

Report of Jill Wildman, Director of Housing Services, East North East Homes Leeds

Report to Outer North East Area Committee

Date: 24 October, 2011

Subject: East North East Homes Leeds Estate Investment Bids

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<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 type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" 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. Area Panels approve and oversee environmental and community safety improvements in their area. Each panel has a devolved capital and revenue budget to deliver these improvements.
2. An extensive number of Community Safety, Environmental and Community Development Projects were delivered in 2010/11
3. Further Projects are detailed that have been identified for completion in 2011/12
4. East North East Homes Leeds carry out a number of other Community Development initiatives in the community.

Recommendations

1. Area Committee is requested to note the content of this report

1 Purpose of this Report

- 1.1 To advise Area Committee of the work carried out by East North East Homes Leeds and the residents Area Panel
- 1.2 To detail projects carried out in the community including those funded through Estate Investment Bids and also Community Development schemes initiated through the Partnerships Team.

2 Background Information

- 2.1 Residents Area Panels were created in 2007 with the merger of ALMOs. The number of residents involved with the governance of the company as Board Members was to reduce to four members from the previous maximum of eighteen. To ensure that residents were given the opportunity to be included in the governance of the company following the merger four Area Panels were created.
- 2.2 The four Area Panels of East North East Homes Leeds form part of the governance structure of the company sitting below the board of management, each representing a geographical area:
 - Inner East
 - Inner North East
 - Outer East
 - Outer North East
- 2.3 The make up of each panel is:
 - One resident board member
 - Two ward members nominated by the local area committee
 - Up to nine resident members, either tenants or leaseholders
- 2.4 The main roles of the panels are:
 - Approval and overseeing of environmental and community safety improvements in their area. Each panel has a devolved capital and revenue budget to deliver these improvements.
 - Responsibility for monitoring company performance in their areas by setting appropriate priorities, discussing these with senior managers and making suggestions or setting targets for improvements. The panel can ask for members of staff to attend meetings to explain procedures and give an officer view on issues.
 - From 2011 panels are responsible for the monitoring of elements of ENEHL Service Standards.

3 Main Issues

- 3.1 Each Area Panel has a Community Development Officer whose role is to administer the panels and to represent the panels at various partnership meetings that exist in the area as well as developing new partnerships to reflect the needs of the neighbourhoods and the priorities of the panels.

- 3.2 Community Development Officers are responsible for developing customer led environmental and community safety schemes. This includes consulting with affected residents, identifying and applying for match funding, drawing up specifications liaising with contractors and ensuring contract delivery. They also encourage and support tenants and residents to set up residents' groups and keep them maintained. They assist residents to get involved in their communities. They are responsible for encouraging youth participation in the community and rewarding young people for their positive input.
- 3.3 Panel membership is for three years with one third of resident members standing down each year. Recruitment begins in late June, an article in the resident magazine asks for interested residents to get in contact with Partnership Team.
- 3.4 Panel members undertake mandatory training courses including an induction and equality training along with training being offered on procurement, project planning and other items as required. Each panel produces a Business Plan every year.
- 3.5 The Outer North East Business Plan 2011/12 was created by the Area Panel and accepted by the Board. The Panel agreed that Environmental issues, Community Safety, employing local contractors, improving communal space in 3 storey blocks of flats and working with partners to improve provision for young and old were priorities for the coming year. The Area Panel work closely with the local housing teams and are developing relationships with Area Management Teams to improve the service East North East Homes Leeds are delivering in Outer North East Leeds.
- 3.6 Estate Investment Bids are available for improvements to an area which will be of benefit to the community. The Community Development Officer consults with affected residents and works closely with various agencies to ensure the work will have a positive effect on the area. Completed bids are presented to the Area Panel for approval, rejection or referral.
- 3.7 The bids can involve funding youth activities or rewards for work done in the community by young people as well as identifying and developing customer led environmental and community safety schemes.
- 3.8 Estate Walkabouts are a service offered to Resident Groups, Village Voices and Community Champions. It is an opportunity for Residents to walk around the estate with members of staff from East North East Homes Leeds and other agencies such as West Yorkshire Police, Local Councillors, Highways, and Parks & Countryside who can attend at the request of the group, where resources allow.
- 3.9 The East North East Homes Leeds Service Standards include both the national and city objectives while incorporating local priorities and issues. The Leeds Service offer was distributed to all homes via the Leeds City Council Annual Report. The proposal is that the four area panels will each be responsible for the monitoring of one of the standards over the whole of the company for a period of time which is still to be decided. Panels will then rotate standards.

4.0 Estate Investment Bids completed during 2010/11

4.1 Groundwork Partnership

The completion of the 2 year partnership with Groundwork saw the local Tenants & Residents Associations, Panel members and Groundwork staff working together to achieve the following key success:

Tynwald Woods - following a £56,000 transformation spearheaded by the Cranmer Call Tenants and Residents Association and funded by the Big Lottery Community Spaces programme, East North East Homes Leeds Outer North East Area Panel, Leeds City Council and Groundwork.

