact. In the meantime, the statutory undertakers works have been ordered for the remainder of the Cemetery Road traffic calming scheme and work will take place next financial year.
- 3.16 The proposals to bring in new restrictions on Robin Lane car park have been advertised and 14 objections have been received. Traffic Management are currently dealing with these and the Highways Board will consider them in March. All the objections have been submitted by staff working at Pudsey town hall and they are not considered to be sustainable objections. It is likely that the restrictions will be operational in April with the signs installed.
- 3.17 Other Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) for Pudsey and Calverley including Priesthorpe Avenue, Ashfield Avenue, Smalewell Road and the Stanningley by-pass station access have not generated any objections and these will now be progressed to contract. The TRO to deal with parking issues near to the Crimbles allotments in Pudsey is currently with Legal Services, awaiting advertising.
- 3.18 Pudsey Members have requested that the Laurels and Oakroyds Highways scheme in Pudsey be re-considered. This scheme was supported by the Area Committee in 2009 when Well-being funding was used to widen part of North Street to provide better parking and improve access in the area. Pudsey Members are interested in extending this scheme to include adjacent roads although the scheme would be costly.

### Environment

- 3.19 Work is continuing to take 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.

- 3.20 Environmental Services Delegation Further to the report submitted to the last Area Committee, the following provides a brief update on the progress towards achieving the delegation of environmental services from June/July 2011.
- 3.21 Work is progressing on the development of a Service Level Agreement (SLA) for each Area Committee, with a generic template being agreed by Area Chairs on 11<sup>th</sup> February. A first draft of the Outer West Area Committee SLA will be shared with Members at a workshop scheduled to take place on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2-5pm, to which you will have received an invitation on 31<sup>st</sup> January. To inform the detail of the SLAs, service resources have been allocated across the City on a wedge basis, detail of which will be available at the March workshops, if not already shared with Members. Members will have further opportunity to input and comment on their SLA prior to the final version being presented for approval at the June/July Area Committee.
- 3.22 Appointment of the three Locality Manager posts, who will manage service delivery to meet the requirements of their respective area's SLAs, is due to take place in March. Area Chairs will be involved in part of the recruitment process for the posts, with the final decision on appointments however, remaining with senior officers. As soon as the appointments are formalised Members will be informed of who their Locality Manager is.
- 3.23 At their last meeting, Area Chairs discussed the potential roles of Deputy Area Chair, Environmental Champion and Environment Sub-group. Presently, some Area Committees have one or more of these roles, whilst others have none. It was agreed that whilst the roles will remain informal, i.e. have no decision making authority, they will be a valuable mechanism for dealing with the SLA and service delivery matters in a timely manner between formal Area Committee meetings. With regard to the function that a sub-group could undertake this would be especially relevant prior to and during the initial stages of the delegation. Once the delegation is in place and effective then local arrangements can be made as to how to deal with operational issues and the SLA, agreed as a wedge and/or between the Area Committees and their Locality Manager. In some cases the sub-group may be a time limited 'task and finish group', in other areas the sub-group may fulfill a more ongoing role of overseeing the SLA outside of formal Area Committee business.
- 3.24 The issue of stray horses on the public highway and park in Tyersal has come to Area Management's attention once again. Police, Community Safety, Area Management and Councillors have met to try and resolve the issue, and are looking into a long term solution to the problem. However, in the meantime, the Police have held a meeting with local horse owners to inform them, that the previously generous approach of capturing the horse, followed by strenuous efforts to try and establish the owner will no longer be adopted. Instead, horses will now be captured and impounded immediately if the owner can not readily be identified. It is hoped that this approach, will help to ensure that horse owners take due care to ensure that their horses stay on their land and do not stray.

## Health & Wellbeing

- 3.25 The National Health Service is running an “Innovations Workshop” in April. The aim of the day is to develop a better understanding of the issues preventing the whole population of Leeds achieving good health and wellbeing, through:
- Improved understanding that delivering health outcomes is everyone’s job within council.
  - Better understanding of the future direction/working relationship between health and the council.
  - Improved partnership working, and
  - Developing and delivering innovative/new solutions to narrowing the health inequality gap between the best and worst areas of Leeds.
- 3.26 The approach being used is highly flexible and the content will be entirely determined by you the participants. This will help us to help identify current issues, future challenges and creative solutions.
- 3.27 The event is primarily aimed at council staff who deliver some of the key determinants of health and wellbeing (e.g. housing, Area Management, parks and countryside, licensing etc).
- 3.28 Discussions have taken place between Adult Social Care (ASC), Sport and Active Recreation, Pudsey Members, Area Management and Corporate Property Management regarding the proposals to create a) ASC day care provision for adults with learning disabilities within the current bar area, b) a Changing Places facility c) re-provision within the original leisure centre frontage. ASC are considering re-locating their services wherever possible e.g. into libraries, community centres and leisure centres. A good example of where this has happened successfully is the closure of the Moor End centre in Hunslet and re-provision of services into three community based facilities including one within the John Charles sports centre.
- 3.29 It is envisaged that the ASC day provision would be a flexible space which can be used by leisure centre users and the wider community. Proposals are at an early stage and Pudsey members will be briefed once costed options are available. Day Services capital funding will be available for the ASC day care provision and Changing Places facility and Pudsey Members have suggested that their Ward Based Initiative funding may be available for the re-provision of public toilets. Depending on costs, a contribution may be sought from the Area Committee.
- 3.29 Area Management is working alongside the Health & Well-being Improvement Manager, Pudsey Town Centre Manager and Executive Lead for the H3+ GP consortium to deliver a series of health and well being fun days in Pudsey Park this summer. It is hoped that these will be inter-generational activities which will help promote healthy living messages and also generate extra footfall to the town centre. The aim is to promote health and well being in its widest sense. The planning is at an early stage and ward Members will be appraised as the plans develop and the Area Committee will be updated in due course.
- 3.30 Pudsey and Armley have been identified as areas of greatest need to increase the uptake of services to slow the onset of dementia. There are initial plans to develop a memory café within the new health and well-being centre in Pudsey, adjacent to the Robin Lane Medical Centre.

### Thriving Places

- 3.32 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.
- 3.33 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). It was hoped that this work would have been in place by the end of February 2011, however, due to a road traffic accident at the Bull Ring, the installation of works has been put on hold, until repairs have been carried out.
- 3.34 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.

### Harmonious Communities

- 3.35 West North West Area Management team are currently planning their involvement in the 2011 European Year of the Volunteer.

## **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