

Inner South Area Committee

Area Delivery Plan

2007/08

Background to Area Committees and Area Delivery Plans

In June 2004 Leeds City Council established a more localised structure of decision-making through new Area Committees which would enable services to be more appropriate and responsive to local needs and priorities. The objectives of the Area Committee are:

- to enhance both the representative role of local elected Councillors and the connections with their communities;
- to improve the quality and value for money of Council service delivery;
- to improve the quality of democracy and find new ways to facilitate citizen participation in local government;
- to co-ordinate policy and service delivery between the local service providers.

In September 2004 the Council's Executive Board agreed to delegate the first Functions for Area Committees to determine. Along with a Well-being Budget these Functions form part of the resources the Area Committee has at hand to implement this Area Delivery Plan (See resources).

What is this Area Delivery Plan?

This Area Delivery Plan for this Area Committee sets out service priorities and improvement strategies for the area for 2007/08. The Plan is a reference point for directing resources and providing a framework for the investment of the Well-being Budget in the area.

This Area Delivery Plan builds on the initial priorities established through the 'Profile and Priorities document' which were agreed at the September 2004 Area Committee. The Profile & Priorities document provided baseline information about the area and included priorities established through earlier consultation.

The Strategic Objectives – i.e. How does this Plan take into consideration other key plans and strategies?

This Area Delivery Plan tries to balance the strategic objectives Council services are committed to while applying them to a local context. Consequently in putting together the Plan the main strategic drivers which have been considered are:

Leeds Initiative (the Local Strategic Partnership) and the Vision for Leeds

This Area Delivery Plan represents the Council's local contribution to the Leeds Initiative objectives and the overall Vision for Leeds. In addition the Area Delivery Plan supports the South Leeds District Partnership Plan which brings agencies together to translate the Vision for Leeds to South Leeds. The Area Delivery Plan particularly contributes to fulfilling the Vision objective of 'narrowing the gap' and at the same time enable Leeds to 'go up a league' and better fulfil its role as a regional capital.

Leeds City Council – Corporate Plan

This Area Delivery Plan also contributes to the corporate priorities of Leeds City Council as set out in its Corporate Plan, which also reflects the Vision for Leeds.

What geographical area does the Area Delivery Plan cover?

This Area Delivery Plan covers the Inner South Area which incorporates the Electoral Wards of Beeston & Holbeck, City & Hunslet and Middleton Park.

Working arrangements - How the Area Committee operates and how the Area Delivery Plan for 2007/08 will be put into action

a) Membership and voting rights

Decisions on this Plan are made by the Ward Councillors of the Inner South Area Committee i.e.:

- Beeston & Holbeck (3 Elected Members)
- City & Hunslet (3 Elected Members)
- Middleton Park (3 Elected Members)

Whilst this Area Committee had decided initially to not co-opt members, should this be reviewed during 2007/08 the co-opted members would not have voting rights as legally only Elected Members or council officers (with delegated powers) can make decisions about how the Council's budget is spent.

b) Role of Area Management

Advice and support is provided by the City Council's Area Management Team, led by the Area Manager, who, together with other Council service providers and other agencies within the area will put this plan into action.

c) Accountabilities

Like all Council bodies the Area Committee and this Delivery Plan are accountable to the Executive Board and will be subject to scrutiny by the Council's Scrutiny Boards. The Plan is prepared annually and requires approval by the Executive Board, which will monitor the performance of the Committee.

This Plan has regard to

- The Council's Budget and Policy framework
- Relevant Council strategies and plans
- Professional advice from Directors or their nominees

d) Constitution

The Area Committees, and therefore this Plan, are governed by various procedure rules. These are laid down in the Council's Constitution and provide the framework within which the Area Committee operates in detail.

The Area Committee's roles can be summarised as follows:

- A **monitoring** role - ensuring a high standard of delivery of all services within the area
- An **influencing** role on shaping Council's Policies and Strategies
- A **controlling** role over certain services of the Council
- A **partnership** role with other agencies, for example on the provision of Community Safety, Social and Health issues
- A **listening** role for hearing local deputations, and linking to local community forums and organisations
- An **advisory** role with the Council, Executive, Scrutiny Board, Regulatory Panels or Departments on matters of interest in the area

e) Area Committee meetings

The Area Committee will meet at least six times a year. Progress on the Area Delivery Plan will be reported to Area Committee meetings. As they are confirmed, dates of the meetings are put on the Council's website and made known through various ways (see **How does the Area Committee consult and involve the community?**). The agenda for each meeting will be produced at least 7 working days prior to the meeting.