Freemans Way – Hallfield Tenants & Residents Association successfully applied for £54,950 including match funding for the regeneration of greenspace- At final phase of stage 2 in the grant process.

Lyndon Avenue – with support from ENEHL & Groundwork, Bramham Community Action Group successfully applied for £47,500 in funding to improve communal space in their neighbourhood. At final phase of stage 2 in the grant process.

The partnership achieved £139,225.00 in match funding with a cost to the Area Panel of £14,500.

4.2 Wise Partnership

The 2nd year of partnership saw two schemes completed at Thorner and Wetherby, where the Area Panel supply materials and WISE provide the labour to carry out work. This resulted in a cost saving of just over £1,000 for the two schemes.

4.3 Cranmer bank Shop Parade

Area Panel funded the cost of restricted gates and fencing at a cost of £2,980.

4.4 Alderton Heights

The completion of external fencing at block 3 costing £12,175

4.5 Bardsey Primary School

The creation of a feature garden at the entrance to school, £8,275

4.6 Mason House

The installation of two lighting columns to the rear of Mason House, £9,640

4.7 Cranmerbank

Additional cameras to rear of shop parade costing £2950.

4.8 Lyndon Avenue

Resurfacing the access path costing £3500.

4.9 The panel also funded smaller environmental schemes and skips to improve communities requested by residents across the whole of the Outer North East Area at a total cost of £5920.

4.10 For schemes outside of the Groundwork Partnership the Panel achieved Match funding of a further £52927.

4.11 Donovan Webster training Centre

Panel approved £2000 towards start up costs of the centre

4.12 Moor Allerton Football gala

Area Panel supported a football competition organised by the local PCSO's for Moortown and involved 7 local primary schools to run in conjunction with the World cup

4.13 Wetherby Football Tournament

The Panel supported a football tournament organised with the Police, ENEHL & Youth Service. The tournament was between local youths and the Police to strengthen relations between the two. As a result agencies saw a reduction of 50% in anti social behaviour over the summer months

4.14 Environment Week Wetherby

A week long event run through the Groundwork Partnership. The week was split between Hallfield and Ainsty Estate with volunteers from the local community group, Salvation Army and ENEHI coming together to take part in a huge clean up over the week.

4.15 Alderton Heights – Environmental Clean up.

The panel jointly funded the cost of contractors to attend for a day to carry out large tree works.

4.16 Working with local contractors

Area Panel members worked with a local contractor in Bramham to guide them through the procurement process. This allowed them to be added to the approved list to tender for work, thus keeping work within the local community

4.17 Barleyfield Youth Project –

A project with Groundwork and Youth Service to build two raised bed planters at Barleyfields Youth centre.

5.0 Estate Investment Bids completed during 2011/12

5.1 Barleyfields Art project

A 6 week Photographic/Art project run in partnership with Space 2 costing £1304.

5.2 Fir Tree Rise/Approach

Installation of external security lighting to all 4 blocks costing £1396, the agreed contractor is LCC.

5.3 Tempo FM

£1000 towards radio project which is run at Barleyfields youth centre, match funded with Area Committee

5.4 Thorner – Ellerker Road

A Ground Clearance scheme costing £1850.

5.5 Thorner Over 60's

Panel Agreed to award £500 which would match the £500 obtained from POCA towards upcoming events/trips in the summer.

6.0 Potential projects that are currently being worked

6.1 Cranmer Bank fencing.

Previously delayed pending planning approval which has now been received Cost £3833

6.2 20-54 Cranmer Bank

Rear external improvements, the scheme totals £25000. Panel are considering applying for a £10k grant matched with Area Panel funding.

6.3 Kirkfield Green

A scheme to create seating area and improve greenspace. The project costs £50,000, Panel are considering applying for a large element of match funding with a smaller match from Area Panel.

6.4 Fir Tree Vale

A scheme to create informal play area at a project cost of £35,000, once again the Panel are looking to match fund any contribution.

7.0 **Other Community Development project at East North East Homes Leeds**

7.1 Skills week

Skills week is an innovative scheme put together with the partnership team, training and development team and East North East Homes Leeds Construction Services Section. The aim of the scheme is to teach local people basic DIY skills in some of our empty properties. People are taught Joinery, Plumbing, Brick laying Painting and Decorating and Plastering. Each participant is given a portfolio of the work that they do throughout the week, along with a certificate of achievement at the end of the course.

Over 80 people enquired about the course from different age groups and ethnicities. Four courses have been completed in Halton Moor, Gipton and Meanwood with a further one planned later in the year for the Moortown area. One of the courses was aimed specifically for women with another aimed at 16-18yr olds.

Every one who took part in the weeks said how much they had enjoyed it and that they wish it had of been for longer

Responses from trainees have included:

- “Brilliant training and a great hands on experience”
- “As a tenant it’s a great customer experience”
- “I will do my own DIY at home before I call the council”
- “Hopefully I will be more confident doing jobs around the house”
- “I would like to pursue a career in painting and decorating”
- “I will look for a college course or an apprenticeship in construction”.

