

Report of Area Leader – South East Leeds

Report to South Leeds (Inner) Area Committee

Date: Wednesday 8th February 2012

Subject: A Summary of Key Work

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	Beeston & Holbeck City & Hunslet Middleton Park
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input 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 and corporate governance considerations

1. This report details a range of activities taking place within the Inner South Leeds Area, some of which are dealt with in greater detail elsewhere on the agenda.

Recommendations

2. The Area Committee is asked to note the contents of the report and make comment as appropriate.

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To bring to Members' attention in a succinct fashion, brief details of the range of activities with which the Area Support Team are engaged based on the Area Committee Business Plan priorities, that are not addressed in greater detail elsewhere on this agenda. It provides opportunities for further questioning or the opportunity to request a more detailed report on a particular issue.

2.0 Background Information

- 2.1 Members will recall at the June 2011 Area Committee, a revised title and format for this report was introduced based on proposed changes to the Leeds Initiative partnership and planning framework for the city and in an effort to be more focused on current priorities.

3.0 Area Chairs Forum

- 3.1 The minutes from the meeting held on Monday 11th November 2011 were agreed at the Area Chairs Forum on the 13th January and are attached for Members information (**Appendix 1**)

4.0 Updates by theme: Children & Families

- 4.1 Joseph Priestley College Update
Sally Blunt (Deputy Principle at Leeds City College), will be attending the 21st March 2012 meeting to provide a further update on the merger.

5.0 Updates by theme: Safer Stronger Communities Board

5.1 Environmental Delegation

- 5.1.1 At the 11th January Area Committee meeting, Members were provided with a 6 month review of the SLA, a further update will be provided at the 21st March meeting which will address the development of SLA2.

5.2 Inner South Environmental Sub-Group

- 5.2.1 Minutes of the 16th December meeting are attached at **Appendix 2**. The last meeting of the Inner South Environmental Sub-Group was planned for 13th January. Due to the closeness of meetings and the Christmas period it was felt appropriate to cancel that meeting. The next meeting of the group is Friday 17th February 2012.

5.3 Community Clean Ups Protocol

- 5.3.1 Of late a number of local community groups have asked for support in delivering community clean-ups. To manage expectations and set out deliverable timescales, a protocol for clean ups has been drafted. The Locality Team in particular needs reasonable timescales for planning and to organise support. The Environmental Sub Group has discussed and agreed that the attached draft protocol for clean ups should be

submitted to the Area Committee for approval. The draft protocol is attached as **Appendix 3** for comment.

5.4 Community Safety

5.4.1 A full update on Community Safety was presented at the September meeting. The following updates cover significant projects ongoing in the Inner South Area.

5.5 Burglary

5.5.1 Burglary across Leeds is reducing and remains relatively low in Inner South. There were 6,045 recorded burglary dwelling offences between April and December 2011 - down 6% (390 fewer offences) on the same period last year. Results for Q3 show a 29.3% improvement (741 fewer victims) when compared to the same period last year.

5.5.2 December saw the lowest recorded burglary count in last ten years and the best performing month for over ten years. City and Holbeck year to date offences are DOWN 9.6% (80 fewer offences) on the same period last year. All three Inner South wards remain outside the top 8 strategic localities of concern across the city as can be seen on the Ward Risk Matrix at **Appendix 4**.

5.5.3 A workshop was held in September and an action plan has been drafted. The final version will be shared with Members in due course. The key activity that has taken place to sustain the low levels of burglary includes Neighbourhood Policing Teams and Aire Valley Homes sharing details of burglary victims enabling housing officers to routinely follow up with visits to offer practical support. As part of a funded 'Darker Nights' initiative timer switches were distributed and burglary reduction advice to local residents in South Leeds hotspots. PCSO visits to offer practical advice to reduce risk of victimisation are also being carried out across the Division. Members will recall that wellbeing funding has been allocated to Rothwell NPT to distribute crime reduction products and give burglary reduction advice to local, vulnerable residents in Middleton Park ward. This work is due to commence in the next month.

5.5.4 Key actions to be delivered in the next quarter include developing a pilot project to identify and support/divert young people who are on the edge of the criminal justice system and at high risk of becoming involved in burglary. A project is being developed through the Rothwell Crime and Grime meeting to set up "No Cold Calling zones" that aim to reduce salespeople approaching vulnerable people in their homes and can also help to reduce people becoming victims of distraction burglars and rogue traders. Although the project was initiated in the Rothwell group, it is anticipated that the project will be delivered across South Leeds.

