

Report of the Assistant Chief Executive Planning Policy and Improvement

Report to North West (Outer) Area Committee

Date: 26th September 2011

Subject: Area Update Report

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Adel & Wharfedale, Guiseley & Rawdon, Horsforth and Otley & Yeadon	<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 provides Members with information on a range of Area Committee business including key messages from forums and sub groups and project and service activity.
2. The Area Committee is asked to approve the key messages from forums and sub groups. Members are asked to note the progress made in relation to project and service activity.

Recommendations

3. Members are requested to note the contents of this report and to comment on any of the matters raised.
4. The Area Committee is asked to agree to a policy sub group being established and to nominate one representative from each ward to sit on the sub group.

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The purpose of the Area Update Report is to bring together a range of information relating to Area Committee business into a single report to help limit the number of items being presented to each Area Committee meeting.
- 1.2 The Area Update Report will be presented by Area Management at each Area Committee meeting in the future and will combine the following information which was previously presented in separate reports:
 - Key Messages from Area Committee Sub Groups and Forums
 - Project and Service Updates (previously contained within the Area Managers report).

2. Background information

- 2.1 The Area Committee currently has five groups looking at service provision within the delegated functions of Community Safety, Children & Young People, Environmental Services, Health & Well-being and Business & Transport. The full minutes of the last meeting of each sub group are attached.
- 2.2 There are currently two ward forums in the outer area for Guiseley & Rawdon and Yeadon. The forums meet on a regular basis approximately four or five times a year. The full minutes of the last meeting of the Guiseley & Rawdon sub group are attached at appendix 6.
- 2.3 The Area Committee has received regular reports on progress against the Outer North 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 North West work programme, as many are continuing into 2011/12. This report therefore provides an update against relevant actions and partner agencies' progress on local improvements.
- 2.4 The Area Committee is asked to note that the Outer North West Area Management Team is currently working on a Business Plan for 2011/12-13/14, which will be presented to the Area Committee at a later date.

3 Main issues

3.1 Environmental Services Sub Group

- 3.1.1 Since the last Area Committee meeting, there have been two meetings of the Environmental Services sub group, a further members workshop for all outer north west members, plus four individual ward briefings. The meetings have been attended by officers from Environmental Services and Area Management and have all been well attended by members. The main focus of these meetings has been to discuss the environmental delegation and to give members the opportunity to look in detail at the draft Service Level Agreement and to provide feedback.

- 3.1.2 Issues raised have included the following: the level of resources and capacity which would be available to the committee to deliver the environmental services; the current record management system for the work undertaken by the operatives; levels of member input into the process; sanctions if the work outlined in the Service Level Agreement (SLA) is not implemented and the inclusion of details within the SLA regarding cleansing and classification of ginnels.
- 3.1.3 Cleansing schedules were presented to members at a workshop on the 22nd July. It was agreed that separate ward briefings would be arranged to discuss enforcement and cleansing in more detail prior to the first draft of the SLA.
- 3.1.4 Following the individual ward briefings the sub group met on the 22nd August to look in detail and to give feedback on the first draft of the SLA. Members raised a number of issues and various amendments to the SLA were suggested.
- 3.1.5 A further meeting was held on the 6th September to review the revised SLA which had incorporated into it changes requested at the meeting on the 22nd August.
- 3.1.6 The Environmental Services SLA for outer north west is being presented to the 26th September Area Committee meeting for approval.

3.2 Health & Well-being Sub Group

- 3.2.1 There has been one meeting of the Health & Well-being sub group since the last Area Committee held on the 12th July 2011. Key points from the meeting were:
- 3.2.2 Michelle Tynan the Adult Social Care Chief Officer Commissioning attended the meeting to provide an update on the consultation around future options for Long Term Residential and Day Care for older people and also to discuss proposals to close Kirkland and Spring Gardens Care Homes in the outer north west area. Concerns were raised regarding these proposals and the impact upon residents if the homes were to close. Michelle Tynan advised that Adult Social Care is in very early stages of discussions with a private provider who has expressed an interest in taking over the running of the homes. The sub group also raised concerns that there was no intermediate bed provision on the outer north west area.
- 3.2.3 Jacqueline Myers Director of Surgery Leeds Teaching Hospitals (LTH) attended the meeting to provide background to the decision to close Ward 1 of Wharfedale Hospital. LTH has decided – based on the latest model of clinical care – that acute services for elderly patients should only be provided from St James’s University Hospital where the right medical and nursing expertise and facilities are available. Members raised a number of concerns including the following points: residents living in Outer North West Leeds cannot access St James’s easily; no consultation had taken place with regards to the closure and that no one from the PCT had attended this meeting or the public meeting held on the 13th June.
- 3.2.4 The Wharfedale Hospital Forum is to be re-instated and it was suggested that membership should include the four members of the Outer North West Health & Well-being sub group.

