

Report of : Deputy Chief Executive

Report to : Inner West Area Committee

Date: 27th June 2012

Subject: Inner West Neighbourhoods Improvement Board

Are specific electoral Wards affected?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Armley Bramley & Stanningley		
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?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:		

Summary of main issues

1. There are four neighbourhoods in the inner West area that are classified as among the most deprived in Leeds according to the index of multiple deprivation.
2. Discussions with partners and Elected Members have recommended a Neighbourhoods Improvement Board be established to address the key issues that contribute to inequality in these areas.
3. The West North West Area Support Team, in partnership with West North West Homes, have proposed a multi-agency partnership structure to deliver sustainable improvements to services in these neighbourhoods.

Recommendations

4. The Area Committee is asked to:
 - i) Note the content of this report and approve the proposal to establish a Neighbourhoods Improvement Board for the Inner West area.
 - ii) Nominate an Elected Member from each ward to work with the Area Support Team to develop the Neighbourhoods Improvement Board.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 This report sets out a proposal for a Neighbourhoods Improvement Board for the four most deprived neighbourhoods in the inner West Area.
- 1.2 It asks the Area Committee to support the initiative and work with partners to drive improvement across the inner West area.

2 Background information

- 2.1 Area Committees in Leeds have the delegated function of Neighbourhood Management Co-ordination to agree priority neighbourhoods and to agree and monitor Neighbourhood Improvement Plans for the Committee's area.
- 2.2 Since 2006 the West North West Area Support Team and partners have delivered small scale improvements in the four priority neighbourhoods of New Wortley and Wythers in Armley ward and the Fairfields and Broadleas in Bramley and Stanningley ward. The method of delivering these improvements has been through neighbourhood based LAMP (local area management plan) meetings attended in the main by front line staff working on the estates.
- 2.3 The LAMP meetings have not benefited from strategic leadership, and have differing levels of commitment from council and other services. They are however, seen as a useful forum for front line staff to meet and discuss local issues, and some partnership activity is agreed at most meetings. There is a view that these groups need to be refocused on key priorities and support greater levels of community engagement.
- 2.4 The West North West Area Leadership Team is currently reviewing where there are concentrations of deprivation in neighbourhoods across West North West Leeds to highlight how these could be addressed by a programme of neighbourhood improvement. Partners around the table have confirmed their commitment to improving outcomes in the inner West. This report outlines a suggested approach for neighbourhood working in inner West Leeds.

3 Main issues

- 3.1 The four neighbourhoods chosen to be part of the Neighbourhoods Improvement Board arrangements fall well below the Leeds average in the Index of Multiple Deprivation (Appendix 1). This project will analyse the needs of each neighbourhood based on deprivation statistics and consultation with the local community. A Neighbourhoods Improvement Plan (NIP) covering all four neighbourhoods and will be developed, focusing on the issues where the gap between the Leeds average and local statistics are the greatest.

Neighbourhoods Improvement Board

- 3.2 The Neighbourhoods Improvement Board will be a meeting of Ward Members, resident representatives and senior officers from the council, partner agencies and the voluntary sector. The Board will set the strategic priorities for each neighbourhood and approve the NIP. The Board will ensure that services are fully committed to the programme, and allow managers at a neighbourhood level to

adapt their services and work in new ways with partners to deliver sustainable improvements.

- 3.3 It is proposed that the Board will meet four times per year, with an extra meeting at the beginning of the project to ensure a successful start. Further discussion will confirm the membership of the Board.

Officer Network

- 3.4 Underneath the Board level will be the 'Officer Network', comprised of service managers from a range of organisations (including Council, Police, ALMO, Voluntary, Community & Faith sector and Extended Services Clusters). Managers within the network will be briefed on the Neighbourhoods Improvement Programme at a conference in the autumn and be asked to use existing partnership structures to develop service improvements and actions for the four NIPs. These existing partnerships include;

- Inner West Tasking Team
- West North West Homes Housing Action Forums
- Environment Sub Group
- Extended Services cluster meetings
- West North West Health & Wellbeing Partnership

- 3.5 Where an existing partnership does not exist, actions will be developed through time limited working groups and joint working arrangements between individual service managers.

- 3.6 A Neighbourhoods Improvement Plan will be drafted and monitored by named officers from the West North West Area Support Team and West North West Homes. They will ensure that the actions in the NIP are agreed with service managers and will provide quarterly monitoring reports to the Board.

Neighbourhood Partnerships

- 3.7 The four front line, neighbourhood based partnership meetings will continue to meet and be strengthened to include services covering the priority themes and resident representatives. The Neighbourhood Partnerships will meet bi-monthly and be tasked with delivering relevant actions in the NIP. They will be asked to focus on the Board's priority themes and the NIP, but will still retain their usefulness as a forum for front line staff to meet and share information about local issues. Chairing and administering the Neighbourhood Partnerships will be shared between West North West Homes and the Area Support Team.

Community Engagement

- 3.8 Community consultation and engagement will be a priority shared by the Board, Officer Network and Neighbourhood Partnerships. It is acknowledged that levels of community participation differs between the four neighbourhoods, so each Neighbourhood Partnership will develop a community engagement plan that meets the needs of the specific area. The Officer Network will ensure that sufficient resources are put in place to support community engagement activities.

3.9 The Neighbourhoods Improvement Board will meet for the first time in September.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

4.1.1 Ward Members and LAMP meetings have been consulted on the proposal. Community engagement plans will form part of the work programme for each neighbourhood, and local residents will be recruited to the Board and Neighbourhood Partnerships.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

4.2.1 This section is not applicable to this report

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 rolled forward again to 2011/12 with amendments only to environmental delegations.

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

4.3.3. The work of the Neighbourhoods Improvement Board will contribute 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

4.4 Resources and value for money

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

4.4.2. 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.

4.4.3. 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 for example 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, for example community engagement, area based regeneration schemes and community projects.

4.4.2 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 the Area Support Team'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 not subject to Call In.

4.6 Risk Management

4.6.1 There are no significant risks identified in this report.

5 Conclusions

5.1 A new Neighbourhoods Improvement Board will provide strategic leadership to deliver sustainable improvements to services in the four priority neighbourhoods in the Inner West area.

5.2 A successful programme will require commitment from statutory services, partners and local residents to set shared priorities, and agree a measurable programme of improvements to the way services are delivered in these neighbourhoods.

5.3 The programme will be delivered using existing resources and administered in partnership between the Area Support Team and West North West Homes. The Area Committee's role will be to monitor the overall programme, and approve the Neighbourhood Improvement Plan.

6 Recommendations

6.1 The Area Committee is asked to:

- i) Note the content of this report and approve the proposal to establish a Neighbourhoods Improvement Board for the Inner West area.
- ii) Nominate an Elected Member from each ward to work with the Area Support Team to develop the Neighbourhoods Improvement Board.

7 Background documents¹

7.1 Area Committee Function Schedules

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available for inspection on request for a period of four years following the date of the relevant meeting. Accordingly this list does not include documents containing exempt or confidential information, or any published works. Requests to inspect any background documents should be submitted to the report author.