5.6 Dispersal Order

5.6.1 Members have been advised that a Dispersal Order has come into force from 15th December 2011 to 14th June 2012. The Order gives Police officers and PCSOs the power to disperse groups and to remove people under the age of 16 to their home address in order to reduce the persistent and significant ASB being experienced by residents. The Order covers an area of Beeston Hill that spans both City & Hunslet and

Beeston & Holbeck wards. The Order has been publicised locally by the NPT. The Beeston Crime and Grime meeting will review the progress of the Order at its meeting in April and Members will be updated accordingly.

6.0 Updates by theme: Health and Wellbeing

6.1 The South East Health and Well being partnership met on the 26th January 2012. Minutes from the meetings will be presented at a future meeting

6.2 A full report on Health & Wellbeing is presented as a separate item on this agenda.

7.0 Updates by theme: Housing & Regeneration

7.1 Holbeck phases 1, 2 and 3

7.1.1 Chevin Housing Association have confirmed that due to the fact that the HCAs Affordable Homes Programme was significantly oversubscribed this project to develop 39 new, affordable homes has had to be withdrawn. Alternative options for the use of this site are currently being considered.

7.2 Holbeck Phase 4

7.2.1 Work to the long term empty properties in the Crosby's are very close to completion. They will be advertised for letting purposes in late January with a view to actual letting towards the end of January / early February.

7.2.2 Work is due to commence on the Crosby Binyards. This will tie in with the letting of the properties at the end of January.

7.3 Beverleys

7.3.1 Chevin Housing Association's contractors are on site developing 55 affordable homes. Works are still expected to be completed by summer 2012.

7.4 Garnets

7.4.1 The regeneration of the Garnets area has been ongoing for some time. The original intention was to regenerate the Garnets area through a process of clearance and building new affordable housing. The properties included in the clearance scheme were 15 – 67 Garnet Place, 16 - 70 Garnet Grove, 17 – 71 Garnet Grove and 18 – 72 Garnet Terrace. Unfortunately, due to funding constraints, it was necessary to rescope the project and some properties will now remain. Unfortunately, the second phase of the demolition which was due to be completed at the end of November 2011 has had to be rescheduled till January 2012 due to a problem with the electricity disconnections. We expect the demolition of the remaining clearance properties to be completed by the end of March 2012.

7.4.2 With regard to the remaining council owned properties on the Garnets, the Council are in the process of surveying these properties with a view of bringing these properties up to

'Decency Standards' and re-letting them as soon as possible in the new year. In addition, we are exploring options with regard the treatment of the cleared land and a ballot paper was distributed. Although there was only a small response there is now an active Residents Group which was attended by over 20 residents and stakeholders at the last meeting held on 22nd September 2011. The residents have been very helpful to by raising their concerns and issues and the hope is that they will continue to engage with the Council to help influence the future of the area.

7.4.3 Work on the Garnet's properties will follow on from those on the Crosby's and is expected to be completed by the end of the financial year. The remaining 8 empty properties in Council ownership will be refurbished and brought back into use during 2012/13.

7.5 Middleton Sites 1,2 & 3 (Thorpe Road)

7.5.1 Proposals to develop 129 new homes to be constructed on the above sites (plus 2 smaller infill sites) in Middleton have been brought forward by Sanctuary Housing Association as part of their affordable housing programme. Proposals for a mixture of 2, 3 and 4 bed homes including 10 bungalows for older people have been supported in principle by Middleton Regeneration Board and will be subject to an application for full planning permission within the next few months. Sanctuary will be undertaking local consultation prior to submission of the planning application. Timescales for construction have yet to be confirmed.

8.0 **Integrated Locality working**

8.1 Cottingley

8.1.1 At the September meeting of the Inner South Area Committee, members approved the Priority Neighbourhood Worker (PNW) project on the basis of 2 days a week to develop a programme of work and to establish a Neighbourhood Improvement Plan in Cottingley Hall. The proposal involves sharing the resource of the Outer South Priority Neighbourhood Worker.

8.1.2 The focus of this work will be to develop an action plan and support the development of the TRAC Committee. This support will involve supporting officers of the residents group and directing them to appropriate training courses. This is intended to enhance the residents ability to carry out their roles on the committee and be better able to represent the community. The group have found it difficult to access courses in the past so through close working the PNW appropriate courses have been identified for them to attend.

8.1.3 In January 2012 an audit of skills and training needs was completed with the committee members and a document detailing information on training opportunities was produced. Referrals were then made to training providers.

8.1.4 The courses were offered at a reduced fee as a result of several applications to a bursary scheme and the remaining funding was provided by Aire Valley Homes.

