

**Report of Area Leader West North West**

**Report to Outer West Area Committee**

**Date: 16<sup>th</sup> December 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.

**Recommendations**

3. 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 2011-15, which will be presented to the Area Committee in December 2011 (elsewhere on this agenda), following on from Member workshops to help populate this.
- 2.3 Finally, a decision was made by Full Council that Area Chair's Forum minutes should be considered by Area Committees as a regular agenda item, these appear elsewhere on this Committee's agenda. However, on this occasion, the meeting has asked that information that they received on Welfare Reforms and Response to Localisation of Council Tax Support, is brought forward to this Area Committee, and are attached as appendices 1 - 5.

## **3 Main issues**

- 3.1 Enterprise and Economy – Work is due to start on Phase 2 of the Farsley Town and District Centre Scheme with the demolition of the public the toilets and landscaping of 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.
- 3.2 Unfortunately, the work which was due to start in October to re-surfacing the footpath known as the "ginnel," has been put on hold, due to unforeseen circumstances, namely the damaging of the "ginnel" and adjacent wall due to a runaway vehicle. This unfortunate event, occurred a week before work was due to start on site, and has generated a large amount of work as efforts have been made with Building Control, and Legal to establish who is responsible for repairing the boundary wall. At the time of writing this report, Area Management are confident that an owner has been found, and efforts are being made to ensure that repairs are carried out as soon as possible, so that the wider improvement works can continue.
- 3.3 Pudsey Town Centre would seem to be thriving, as the average shop vacancy rates for empty units in the North of England are around 16.5% with some small towns around 40%. Pudsey has an average of less than 4%, which is to be applauded

given that it is a small own facing big competition from much larger retailers. The Town Centre Manager (TCM) has a number of initiatives planned for 2012. These include a food festival, an antiques fair, car boot type event and more food based type markets. All of these are budget dependant and rely on the support of markets management.

- 3.4 At the last Business forum the Chair and deputy chair announced they would be stepping down. The TCM is sure that they will be able to find a replacement but he has put a suggestion forward that they rotate the post every 2/3 months. The Christmas lights event which is being held in conjunction with Children in Need for the first time, is very exciting for the town. The evening will see a fun fair, parade, alternative market stalls to the regular ones, and an attempt by a local shopkeeper to make the world's largest sandwich. Funds raised on the evening will be presented in one large cheque, with local retailer Asda, adding funds that they raise to this total. The TCM has developed excellent working relationships with some of the out of town larger retailers who have stressed they would like to support the town and help to develop its commercial visibility. They have agreed that any assistance will not be wholly branded with their name and that their offer of assistance is genuine. The TCM will be working with these organizations to see what help they can offer and what form this will take.

#### **Environment –**

- 3.5 The Outer West Environmental Sub Group continues to meet to monitor the Service Level Agreement and identify relevant environmental issues. With this in mind, a plan of action is being put together with Environmental Services to tackle the issue of excessive dog fouling in Calverley Park. A small grant has been submitted to the Outer West Area Committee to purchase 2000 sticky labels to be attached to litter bins in Outer West. These will advertise the fact that dog foul waste can be deposited in general litter bins.
- 3.6 A meeting has been held between Area Management, West North West Homes (ALMO) and Environmental Services to consider the rationalisation of maintenance of areas of land in Outer West Leeds. The meeting looked to identify a pilot area where the ALMO and Environmental Services could work more closely together to deliver a more joined up service delivery for residents, which would ultimately improve their physical environment. The Tongs estate was identified as a pilot area, and it is hoped that following preparatory work, this new way of Integrated Locality Working can begin in January 2012.

#### **Harmonious Communities –**

- 3.7 An opening celebration day was held in October for the new Swinnow Moor play area. The day saw the Youth Service and Police working together, to attract the local community to the new play area, offering, face painting, food, inflatable play equipment, mobile bus with DJ ing decks etc the day was a great success, and was an opportunity to celebrate partners working together to deliver what the community had called for.

