

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

WEST (INNER) AREA COMMITTEE – 18TH DECEMBER 2013

AGENDA ITEM 14 – Environmental Services Update

Locality Team 6 month update report

Locality Team update report –Appendix 1

Locality Budget –Appendix 2

Locality Team additional commissioned Services

AGENDA ITEM 15 –Parks and Countryside Annual Report

Annual Report – for the Parks and Countryside Service

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Report author: Jason Singh

Tel: 0113 378 2150

Report of the Director of Environment and Housing

Report to West Leeds (Inner) Area Committee

Date: 18th December 2013

Subject: West and North West Locality Team - Six Month Performance Update

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. This report provides an update on performance against the Service Level Agreement (SLA) between West Leeds (Inner) Area Committee and the West-North West Environmental Locality Team. This report covers the period from 1st July 2013 to 3rd December 2013.

Recommendations

2. That West Inner Area Committee:
 - a) note and comment on the performance of the West-North West Locality Team since July 2013 and,
 - b) Provide guidance and direction to service delivery as necessary.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 This report provides an update on performance against the SLA between inner west Area Committee and the West-North West Environmental Locality Team. This report covers the period from June 2012 to May 2013.
- 1.2 The report also provides an update on the introduction of new waste collection arrangements in Armley and Bramley & Stanningley - Alternate Week Collection (AWC).

2 Background information

- 2.1 The Executive Board approved revisions to the Area Committee Function Schedules to include a new delegated responsibility for Street Cleansing & Environmental Enforcement Services in March 2011. The delegation makes clear the responsibility of Area Committees to negotiate, develop and approve a SLA with the service that achieves, as a minimum, the service standards set by Executive Board. The SLA should determine the principles of deployment of the available resources by:
 - the identification of priorities for service delivery annually (both geographical and in terms of types of services delivered), and,
 - the agreement of the most appropriate approaches to be taken to achieve local environmental cleanliness and quality.
- 2.2 The delegation of environmental services to Area Committee means that service resources, mainly staffing, are now devolved. Resources are organised into three wedge based teams for East North-East, South South-East and West North-West, aligned to new Locality Teams. The SLA sets out the detail of the resources which will be allocated to the Area Committees.
- 2.3 The annual SLA for the inner west Area Committee was agreed on 26th June, 2013.

3 Main issues

3.1 Summary of Performance against the 2013/14 SLA

- 3.1.1 The following section summarises headline performance against the service principles and priorities described in section 6 of the SLA and service activity as described in section 7 of the SLA.

Service Principles and Priorities - SLA Section 6

- 3.1.2 The service has been working to improve delivery outcomes across inner west Leeds – since June 2013 we have worked with residents groups across both of the wards to trial different approaches to cleansing and enforcement and have tried wherever possible to respond to local priorities and concerns in a timely and effective manner.
- 3.1.3 We have worked with the area committees general-purposes-sub group, and the area support team and have identified clear priorities for each ward which underpin the SLA - key areas of focus include more targeted cleansing activities, developing an effective cleansing work programme for the dedicated 'HRA team', which is now up and running, enforcement work on overgrown vegetation across the area, litter patrols and enforcement activity in the key private sector rented areas including the Edinburgh's, Cedars, and streets adjacent to Bramley Shopping Centre, bins on streets enforcement, bin-yard clearance and developing an approach to better managing bin-yards with Housing Leeds. Priorities are reviewed on an on-going basis via the Area Committee General Purposes Sub Group.

Enhanced Cleansing of Priority HRA Estates

- 3.1.5 In addition to the regular cleansing service outlined below we now also have a dedicated team to target the environmental conditions in priority housing estates in inner and outer west - these include: The Clydes/ New Wortley; The Gambles and Heights; The Bawns, and, The Broadleas. The team consists of 3 staff working Monday to Friday with a 3.5 tonne vehicle.