8.1.5 Committee members have signed up to the following training:

- Building a budget
- Finding Funding
- Key messages and how to use them
- Introduction to developing a volunteer programme
- Emergency First Aid
- Chairing Skills
- A guide to writing risk assessments
- Publicity –writing words that people want to read
- Creating better flyers and leaflets
- Minute taking

The Courses will be taking place over January, February and March.

8.1.6 On 4th January a meeting was arranged with a trainer from Voluntary Action Leeds to consider training around working together as a committee. This was identified by the Committee members as an area that the group needed to develop.

8.1.7 An AGM is planned for March 2012 and by way of preparation the group have been advised to arrange a meeting to look at how to plan for and conduct an AGM.

8.1.8 The Steering Group membership for the Neighbourhood Improvement Plan (NIP) is being developed and the PNW is looking at ways of bringing the different stands of work within Cottingley together around March 2012. This will include the "The Closer Communities Project" and "Health and Wellbeing Group". To support the development of the NIP an Area Profile and mapped activities planned for 2012 has been drawn up.

8.1.9 Cottingley multi agency group

8.1.10 The group continues to oversee the implementation of the action plan. The weekly environmental audits continue to identify issues which need to be resolved by the appropriate service. The Cottingley Arms has been demolished and the site is due to be landscaped. Improvements to the shopping area including improved lighting, additional bins and painting of the floor are being progressed. These environmental improvements are due to be discussed at the January meeting of TRAC. A number of repairs to the footpaths on the estate are due to be carried out during February. This intensive piece of work is due to complete in March at which time the NIP will come fully into operation.

8.2 Beeston, Holbeck & Hunslet Neighbourhood Improvement Board

8.2.1 The most recent meeting of the core group took place on 16th December, minutes of this meeting are attached **Appendix 5**.

8.2.2 The full board met on the 13th January 2012, the minutes of the meeting will be presented to a future meeting.

8.3 Middleton Regeneration Board / Neighbourhood Improvement Board

8.3.1 The final meeting of the Regeneration board was held on 10th January 2012 with the first meeting of the expanded Neighbourhood Improvement Board will be held on the 21st February 2012. The minutes of these future meetings will be presented to the Area Committee.

8.4 Connecting communities

8.4.1 The next stage of the project involves getting building on the success of the funding process by enhancing the skills of the community at large. A series of training courses have been developed, which all of the community in Belle Isle are welcome to attend.

Community Training sessions	Date and Venue	Deliverer
Community Lunch Support and Advice session	Thursday 9th February 12.2pm BIFC	Project Team
Effective Publicity	Saturday 25th February BIFC 10-12noon	John Baron (HfA)
Successful Marketing	Thursday 8th March 5.30-7.30 BIFC	TBC John Barron
Managing your Meetings	Saturday 31st March 2012 BIFC 10-12noon	Leeds Tenants Federation
Understanding your environment – recycling	Thursday April 19th 5.30-7.30 BIFC	John Devine – LCC
	Bank Holiday	
Applying for small Grants	Saturday 12th May BIFC10-12noon	VAL (Fit for Funding)
Managing Void Properties	Tbc	BITMO
Understanding How your Council works	Tbc	tbc

8.5 Middleton Park Strategic Advisory Group

8.5.1 The most recent meeting of the Middleton Park SAG was 23rd November, minutes are attached as **Appendix 6**.

8.6 Ward Member Briefings

8.6.1 Member briefings at Ward level are now a regular feature of our engagement with Local Councillors in Beeston and Holbeck Ward and Middleton Park Ward. The meetings provide an opportunity for the team to brief Members on issues directly affecting their

Ward. It is also a chance to consider developments such as any new Government policy as well as giving members an invaluable face to face opportunity to talk to area staff. This approach has brought progress on a range of topics such as wellbeing projects and youth provision. It is hoped to put in place similar arrangements for City & Hunslet Ward Members.

8.7 Citizen's Panels

8.7.1 The January Inner South Area Committee received a report on the development of citizens panels. Members sought reassurances that following further recruitment the panel composition would accurately reflect the local community and asked for a further update. **Appendix 7** outlines the proposed recruitment process. Further updates will be provided at future Inner South Area Committee meetings.

8.8 The Olympic Torch Route

8.8.1 The Olympic Torch travels through Leeds on Sunday the 24th and Monday the 25th of June. The main event to celebrate the torch coming to Leeds will be held at Temple Newsam on the evening of the 24th of June. This event will be ticketed and is intended as a celebration of sport and achievement in the city.

8.8.2 The route will take the torch to Headingley, Potternewton, Harehills and Richmond Hill on the 24th June and through Hunslet, Beeston, the John Charles Centre and then on to Morley on the 25th June.

8.8.3 The Council is planning to have a fortnight celebration of sport across the city for the two weeks prior to the torch coming to Leeds.