3.3 Community Safety Sub Group

- 3.3.1 The sub group met on 6th September 2011 and received updates from the Leeds Anti Social Behaviour Unit, West Yorkshire Police and CASAC.
- 3.3.2 Leeds Anti Social Behaviour Unit provided an update on the recent changes to the Service including new processes to deal with anti social behaviour and details about the 3 newly created multi agency area based teams. The new team includes officers from Leeds City Council, the ALMO's, West Yorkshire Police, Victim Support and the Arson taskforce. The team will deal with both private tenants / owner occupiers and ALMO tenants.
- 3.3.3 Members received an update from CASAC which showed that there was strong interest in the initiative with the majority of subsidised target hardening jobs (where householders make a £50 contribution) delivered, with only 7 jobs left in the budget. The take up of free jobs (available for hardship cases or vulnerable victims) is very low with only 5 jobs delivered to date and 47 free jobs remaining in the budget. Members discussed the reasons why and CASAC informed members that there are other sources of funding available for hardship and vulnerable cases and these are exhausted first. In view of the concern and urgency of timing for this project, Members agreed to move £6,050 from the free jobs budget to the subsidised jobs budget. This would leave £1,200 in the free jobs budget equivalent to 8 jobs (2 per ward) and make 60 more subsidised jobs available (67 in total).
- 3.3.4 West Yorkshire Police presented data relating to burglary, showing the number of "molegrip" burglaries where the lock is breached. The data also highlighted attempted burglaries where the burglar did not gain entry. The data showed that the number of attempts was increasing, which showed that the work CASAC had done was stopping burglars getting into properties. Further analysis will be undertaken to match the attempts with the work that CASAC has done to confirm this hypothesis. Burglaries have reduced during the last 6 months from 294 offences (Jan – April) to 187 offences (May – Aug).

3.4 Children & Young People's Sub Group

- 3.4.1 There has been one meeting of the sub group since the last Area Committee held on the 25th July 2011. The following issues were discussed:
- 3.4.2 Safer Schools Partnership - it is likely that the police will not be able to fund this initiative after next year. Inspector Coldwell will meet with the schools in the autumn term to discuss how the Safer Schools Partnership can continue and will advise members of any issues.
- 3.4.3 Neil Bowden and Ross McGibbon provided an update on Youth Service activity in the outer north west area.
- 3.4.4 Neil reported that the service is currently meeting with individual ward members to provide an update on activity in their wards. He also indicated that performance and accreditation figures are good and ahead of target.
- 3.4.5 The service is now becoming more flexible in terms of when it is being delivered and there is also closer working with school clusters and Extended Services.

- 3.4.6 Roy Walker the Acting Service Delivery Manager for Residential Services attended the meeting to provide an update on the service development work he is involved in.
- 3.4.7 Following a suggestion from the Community Safety sub group, members raised the issue regarding the number of calls made by the Inglewood Children's Home to the police regarding in the main, absconders from the home. It was agreed that there is a need to distinguish exactly what type of calls are received by the police and what is and is not appropriate for them to be dealing with. The Acting Service Delivery Manager and the Neighbourhood Police Inspector agreed to meet to discuss the issue and to report back to the next meeting.

3.5 Business and Transport Sub Group

- 3.5.1 This group has met once since the last Area Committee, on the 27th July. The main focus of the meeting was on road safety issues in outer north west.
- 3.5.2 Discussion took place on developing a more strategic approach to dealing with transport planning in the area. It was agreed that this should be a future agenda item and appropriate senior officers invited to attend the meeting.
- 3.5.3 Andy Merckel (Senior Traffic Management Engineer) advised that funding presently comes from the Local Transport Plan managed by Highways transportation. Current priorities include road safety, public transport and pedestrian schemes. Priorities for this year include the installation of zebra crossings
- 3.5.4 A discussion took place on funding sources and Councillor Cleasby requested a paper from Highways on what funding is available.
- 3.5.5 It was agreed that the Area Leader would review the mechanism for this sub group in regard to future meetings.