We have now developed an initial programme of environmental works for the additional team in the above estates which includes regular and enhanced:

- Graffiti removal
- Cutting Back Work
- Road and Pavement Cleansing
- In-depth de-littering
- Ginnell/ Green-space/ Binyard cleansing
- Fly-tipping removal, and,
- Enhanced Environmental Enforcement and preventative interventions

- 3.1.6 The team are successfully making good working links with local residents and have been positively received – a recent YEP article is attached at Appendix 3 and demonstrates the great impact the team has already had.
- 3.1.7 The team have recently been involved in leaf-clearance work in Armley and Bramley & Stanningley and have considerably enhanced the core services capacity to undertake this extensive annual clearance exercise.

Working With Key Partners and Housing Leeds Integration:

- 3.1.8 We have continued to develop approaches to better joint working and service delivery with the ALMO and Parks & Countryside and supporting residents forums such as the Bramley Forum and Armley Forum, to better influence the service and the deployment of team resources. We have also been working to support key crime and grime tasking meetings in inner west focussed on partnership working with the police and crime reduction agencies. A good example of recent work with partners is a multi-agency approach to environmental enforcement at Laurel Fold in Armley, this work is being led by enforcement officers and has now resulted in additional input from ASB and local policing teams to tackle nuisance behaviour.
- 3.1.9 The Councils Executive Board decided to cease operating through the previous housing ALMO's and bring housing management back into the Council in May 2013 after extensive consultation with local residents and Council tenants. Work is currently underway to create an integrated environmental service for all council and non-council assets which will seek to combine the old ALMO care-taking services and locality teams services into one council-wide cleansing service. It is hoped that this will improve the accountability and integration of cleansing services in Leeds, particularly in areas where there is significant council housing stock such as inner west. Proposals on what a new environmental service may look like and how it would work in practice are to be discussed with members and trade unions shortly. The new environmental service is due to be in operation by April 2014, along with a new housing management service - both of which will operate from the new Environment & Housing Directorate.

Service Activity - SLA Section 7

- 3.1.10 Between 1st July and 3rd December 2013 there were **1046** requests for service from the Area Committee area. Of these, **660** were for Armley and **386** for Bramley & Stanningley ward. The largest volumes of service requests across both wards were for fly-tipping, graffiti (either removal or enforcement), followed by domestic waste, waste in gardens, over-grown vegetation and bins on streets. A detailed breakdown of service performance between 1st July and December 3rd 2013 is given at Appendix 1.
- 3.1.11 In the same period the Locality Team served **28** legal notices across the area - mainly for domestic/ commercial waste, waste in gardens over-grown vegetation and bins on streets. **6** FPN's were also issued in the same period and there have been **2** prosecutions for environmental offences.
- 3.1.12 Covert CCTV funded by Area Committees is also being used across the inner west area - a separate report on this will be provided via the general purposes sub-group.

Education and Enforcement:

- 3.1.13 Enforcement work and dog-control work continues to be provided Monday to Friday from 7am to 7pm – evening/ early morning and weekend work is provided by prior arrangement. The majority of enforcement work in inner west involves responding to requests to service via the contact centre or increasingly from residents and ward members directly.
- 3.1.14 Key local enforcement priorities have now been identified by ward members, team members and residents. Patrols and monitoring of key sites and locations is taking place regularly and resources are now being allocated to support enhanced enforcement work on these priorities which include:
- Work with the High Schools on littering education,
 - Dog fouling awareness and control audits,
 - Grass verge enforcement policy development,
 - Bin-yard cleanliness and control in the Edinburghs', Cedars, Bardens, Whingates and Claremonts,
 - Overgrown vegetation,
 - Bins on streets,
 - Better signs and deterrent to dog-fouling,
 - Priority ginnel clean-up and enforcement plan,
 - Environmental audits and litter/ dog-fouling patrols in the two town centres, Landseers, Broadlees and the New Wortley area.
 - Addressing known problem sites through joint-up enforcement work with planning such as Mikes Carpets, former Theaker Lane Medical Centre and the former West Leeds Family Learning Centre site.
 - Tackling littering on Armley Town Street and chewing-gum littering in particular.
- 3.1.15 The service has also delivered a major bin-yard and clean-up scheme in the Edinburghs'/ Cedars and surrounding areas – we are currently developing a new bin-yard management programme in these areas along with Housing Leeds which will hopefully lead to sustainable improvements in bin-yard cleanliness through stronger enforcement, as well as physical gating of bin-yards to protect against fly-tipping.
- 3.1.16 Four multi-agency community action days have been led by the service since July 2013 in Armley covering the Cedars, the Bardens, Ley Lane/ Mistress Lane and New Wortley. In Bramley a further 4 action days have been held covering the Ganners/ Heights, Rossfields(2) and the Broadlees.