8.8.4 The torch route and other activities will be promoted across the city and arrangements will be made to provide information through the usual channels such as the local media local clubs, schools and community groups.

8.9 Groundwork Leeds - Proposal to submit and Expression of interest to the Big Lottery Fund - Beeston and Holbeck Living Sustainably

8.9.1 The Big Lottery Communities Living Sustainably Fund is planning to invest between £500,000 and £1,000,000 in up to ten communities to support activities for up to five years.

8.9.2 The aim of the funding is to provide an opportunity for communities to work together to access further resources and support so that they become more sustainable and resilient both during and after the period of the funding.

8.9.3 Application to the fund is initially via an expression of interest which, if successful, will secure £10,000 of funding to develop a project delivery plan. Expressions of interest have to be submitted by 31.01.12. Up to 30 partnerships will receive funding to develop their plan for submission by 04.06.12.

- 8.9.4 Having considered the opportunity and sought additional guidance from our national office – who have a role in the dissemination of good practice information – Groundwork is submitting the necessary Expression of Interest for the Beeston and Holbeck area.
- 8.9.5 It is clear from the guidance issued that successful applications will need to reflect a broad based partnership of community, voluntary, private and public sector organisations. Groundwork has identified a number of activities it could develop/deliver in conjunction with partners. Due to the number of Groundwork Trusts that are likely to be involved in submitting bids nationally, we are proposing that Voluntary Action Leeds undertake the role of coordinating partner whilst Groundwork will work closely with all potential partners to develop the bid. We have already identified a number of partners and secured their in-principle support. These include:
- Leeds City Council Regeneration, Climate Change and Locality Management Teams.
 - Aire Valley Homes
 - Leeds Federated
- 8.9.6 We are also discussing the involvement of other key local organisations who work together as the Aspire Group. It is important to note that at this stage the Big Lottery are most interested in understanding the potential of each bid and that detailed development work is not expected to take place until individual expressions of interest are approved by the end of February 2012.
- 8.9.7 If asked to develop a project delivery plan we will organise a number of structured discussions with potential partners to clarify the role they can play in the programme. We envisage that an important part of this process would be working with the Neighbourhood Improvement Board to shape the delivery plan and develop a role in the delivery of a successful plan.
- 8.9.8 In terms of outputs and outcomes the programmes objectives are that:
- The target community becomes better prepared for environmental challenges and longer term environmental change and able to make improvements to live more sustainably.
 - Vulnerable people within the community affected by the impacts of climate change are enabled to make greener choices to help improve their quality of life.
 - The community maximises the use of their assets and resources to create new economic opportunities and live more sustainably.
 - Communities have a greater understanding of their natural resources and the opportunities to use them efficiently.
- 8.9.9 Further updates will be provided to the Area Committee at appropriate time through the process.

9.0 Corporate Considerations

9.1 Consultation and Engagement

9.1.1 Projects are developed to address priorities in the Area Committee Business Plan. The production of this plan is informed by Local Councillors and local residents. All projects developed are in consultation with Elected Members and local communities. Approval for any contribution from the Well being budget is secured at Area Committee.

9.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

9.2.1 Community groups submitting a project proposal requesting funding from the Well being budget have an equal opportunities policy and as part of the application process, complete a section outlining which equality groups the project will work with and how equality and cohesion issues have been considered.

9.2.2 Internal and statutory partners are committed to equality and cohesion and all projects they are involved with will have considered these issues.

9.2.3 A light touch Equality Impact Assessments is carried out for all projects.

9.3 Council Policies and City Priorities

9.3.1 The projects outlined in this report contribute to targets and priorities set out in the following council policies:

- Vision For Leeds
- Children and Young Peoples Plan
- Health and Well being City Priority Plan
- Safer and Stronger Communities Plan
- Regeneration City Priority Plan

9.4 Resources and Value for Money

9.4.1 There are no resource implications as a result of this report.

9.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

9.5.1 All decisions taken by the Area Committee in relation to the delegated functions from Executive Board are eligible for Call In.

9.5.2 There are no key or major decisions being made that would be eligible for Call In.

9.5.3 There are no legal implications as a result of this report.

9.6 Risk Management

9.6.1 This report provides an update on work in the Inner South and therefore no risks are identifiable. Any projects funded through Well being budget complete a section identifying risks and solutions as part of the application process.

10.0 Conclusions

10.1 The report provides up to date information on key work areas of the Area Committee.

11.0 Recommendations

11.1 The Area Committee is asked to:

- a) note the contents of the report and make comment as appropriate

Background documents

Area Committee Summary of Key Work Report, 11th January 2012