3.6 Policy Sub Group

- 3.6.1 At the June Area Committee it was resolved that a Policy sub group, chaired by Councillor G Latty be established, comprising one representative from each ward, with nominations for representatives to sit on the sub group being sought in due course.
- 3.6.2 The Area Committee is asked to nominate one representative per ward to sit on this sub group.

3.7 Guiseley & Rawdon Forum

- 3.7.1 There has been one meeting of the forum since the last Area Committee on 20th June 2011. The forum heard presentations from a number of services.
- 3.7.2 West Yorkshire Police presented a summary of crime issues in the area over the last month. Scrap metal theft is still an issue in the area and residents were reminded to report any suspicious vehicles to the Police.
- 3.7.3 Kathryn Jukes from Directions Planning Consultancy updated the forum on the changes to the planning legislation and answered questions.

3.7.4 The next meeting is arranged for the 21st September.

3.8 Yeadon Forum

3.8.1 The next Forum has been arranged for 21st September. An update from the meeting will be reported to the November Area Committee meeting.

3.9 Project and Service Update

3.9.1 This section of the Area Update report will provide information to members which would not require a full report on the Area Committee agenda. Members are invited to request that brief service updates are included in this section upto a month before the date of the next Area Committee meeting. It should be noted that a full report to Area Committee would be required where issues require detailed explanation or a decision by Area Committee.

3.9.2 Holtdale Recycling

Following a consultation exercise which took place in April 2011, it has been agreed that there will be 23 recycling sites located around the Holtdale area in the Adel & Wharfedale Ward. All residents have received a minimum of 2 letters regarding the scheme and an exhibition van to help provide information and support to the community was on site in July. All 23 sites will be installed in October 2011 and the contract is expected to take 8 to 10 weeks to complete.

3.9.3 Community Engagement

Leeds City Council, NHS Leeds and other public sector partners are wanting to set up a large new citizens' panel of about 6000 people. In autumn 2011 residents will be asked if they are interested in becoming members. A citizens' panel is a way of finding out what people think and need. It is a large group of residents that take part in surveys and discussions about local services and issues that affect the places they live. The aim is to ask the first set of questions to the panel either just before the end of 2011, or just after, depending on how quickly people join up.

3.9.4 Community Safety

A number of Community Safety initiatives have taken place in outer north west Leeds over recent months including an action day held on the Weston Estate on the 4th May and an Operation Champion held in Horsforth on the 15th June.

The Farmwatch scheme is now up and running and work is underway to link the scheme to similar schemes in North Yorkshire and Wetherby.

During the summer, three 'road multi agency operations' were held with The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA), Dept of Work and Pensions, Environmental Action Team and Trading Standards.

The number plate anti tamper screws, funded by an Area Committee small grant. have been fitted at various sites across the area including Guiseley Retail Park and Asda at Holt Park.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

4.1.1 Community Forums are held in the Guiseley & Rawdon ward and Yeadon. In addition, ward members are consulted on projects and initiatives within their ward.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

4.2.1 This section is not applicable to this project.

4.3 Council Policies and City Priorities

4.3.1 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 the environmental delegations.

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

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

- Vision for Leeds
- Leeds Strategic Plan
- Health and Well-being City Priorities Plan
- Safer and Stronger Communities Plan
- Regeneration City Priority Plan

4.4 Resources and Value for Money

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

4.4.2 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 to influence, develop and consult. However, on occasion, well-being funding has resourced some projects related to its roles e.g. area based regeneration schemes and conservation reviews.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

4.5.1 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.

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

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

4.6 Risk Management

4.6.1 There are no risks associated with this report.

5 Conclusions

5.1 In conclusion, the Area Update 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 Outer North West Area Committee Members are requested to:

- Note the contents of the report and comment on any aspect of the matters raised.
- Agree to a Policy Sub Group being established, chaired by Councillor G Latty and nominate one representative from each Ward to sit on the sub group.

7 Background documents

7.1 None.