3.1.17 The service will be also be focussing on the **Aviaries** in the new-year, whilst there are fewer requests for service from this part of Armley in comparison to other parts of the ward there are a number of emerging challenges in relation to an increased number of private landlords buying property in the area. The service led a successful action day in this neighbourhood during the summer of 2013 which resulted in a number of agencies taking action, the police proactively monitored and checked known nominal and the ASB team also did checks with target individuals. Also every path and road was swept and a number of skips were provided to support clean-up work. Follow on work is scheduled in the new year with a joint walkabout and a series of consultative meetings with large landlords.

Cleansing:

- 3.1.16 **Mechanical Path and Road Sweeping-** The reliability of mechanical cleaning services has improved slightly across the last four reported periods (since August 2012), up to 14th October 2013 we had completed 85% of scheduled routes in Armley and Bramley & Stanningley. The delivery of manual cleansing as per the schedule has also improved however further work is required to improve our cover and holiday arrangements to better maintain services when staff are absent. In inner west we continue to provide daily, weekly, 3 weekly and 12 weekly mechanical sweeping across both wards - work cycles are based on an 8-day week - this enables an extra day of 'spare' capacity to be programmed in which allows the service to recover days lost due to leave, sickness or vehicle breakdown. Since 14th October 2013 path and road sweepers have been prioritising leaf clearance hot-spots within their prescribed routes.
- 3.1.17 **Manual Litter Picking** - continues to be undertaken on pre-set routes - there are currently 2 manual litter pickers covering neighbourhoods in inner west each day of the week- a number of litter picking routes have been altered and diverted in priority neighbourhoods following member and resident feedback.
- 3.1.18 **Litter Bins** - are currently emptied and the immediate vicinity checked for cleanliness by one of the teams litter-bin crews. We continue to meet the SLA commitment that all bins will be emptied without any over-flowing and that frequencies of visits will be adjusted to ensure this commitment is met. Bins are emptied on daily, two-weekly and weekly cycles dependent on their location. Over the last 6 months **9** additional litter bins have been installed across the area - a further 10 new/ replacement bins will be installed over the next 2 months.
- 3.1.19 **Fly-tipping, Hotspot and Bulky Item Teams** - the service continues to deploy its dedicated fly-tipping crews across 7 days. The crews work largely on a reactive basis following requests for service from the contact centre or increasingly from residents and members directly - we continue to cleanse and monitor regular hot-spot areas proactively such as Theaker Lane, Pollard Lane, Station Way, Milnes Street, Winchester Street, Abbott Court, Pipe & Nook Lane and sections along the Leeds and Bradford Road. These crews have been successfully used in a flexible way to meet SLA commitments across inner west, for example, the crews are now able to support the leaf-clearance programme across the area as well as being equipped to cut back and remove over-grown vegetation which is an SLA priority. These crews are also used across the area to support additional clean-ups and ginnel clearance activity.
- 3.1.20 **Gullies** - we continue to service approximately 52,000 gullies across WNW Leeds using 2 dedicated crews over 7 days. The crews work on a ward programme basis in the following order: Pudsey, Armley, Bramley, Farnley & Wortley, Bramley & Stanningley, Calverley & Farsely, Guiseley & Rawdon, Otley & Yeadon, Kirkstall, Horsforth, Adel & Wharfedale and Weetwood - they are currently working in xxxxx and it is anticipated that each ward can take up to six weeks to complete - one of the 7 days is used for member/ referral reactive activity across WNW. The programmed work is supported by a city-wide wet-spot team which covers known flood/ wet-spot areas and all beanie-blocks. Over the last 6 months we have worked with highways to develop protocols around reporting and mapping

collapsed gullies across inner west and have identified priorities for capital spend to repair key gullies.