- 3.8 Since the last Area Committee the Pudsey and Swinnow community forum met on 12<sup>th</sup> October. The Police provided an update and highlighted current issues as metal theft and ASB and on street drinking in Pudsey town centre. However the Friday Night project has been established at Pudsey leisure centre to address this and test purchasing has been taking place to check on retailers. There will be increased patrols in the run up to Christmas and pubs are on board to tackle nuisance behaviour. The Police also focused on the dark nights campaign, providing timer switches for older and vulnerable people. The Dogwatch campaign has also been launched whereby dog owners are the eyes and ears to provide information to the Police.
- 3.9 The Environmental Action Team (EAT) provided an update on their area of work, including the Environmental Services Service Level Agreement being approved at Area Committee and neighbourhood plans being developed across the West North West area. A strong partnership has been developed between the Police and EAT with joint enforcement patrols in Pudsey town centre, to tackle littering and dog fouling in particular.
- 3.10 Highways also provided an update on local issues, including the Lidget Hill lay-by works and amendments to parking restrictions on Lowtown. Views were also sought on potential highways schemes for next financial year.
- 3.11 The Town Centre Manager provided an update on plans for the combined Pudsey Christmas lights switch on and Children in Need event.
- 3.12 In addition the Tyersal Forum was held in September, where the Environmental Services Locality Manager attended and informed the meeting about the new Environmental Services role and revised cleaning schedules. The Neighbourhood Policing Team Inspector also attended the meeting and informed the Forum about his team's joint multi agency work with Bradford.

### **Health and Wellbeing –**

- 3.13 A Health and Wellbeing Centre is being developed in Pudsey, on the principle of prevention rather than cure and will include a community café. The centre is due to open summer 2012.
- 3.14 Two postcode areas within Outer West have been identified as hotspots for teenage pregnancy. These are LS12 5 (Farnley) and LS28 7 (Pudsey). These areas are benefiting from targeted work to reduce teenage conceptions including repeat conceptions. Work is taking place to support Pudsey Crawshaw, Priesthorpe, Pudsey Grangefield, Leeds West Academy, Swallow Hill, and Farnley Park schools to address teenage conception.

### **Thriving Places –**

- 3.15 A Community Safety Annual 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.

- 3.16 Area Management (in response to a request made at the September Area Committee as a result of reported anti-social behaviour) are pursuing the possibility of utilising the existing Metro Closed Circuit Television Camera in Pudsey Bus Station to oversee Pudsey Park. In order for this to be achieved it may ultimately be necessary to remove one tree from the Park to improve sight lines for the camera. Discussions are on-going with Parks and Countryside and Tree Protection Officer (Planning) to see if this is possible, or whether it may be possible to radically prune the tree to achieve the same result. The utilisation of the Metro camera has been secured by LeedsWatch, who monitor the camera, and is a no-cost option to Area Management. However, it may be that the Area Committee is approached to fund the planting of a replacement tree in the future, if it proves necessary to remove the identified tree.
- 3.17 Area Management is working to try and secure the successful implementation of "Community First", a Cabinet office initiative, which sees the offer of funding for communities (with high levels of deprivation and lack of social capital) , who can work together as part of a wider Community Panel, who will submit bids to the Community Development Foundation for consideration. Farnley/Wortley and Pudsey wards have been identified as wards to benefit from this initiative, and the panels will have local Member representation. Further information will be brought forward to a future Area Committee on this initiative as it develops.
- 3.18 A copy of West North West Homes Leeds Outer West Area Panel minutes from the 10<sup>th</sup> August 2011 are attached at Appendix 6.

## **4 Corporate Considerations**

### **Consultation and Engagement**

- 4.1 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.

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

- 4.2 This section is not applicable to this report

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

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

4.5 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

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

4.6 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.

4.7 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.

4.8 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.

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

4.9 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.

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

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

### **Risk Management**

4.12 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.

## **5.0 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.

## **6.0 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.

## **Background documents**

None