

**Report of Area Leader West North West**

**Report to Outer West Area Committee**

**Date: 9<sup>th</sup> September 2011**

**Subject: Area Progress Report**

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Farnley and Wortley, Calverley and Farsley, Pudsey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

**Summary of main issues**

1. This report informs the Area Committee of progress against the Area Management work programme for Outer West Leeds and local contributions to Council priorities.
2. All Ward Members who make up the Area Committee are consulted on projects and initiatives within their ward. In addition, each Leeds Strategic Plan theme has a Member champion assigned to progress work in the relevant area.
3. In addition, Community Forums are held within Outer West to inform communities of the Area Management work programme, and identify local issues and consult on the planned way forward to resolve issues.

**Recommendations**

4. Outer West Area Committee members are invited to note that the contents of the report and to comment on any aspect of the matters raised.

## **1 Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Members of progress against the Area Management work programme for Outer West Leeds and local contributions to Council priorities.

## **2 Background information**

- 2.1 The Area Committee has received regular reports on progress against the Outer West Area Delivery Plan (ADP). The ADP was due to run until March 2011 and so is not now a current document. However, the actions contained within the ADP are still relevant to the Outer West work programme, as many are continuing into 2011/12. This report therefore, provides and update against relevant actions and partner agencies' progress on local improvements.
- 2.2 The Area Committee is asked to note that the Outer West Area Management Team is currently working on a Business Plan for 2011/12-13/14, which will be presented to the Area Committee in December 2011, following on from Member workshops to help populate this.

## **3 Main issues**

- 3.1 **Culture** – The I Love West Leeds festival took place in July, with the main festival day taking place in Bramley Falls Wood. The events were well attended, with figures into the four thousand, which are the highest recorded to date. Highlights in Outer West included outdoor film screenings in Farnley and Farsley, a music trail in Pudsey, the 'Human Powered Shed in Farsley Fairfield Community Café, live performances at Sunny Bank Mills in Farsley and a Citizen's Orchestra performance at Pudsey Library. The I Love West Leeds Festival linked in with the Farsley Community Festival which delivered a series of events.
- 3.2 **Enterprise and Economy** – As reported at the last Area Committee in July 2011, the tender response for phase 2 of the Farsley Town and District Centre Scheme was somewhat higher than expected. In light of this a re-tendering exercise was undergone; however, unfortunately, this exercise did not reduce the project cost to within budget. Consequently, given the fact that the funding is not available to cover the cost of refurbishment, the decision has been taken to demolish the toilets and landscape the surrounding area. This decision was taken in light of the fact that the toilets have been closed for some 24 months (and prior to this suffered from severe anti-social behaviour) and therefore, the community has become accustomed to not having the use of them. In addition, Farsley is a small community, which unlike neighbouring Pudsey which has public toilets, does not have a large shopping, banking sector and public park, which serve to attract the wider community.
- 3.3 Consequently, the focus of work for Farsley will now move to re-surfacing the "ginnel, where work is ongoing to turn an informal public right of way into a formal footpath, via a Creation Order. Public Rights of Way in response to an objection to the Creation Order have referred the matter to the Planning Inspectorate to either uphold or over rule the objection. If upheld, a Modification Order can be applied for by Public Rights of Way, this will formalise the current public rights of way through the ginnel but the path will not be shown on the Public Rights of Way map.

- 3.4 A full report on the work of the Pudsey Town Centre Manager appears elsewhere on this agenda.
- 3.5 **Environment** – Following on from the recent streetscene improvements on Lower Wortley Road, aimed at improving the visual appearance of the area, Area Management Team asked Planning to consider whether any action can be taken against the owners of several private residential properties in the area, which are seriously neglected in terms of property and garden maintenance. Planning have advised that under the Section 215 Untidy Land Notice, the owners can be served with a notice to tidy their property up within 28 days, and will therefore, take appropriate action to ensure that this occurs.
- 3.6 As part of the Outer West Environmental Sub Group, a tour of the Outer West area has taken place in order to identify hot spot areas. One such area identified was an area of the Wellstones in Swinnow, specifically Wellstone Garth, where there were quite a few untidy gardens littered with rubbish and dumping of unwanted materials to the rear of these properties on West North West Leeds Homes (ALMO) land. As a result of this, Area Management have met with the ALMO and Streetscene and identified a plan of action, which includes the Environmental Action Team issuing enforcement letters to private tenants to tidy gardens, the ALMO arranging an estate caretaker clean up, with regular on-going clean ups, the planting of a privet hedge to the rear of the properties, which will hopefully act as a natural deterrent to rubbish dumping, and investigate the possibility of acquiring a mobile Closed Circuit Television to monitor the area.
- 3.7 A report on the Environmental Services delegation appears elsewhere on this agenda.
- 3.8 **Harmonious Communities** – The Health Development worker for Swinnow is organising a “Give it a Go Swinnow” event week towards the end of summer/start of autumn, dates to be confirmed. The week will be an opportunity for local residents of all ages to try taster sessions of different activities that they may not have tried before e.g. cooking, exercise, crafts, Information Technology, singing, music, curriculum vitae writing, family history, gardening and relaxation.
- 3.9 Since the last Area Committee the Pudsey and Swinnow community forum has been held at the end of June and minutes are now available for that meeting. The Police attended the meeting and informed the community that overall crime had reduced in the area, particularly vehicle crime. However, unfortunately burglary dwelling theft had increased in the last few months and two robberies had taken place at banks in Pudsey town centre. The Pudsey Town Centre Manager also provided an update to the forum on recent and planned events.
- 3.10 The Area Committee funded Community Development Worker for Swinnow also provided an update to the Pudsey & Swinnow forum. The CDW is working closely with the Youth Service and Police in the area to improve provision for young people. A new programme of activities is taking place on Tuesdays 2-4pm, organised in conjunction with Bramley Elderly Action and offering for example line dancing and cookery.