3.1.21 **Graffiti Removal** - the team currently manages the city-wide graffiti team – we have 2 crews working 7 days a week across the city - we aim to remove all offensive graffiti within 24 hours of receiving reports. The team are also deployed to proactively remove graffiti in known hot-spot locations.

3.1.22 **Bush & Ginnel Team** - a number of referrals for each of the wards have been made to the bush and ginnel team - these form part of the on-going ginnel cleansing work via ward member and sub-group meeting - the locality team now visits key ginnels for cleansing purposes across inner west and works with Parks & Countryside, West North-West Homes and the Bush and Ginnel Team to cut back overgrown vegetation in ginnels. Priority Ginnels include:

Armley:

- Armley Ridge Road to Tower Lane.
- Boggard Lane.
- Aston Drive to Kings Approach.
- Church Road to Cedar Close (behind housing).

Bramley & Stanningley:

- Grosmont Place to Bramley Town Street.
- Horton Rise to Westminster Drive.
- Half Mile to Town Street, Stanningley.

3.1.23 **Needle Team** - we continue to make referrals for needle removals across inner west to the city-wide needle team.

3.1.24 **Leaf-clearance** - this year's leaf-clearance work started week-commencing October 14th, and is scheduled to run for a 17 week period to the end of January 2014. At the time of drafting this report we have started week 9 of a 17 week programme. Continental landscapes are providing 4 full-time staff who work 5 days per week, Monday to Friday to undertake high-volume leaf clearance work. In addition to this resource, the Councils mechanical path and road sweepers have been prioritising leaf-clearance work. We have invested a lot of time during the Springs and Summers over the last 2 years on updating leaf-fall maps for each ward which have been used to guide deployment of cleansing crews during the leaf clearance period. The areas visited to date in Armley and Bramley & Stanningley are split over a number of task-maps and are listed at Appendix 1 for member views and consideration. A considerable amount of leaf-clearance work has been undertaken in the area with some areas having received a number of repeat visits during leaf-fall. Initially the focus has been on priority routes and locations as well as member referrals - all map areas are being assessed once clearance has taken place to determine whether further visits need to be programmed. Whilst we can't be too precise, we expect leaf-clearance work to last until late mid-January 2014 although a lot depends on weather conditions. We are visiting all 13 wards across the WNW on a programmed basis until leaves are cleared.

Service Outcomes - SLA Section 8

3.1.24 The overall measure of cleanliness across the city has improved from 85.9% of sites which were acceptably clean in 2011/12 to 92.0% of sites in 2012/13.

3.1.26 The net managed budget to deliver SLA priorities across West-North West for 2013/14 is **£2,808,110** and is summarised at Appendix 2 - area committees are able to enhance

service delivery by commissioning additional services, a summary of service costs is provided at Appendix 3 .

- 3.1.27 Sickness levels within the service are a continued focus. The year-end forecast for 2012/13 for West-North West Locality Team staff is 10.85 days per full-time equivalent (fte). Overall sickness across the whole of citywide cleansing and enforcement has improved from 12.73 days per fte in 2011/12 to a forecast 8.9 of days per FTE in 2012/13 – the Council wide target is 8.5 fte days. The above figures for WNW also reflect the fact that there have been a number of staff on long term sickness whose attendance is being managed in accordance with the Councils Managing Attendance Policy.