How does the Area Committee consult and involve the community?

Supporting the community is one of the Area Delivery Plan's key themes. Consequently there are a range of ways local people can be involved. Here are just some of the ways:

- All Area Committee meetings publicised to the public
- Local Community Forums and partnership meetings
- Through our webpage on www.leeds.gov.uk
- By e-mail – nhd@southareacomm.gov.uk
- Through Area Committee Feedback newsletters
- By arranging specific community consultation activities and events as appropriate
- Through the process of neighbourhood improvement planning

All the above will enable the Area Committee to consult widely in the community on particular issues and to provide an opportunity for residents to bring local issues to the attention of Councillors. These activities also allow for feedback on this Area Delivery Plan and on council services.

How will this Area Delivery Plan for 2007/08 be monitored?

Monitoring of this Plan will be undertaken by the Area Management Team led by the Area Manager (in the Neighbourhoods and Housing Department of the City Council). There will be regular reports on progress from the Area Manager to the Area Committee with reports from Council service providers, through representatives of Council Departments who will attend meetings of the Area Committee as appropriate.

Key themes and priorities

This Area Delivery Plan has the following key themes and priorities

- Cleaner Neighbourhoods
- Involving Communities
- More for Young People
- Regenerating Areas
- Safer Neighbourhoods

Resources for this Area Delivery Plan

The Area Committee has the following resources in order to deliver the key themes and priorities of this Area Delivery Plan.

a) Delegated Functions

In September 2004 the Council's Executive Board agreed to delegate the first Functions for Area Committees to determine. These resources cover:
Community Safety - Public Reassurance activities of Wardens & PCSOs,
CCTV
Streetscene - Waste Management service of Bring Banks and Public Conveniences
Children & Young People - Youth Service

The 'Schedules' for these provide more detail on the Function delegated to the Area Committee. A copy can be made available on request and were presented to the Area Committee at its October 2004 meeting (See www.leeds.gov.uk).

The Council has also given Area Committees a responsibility to promote the social, economic and environmental well being of their areas. A Well-being Budget has been delegated to all Area Committees to support this function.

In July 2006, a further function was delegated to the Area Committee, that of managing a portfolio of community facilities which had been vested with Neighbourhoods & Housing Department. A delegation of further centres are due to be transferred over to the Area Committee in July 2007, following Executive Board approval.

b) Staff Resources

The South Leeds Area Management Team has been established as a dedicated resource to co-ordinate services in both inner and outer south areas and to implement the Area Delivery Plan. The team is based at Dewsbury Road One Stop Centre.

Other services (for example Community Safety, Youth Service, Streetscene) have also developed area staff structures. The Community Safety Co-ordinator is now part of the Area Management Team. The officer co ordinates Community Safety activity in the South Wedge (the inner and outer south area committee areas) and acts as the link with the West Yorkshire Police co-ordinating problem-solving groups which address issues such as anti social behaviour, drugs, burglary and vehicle crime.

Action Plan

The Action Plan for this Area Committee is in the attached **Appendix 2**.

The Action Plan details the specific priority objectives/targets within each key theme followed by the actions aimed to fulfil each of those objectives/targets.

In order to encourage greater focus for the Area Delivery Plan and the work of the Area Committee and Area Management Team, each objective and action

will be put into an order of priority. Where possible this year , some themes will be considered across the priorities such as worklessness, young and older people, community cohesion.

Working together - a statement on partnership working

Partnerships with other agencies is important in order to help implement some of the key themes, objectives and priority actions of this Area Delivery Plan.

a) South Leeds District Partnership

The Area Committee has close links to the District Partnership in South Leeds, a partnership between the public, voluntary and private sectors in the south area. The Area Committee and Leeds City Council are represented on the District Partnership by the Chair of the Area Committee.

The Partnership covers the whole of South Leeds and was initiated across the city by the Leeds Initiative in order to have a more geographic dimension to issues arising from for example the Leeds Regeneration Strategy, the Community Participation Strategy, and the Vision for Leeds.

The District Partnership plays an important role in helping deliver the Area Committee priorities and therefore this Area Delivery Plan.

c) Other Partnerships

Implementing the Plan will also involve working together with council and non-Council services and agencies at an Area Committee level as well as well as at neighbourhood level especially in order to improve neighbourhoods in need and regenerating key areas.