- 3.11 An update was provided to the last Area Committee from the Tyersal forum. The forum is not due to meet again until September.
- 3.12 **Health and Wellbeing** – Robin Lane Community Centre which is part of H3+ Commissioning Consortia, recently acquired Manor House building on Robin Lane next to Pudsey Leisure Centre and the Bus station. The building has been purchased with the aim of establishing a Health and Wellbeing Centre which will cover: social care, family and early years, healthy lifestyle, community development and leisure, community café, and a community eye clinic. The centre aims to work in partnership with a wide range of health and social care related public providers and the voluntary sector. The centre will serve the surrounding area of Pudsey and not just the patients of Robin Lane Medical Centre. Samuel Forbes, a business partner from Robin Lane Medical Centre has attended the Area Committee today, to say more about this acquisition and the health and wellbeing plans.
- 3.13 **Thriving Places** – 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.
- 3.14 Station Commander David Smith (new in post) from Stanningley Fire Station, has attended today's meeting to introduce himself to the Area Committee, and outline priorities of work for the Fire Authority within the local area, in particular:
- Restructuring of service delivery to better direct resources towards driving down risk;
  - How Area Committees can help the work of the service by identifying vulnerable individuals, poor standards of fire safety, sites of constant fly tipping or anti-social behaviour, and
  - Partnership work using volunteer agencies.
- 3.15 On the 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2011 a Leeds European Year of the Volunteer debate will be held in Leeds Council Chambers. This is an exciting new strategy which will show how Leeds can be the best City for Participation, Volunteering and Giving. The event will focus on whether volunteering can make you healthier and happier, whether giving locally is the most important act of philanthropy, how individuals can play a small part in a "Big society".
- 3.16 A copy of West North West Homes Leeds Outer West Area Panel minutes from the 8<sup>th</sup> June 2011 are attached at Appendix 1.
- 3.17 The July Area Committee requested that consideration be given to the appointment of a Co-optee to the Area Committee from the Pudsey Ward, to date, considerations have not arrived at a suggestion for this role. Consequently, Members are asked to give further thought to this issue, and notify Area Management if a suitable candidate is identified.

## **4 Corporate Considerations**

### **4.1 Consultation and Engagement**

4.2 Community Forums are held on a quarterly basis within Outer West Leeds to inform communities of the Area Management work programme. Since the last Area Committee the Pudsey Swinnow forum has been held at the end of June and minutes are now available for this meeting.

4.2.1 In addition, Ward Members are consulted on projects and initiatives within their ward which link to the Area Management work programme via regular ongoing "Two Way Feedback" meetings, held with Area Management, and ad hoc meetings/telephone conversations as and when required.

### **4.3 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration**

4.3.1 This section is not applicable to this report.

### **4.4 Council Policies and City Priorities**

4.4.1 The Area Committee Functions and Priority Advisory Functions were approved by the Executive Board in June 2009, this approval was rolled forward to 2010/11 and is also being rolled forward to 2011/12 with amendments only to environmental delegations.

4.4.2 The Area Functions are included in the Council's Constitution (Part 3, section 3C).

4.4.3 Area Management's work programme contributes at a local level to the themes contained in the:

- Vision for Leeds
- Leeds Strategic Plan
- Health and Wellbeing City Priorities Plan
- Children and Young People's Plan
- Safer and Stronger Communities Plan
- Regeneration City Priority Plan

### **4.5 Resources and Value for Money**

4.5.1 Programmes of work outlined in this report are resourced in the main by Area Management staff and where relevant their partners which in turn provides value for money.

4.5.2 In order to meet the Area Committee's functions (see Council's Constitution Part 3, section 3C), funding is available via Well Being budgets and the Community Centres Budget.

4.5.3 In order to meet the Area Committee's roles, funding is in the main supplied by other Leeds City Council Departments main stream 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, on occasion, wellbeing funding has resourced some projects related to its roles, e.g. community engagement, area based regeneration schemes and conservation area reviews.

#### **4.6 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In**

4.6.1 This report is the report of the Area Leader for West North West Leeds who has delegated responsibility to action decisions in accordance with Area Management's work programme in accordance with part 3 of the Council's Constitution in relation to Area Committee Functions.

4.6.2 This report is not confidential, neither is it, or part of it exempt.

4.6.3 This report is subject to Call-In as it is the Area Committees functions are delegated Executive ones.

#### **4.7 Risk Management**

4.7.1 A risk assessment will be carried out by Property Maintenance as part of their plans for demolition of the public toilets and works to the ginnel in Farsley.

### **5 Conclusions**

5.1 In conclusion, the Area Progress report is in line with the functions and role of the Area Committee which are:

- 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.

### **6 Recommendations**

6.1 The Outer West Area Committee members are invited to note the contents of the report and to comment on any aspect of the matters raised, specifically on the issue of identifying a Co-optee for the Area Committee from the Pudsey Ward.

### **7 Background documents**

7.1 None