Waste-Management Changes - update on introduction of Alternate Week Collection

- 3.1.28 As approved by the Council's Executive Board, Alternate Weekly Collections is to be implemented in phases to suitable properties in Leeds to help support the achievement of the Waste Strategy objectives and targets. Alternate weekly collections seeks to achieve the following benefits:
- To make it easier for residents to recycle more
 - To help the city to reach the targets outlined in the council's Waste Strategy of recycling 55% of household waste by 2016 and to exceed 60% recycling in the long term.
 - To reduce the amount of waste going to landfill sites to achieve targeted savings of £2.5m per annum on completion of the AWC roll-out to 80% of properties in the city.
 - To reduce CO2 and harmful gases which contribute to global warming
- 3.1.29 The first phase has now been introduced to 56,000 households in the South of the city, with a marked success in increasing recycling rates and reducing general waste to go to landfill. Maintaining this improvement on a City wide basis, as per the strategy, anticipates that the service will result in the Council reaching its target of a £2.5m annual saving.
- 3.1.30 The second phase was introduced to 113,000 properties on 18 November 2013 in the West, North West and North East part of the city as well as Middleton Park. Early indications show that the latest residents to receive the new bin service are adapting well to the changes. The subsequent roll out programme aims to deliver alternate weekly collections to 80% of the city by 2014/15.
- 3.1.31 Phase 2 of alternate week collections went live on Monday 18th November. AWC sees black bins collected one week and green bins collected the following week throughout the year. Both bins are collected on the same day of each week making it easier for residents to remember their collection days and maximise the amount of waste they can recycle. All of Bramley & Stanningley are covered by Phase 2 (with the exception of high-rise flats). In Armley roll-out has in the neighbourhoods to the North of Stanningley Road and in between Outgang Lane and Armley Ridge Road including: the Raynville's; Wyther Park's; Musgrave's; Aston's; Victoria Park's; Wharfedale, and, Borrowdale.
- 3.1.32 In the lead up to the introduction of phase 2, waste recycling advisors focused their education activities in select locations in Armley and Bramley and Stanningley. Roadshow events were also held and all residents were sent letters, calendars and information packs. The packs included information about how to recycle as much as possible and encouraged residents who did not previously recycle to request a new green bin from the council. Over 200 new green bins were delivered to residents on the Broadlees and Fairfield estates in the lead up to the new service commencing.
- 3.1.33 The first 3 weeks of collections have gone well with the vast majority of residents putting bins out on the right days and actively participating in recycling. Routes have completed on all days and the crews are familiarising themselves with the routes.

3.1.34 It is too early to provide any detailed information on tonnages or recycling rates but the initial signs are encouraging for the new bin service to be a great success. Initial areas being monitored include:

- Black bin waste in terms of presentation and weight has been very high on the Broadleas estate (Monday collection) and there has been a lot of side waste presented – the weight of the green bins collected week beginning 9th December was also significantly lower than expected (this is despite a high number of green bins being rolled out onto the estate in the lead up to go live of AWC). We are focussing waste recycling advisor activity on the estate over the coming weeks to try to ensure that people maximise the amount of materials they are recycling.
- There has also been quite a bit of side waste presented on the Wyther Park's (Wyther Park Place, Avenue, Crescent, Road, Terrace and Mount). This is a Tuesday collection.
- There has also been quite a bit of side waste presented on Acres Hall Crescent and Acres Hall Avenue.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1.1 Consultation was undertaken with Environmental Sub-groups of the Area Committees, including the sub group representing Inner South Area Committee on all aspects of the SLA delivery over the last six months.
- 4.1.2 Various consultation and engagement exercises have been undertaken with Members on an individual basis, as well as at ward and Area Committee level.
- 4.1.3 Performance against the SLA is now routinely discussed at all Environmental Sub-Groups.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 4.2.1 A key principle of locality working and the Service Level Agreement is a focus on delivering the best outcome for residents across the area, so that the streets and neighbourhoods in which they live are of an acceptably clean standard. This principle underpins equality and community cohesion, seeking to bring neighbourhoods with poor environmental quality, up to an acceptable standard, whilst improving all areas of Leeds.

4.3 Council Policies and City Priorities

- 4.3.1 The delegation of environmental services to Area Committees, via an approved Service Level Agreement, will significantly contribute towards the Stronger Leeds section of the new Safer & Stronger Communities Plan 2011-15. By delivering services at an Area Committee level, the priority to '*ensure that local neighbourhoods are clean*' will be much more achievable.