Quote from our staff:

- “This has been a life changing experience for me”
- “This is the best tenant scheme I’ve seen so far”
- “I was really apprehensive to show other people how to paint and decorate but I have really enjoyed meeting our tenants”
- “I have got a real sense of achievement out of doing this project”

Since the participants have completed the programme we have sign posted them to applying for apprenticeships within our own construction services and Hay’s job seeking skills programme in partnership with ENEHL, four participants have been taken on. We also aim to sign post the younger participants to the Youth Inspire Project headed up by LCC

7.2 Job seeking skills

The Partnerships Team worked with Hays Recruitment on an exciting pilot project. During July and August running a job seeking skills programme with 12 tenants who have been unemployed for 6 months or more. Hays delivered a series of 4 workshops on job seeking, enabling the trainees to gain a better understanding of how they can approach job applications and interviews. The topics covered included;

- Selling yourself – understanding strengths and confidence building
- CV writing – how to create the right first impression
- Job search techniques – how to target the hidden jobs market and networking
- Interviews – how to tackle competency-based interviews and assessment centres

As part of the programme we offered work placement experience for 4 weeks during July and August.

7.3 Garden Competition

East North East Homes Leeds is working in partnership with Leeds in Bloom to encourage as many residents and schools as we can to show off their great gardens by entering this year's Garden Competition. The garden competition recognises the efforts of the community in enhancing the local landscape and providing a quality environment. This action by the community links in with ENEHL's commitment to sustainable development and improving the visual environment.

7.4 Junior Wardens Scheme

East North East Homes Leeds (ENEHL) has a successful Junior Wardens Scheme and we are working with 10 pupils in Year five and Year six in September 2011. The scheme runs during lunchtimes and occasional afternoons once a month and some sessions during school holidays. All the sessions are free. The Junior Wardens Scheme aims to encourage young people to become involved in their local area through positive and active engagement while creating a sense of community ownership, respect and pride for the local environment in which they live and play. They are involved in activities that highlight issues around abandoned vehicles, dumped rubbish and graffiti with the aim to help children understand why these become problems and what they can do about it. We complete regular litter picks within the scheme which benefits the whole community.

7.5 East North East Homes Leeds and Leeds Safety Rangers

The Leeds Safety Rangers is an interactive prevention initiative targeted at 9-11 year old children in Leeds. Leeds Safety Rangers is an established project which has been running in Leeds since 1994 and is delivered by members of the Community Safety Partnership and other Stakeholders. Leeds Safety Rangers encourages and promotes the safety and welfare of children in Leeds, it recognises that children need help and guidance in keeping themselves safe from accidents and crime. Leeds Safety Rangers operates through a series of real life scenarios in which small groups of children interact, develop skills, as well as acquiring

knowledge. It provides the children with a realistic controlled environment in which they can safely participate and learn. Each child is encouraged to stop and think before they act and to consider the consequences of their actions.

7.6 Mobile Office Road show

Over the past few years the Partnership team have used the programme of galas and summer events as a means of informal involvement. This year we have run a series of road shows targeted at a specific geographical area.

In May this year the mobile office visited Collingham, Bramham. Clifford & Ainstys. These were areas identified as having little or no representation. Bramham was picked to tie in with the Groundwork scheme that is being developed on Lyndon Avenue, asking residents for their views. 9 contacts were made in the day with the most being at Bramham.

The October Session was planned with Debt and Benefit Advisors to tie in with the Over 60's Benefit Campaign. Locations agreed are Thorne, Bramham & Nursery Garth (Wetherby) on 6th October. Leaflets drops were arranged promoting this and include benefit advice.

7.7 Passion 4 Fashion

The event giving young people the opportunity to learn more about business, finances, creating fashion and modelling the designs culminated in an event held at Leeds Town Hall attended by over 500 people.

8.0 Corporate Considerations

8.1 There are no corporate considerations in this report.

9.0 Consultation and Engagement

9.1 Area Panels give residents the opportunity to be included in the governance of the company. The four Area Panels of East North East Homes Leeds form part of the governance structure of the company sitting below the board of management, each representing a geographical area. The Outer North East Business Plan 2011/12 was created by the Area Panel and accepted by the Board.

10.0 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

10.1 Area panel members have received Equality and Diversity training and receive an analysis of spend broken down to Diversity strands where possible

11.0 Council Policies and City Priorities

11.1 These initiatives comply with the Councils priorities on Crime and Grime

12.0 Resources and Value for Money

12.1 Spending and monitoring of Estate Investment Bids is carried out by the Partnerships Team and subject to Financial regulations and Audit. by the East North East Homes Leeds.

13.0 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

13.1 East North East Homes Leeds has delegated responsibility for taking of decisions and monitoring of activity relating to utilisation of budgets.

14.0 Risk Management

14.1 All projects must demonstrate that they have identified any potential risks for the project and what action would/will take to avoid or minimise them.

15.0 Conclusions

15.1 Not applicable as this report is information based.

16.0 Recommendations

16.1 Area Committee is requested to note the content of this report.

17.0 Background documents

17.1 None.