

Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Customer Access & Performance)

Report to Outer West Area Committee

Date: 22nd March 2013

Subject: Business Management Project Update

Are specific electoral Wards affected?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Farnley and Wortley, Calverley and Farsley, Pudsey		
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. This report provides the Area Committee with an update on progress so far, on the 'Business Management Project' run by Leeds Ahead.

Recommendations

1. Members are asked to:
 - Note the contents of the presentation by Leeds Ahead.
 - Note the attached update report from Leeds Ahead, for 'Business Management Project' at appendix 1.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update members on the progress made by the Business Management Project run by Leeds Ahead.

2 Background information

- 2.1 Leeds Ahead set out an innovative local business engagement approach to support business growth and deliver private sector resources and investment to identified priorities within the Outer West Leeds.
- 2.2 The business management project, funded through Leeds Ahead provides regular signposting to up to 300 businesses and has an active involvement in the business forums in the Outer West.
- 2.3 The project provided a practical mechanism to "integrate" local businesses into local delivery and enable them to invest back into and improve their local areas.
- 2.4 The 'Make the Grade' element of the project which involves work with schools is working with Crawshaw High School. Funding has been secured in excess of £50,000 and over 20 businesses have agreed to support Crawshaw School.

3 Main issues

- 3.1 A Local Business Engagement Team was formed to conduct business outreach and facilitate the practical involvement of businesses in different initiatives.
- 3.2 This approach was considered highly efficient as one single business outreach function served a multitude of different purposes and leverages value on several fronts.
- 3.3 The project aimed to deliver advice and signposting to help businesses to survive and grow. It also aimed to promote the different ways in which businesses could themselves support the wider area and enable their immediate practical involvement in those initiatives.
- 3.4 The project aimed to leverage substantial private sector match funds. These are aligned with initiatives such as the 'Make the Grade' private sector-funded education business partnerships.
- 3.5 One of the main objectives of the project for 2012, was to launch a 'Make the Grade' programme in one school. Crawshaw School under the leadership of Joanne Russ was very excited to be the first school in Outer West to join the programme. The school are very excited at being part of a project that has been so successful in other parts of the city.
- 3.6 As part of the delivery of this initiative Leeds Ahead were to source external partners to work with the school over a three year period. These external partners commit to contributing 3k per year and the school 5k per year.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

4.1.1 Ward Members are consulted on projects and initiatives within their ward which link to the Area Support Team work programme and locality priorities. This is undertaken via regular ongoing “Two Way Feedback” meetings, held with Area Support Team, and ad hoc meetings/telephone conversations as and when required.

4.1.2 Community forums are held in Pudsey & Swinnow and Tyersal every quarter within Outer West Leeds to inform communities.

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 2012/13 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 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

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 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.

4.5 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 Area Management'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.

4.6 Risk Management

4.6.1 There are no significant risks identified in this report.

5.0 Conclusions

5.1 In conclusion, the update 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:

- i. Note the contents of the presentation by Leeds Ahead.
- ii. Note the attached update report from Leeds Ahead, for the Business Management Project at appendix 1

Background documents¹

None

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.