4.4 Resources and Value for Money

- 4.4.1 There are no resource implications.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

- 4.5.1 There are no legal implications.
- 4.5.2 The report contains no information that is deemed exempt or confidential.

4.6 Risk Management

4.6.1 There are no risk management implications within this report.

5 Conclusions

5.1.1 Positive progress has been made in the first six months of the Service Level Agreement for 2013/14 – the period from December 2013 to April 2014 will be one of considerable service change given the integration of cleansing and environmental services across council housing and non-council housing property. Members will be consulted on these changes over the coming months.

6 Recommendations

The area Committee are asked to:

- a) Note and comment on the performance of the West-North West Locality Team since July 2013 and
- b) Provide guidance and direction to service delivery as necessary.

7 Background documents¹

7.1.1 There are no background documents associated with this report.

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.

Appendix 1

Breakdown of Service Performance - 1st July to 3rd December 2013

Table 1 - Service Requests

DESCRIPTION	ARMLEY	BRAMLEY & STANNINGLEY	TOTAL
Abandoned Caravan/Trailer		3	3
Abandoned Vehicle	2		2
Bin not Returned	22	1	23
Bulky request	1		1
Cellar Grate	1		1
Commercial Waste Issues	8	2	10
Damage to Highway	2	4	6
Dead Animal Removal	10	6	16
Dog Fouling	17	30	47
Dangerous Dogs at Large	1	1	2
Dog Warden Assistance	4	4	8
Found Dogs	9	25	34
Stray Dogs at Large	7	11	18
Dogs Attacking Animals	3	6	9
Stray Dog Not Out	0	1	1
Dog Attacking Human	4	3	7
Dog Off Lead	0	2	2
Dog Fouling Enforcement Signage Request	3		3
Domestic Waste Issues	35	4	39
Drainage	11	4	15
Dust or Grit		1	1
Environ Protection - Request for Advice	1		1
Fly Tip	200	83	283
Flyers	3		3
Flyposting		1	1
Flytipping	107	24	131
Footpath Sweeping	10	15	25
Ginnel	5	6	11
Graffiti	18	27	45
Gully	16	19	35
Housing - Defect	1		1
Housing - Dirty			0
Housing - Other	1		1
Housing - Vacant	2	1	3
Illegal Advertising	2	6	8
Illegal Vehicle Crossing	1	7	8

DESCRIPTION	ARMLEY	BRAMLEY & STANNINGLEY	TOTAL
Leafing	6	3	9
Litter Bin Empty	3	4	7
Litter Bin Repair	1	2	3
Litter Bin Request	1	2	3
Litter Complaint	31	12	43
Litter Problems	2		2
Needles and Drug Paraphernalia Cleaning		1	1
Nuisance - Accumulation/Deposit	10	6	16
Nuisance - Other	6	7	13
Nuisance Vehicle		1	1
Obstruction	4	6	10
Odour - Industrial	1		1
Odour - Other	1		1
Overgrown Vegetation	30	16	46
Public Toilets Maintenance and Cleaning	1		1
Road Sweeping	19	7	26
Rodents	3	2	5
Smoke from Bonfire	8	3	11
Smoke from Chimney		1	1
Street Cleansing Missed		1	1
Vehicles for Sale	1		1
Verge or Pavement Parking	1	1	2
Waste in Gardens	24	14	38
Total	660	386	1046

Table 2 - Legal Notices

DESCRIPTION	ARMLEY	BRAMLEY & STANNINGLEY	TOTAL
BA59 – Drainage	1		1
EP46 - Bin not Returned	8		8
EP4647 - Bin not Returned	1		1
EP47 - Commercial Waste Issues			0
EP80 - Commercial Waste Issues	1		1
EP80 - Domestic Waste Issues	1		1
EPA92A - Domestic Waste Issues	2		2
EPA92A - Flytipping		1	1
EPA92A - Nuisance - Accumulation/Deposit	1		1
EPA92A - Waste in Gardens	2	2	4
H102 - Overgrown Vegetation	1		1
PH17 - Drainage	1		1
PH83 - Nuisance - Other	1		1
TCP215 - Domestic Waste Issues	1		1
TCP215 - Graffiti			0
TCP215 - Nuisance - Accumulation/Deposit	1		1
TCP215 - Waste in Gardens	3		3
Total	25	3	28

Table 3 - Fixed Penalties

FPN NOTICES	ARMLEY	BRAMLEY & STANNINGLEY	TOTAL
FPN100 - Commercial Waste Issues			0
FPN700 - Housing - Dirty	1		1
FPN700 - Nuisance - Accumulation/Deposit	1		1
Dog off lead in prescribed area		1	1
FPN700 - Waste in Gardens	3		3
Total	5	1	6

Table 4 - Prosecutions

PROSECUTION TYPE	ARMLEY	BRAMLEY & STANNINGLEY	TOTAL
Housing - Dirty	1		1
Waste in Gardens	1		1
Total	2		2

Table 5 - Mechanical Cleansing Performance – up to 14/10/13

(Path-sweepers and Road-Sweepers have been prioritising leaf-clearance on ward maps since then)

WARD	PROGRAMMED	COMPLETED	%
Armley	104	88	85
Bramley & Stanningley	73	62	85

Table 6 - Leaf Clearance to date

(14/10/13 to 4/12/13)

Ward	Areas Visited	Areas to Re-Visit
Armley	Tresco Ave(S), Green Hill Rd(S), Hill Top Rd(S), Armley Ridge Rd(S), All the Rumbalds, Arley Pl, Terr, St, Salsbury Terr, Vw, Armley Pl, Terr, St, Aviary Gr, Armley Lodge Rd, Armley Park Rd, Heights Ln, Winghate (Charlie Cake Prk,) Chichester St, Armley Grange Rd, Ave, Vw, Mt, Walk, Rise, Cres, Dri, Oval, (S) Cockshott Ln , Town Str, Chapel Ln, Theaker Ln (S), Moorfield Rd(S), Kings App, Houghley's, Well Home Mead, Stanningley Rd	All
Bramley and Stanningley	Pollard Lane(S), Leeds Bradford Rd, Broad Ln(S), Caverley Ln, Kings App, Bell Ln, Swinnow Ln (S), , Ashby View, Broadlees Estate, Bramley Park and surrounds	All

Direct Member Service Requests

- Armley - 7
- Bramley & Stanningley - 9

WNW Locality Team - Budget for 2013/14

Appendix 2

Budget Heading	£	What this pays for	What is NOT included:
Staff Functions	0		There are a number of elements of the overall delegation that will continue to be managed and budgeted for at a city level. These are:
Management & Support	164,120	Locality Manager, Service and Team Managers	Dog Warden Service
Supervisors	95,315	2 Supervisors working shifts to cover the 7 day/wk service plus 1 supervisor support	Graffiti team
Bulk/Fly tipping team	164,460	4 drivers and 4 street attendants working shifts to deliver a 7 day/wk service	Weedspraying
Pathsweepers	219,950	10 drivers working shifts to deliver a 7 day/wk service	Disposal cost of street waste
Roadsweepers	87,960	4 drivers working shifts to deliver a 7 day/wk service	Past pension costs
Litter bins emptying	167,285	4 drivers and 4 street attendants working shifts to deliver a 7 day/wk service	
Street Litter	449,675	24 street attendants working shifts to deliver a 7 day/wk service	
Headingley cleansing	213,055	6 drivers and 4 street attendants working shifts to deliver a 7 day/wk service	
Environmental Health & Technical	70,570	2 Senior Environmental Action Officer	
Community Enforcement Staff	291,010	10 Environmental Action Officer	
Overtime	143,050	}operational cover	
Supply (Agency)	27,690		
Pension costs	7,980		
Insurance, training & travel	9,810		
	2,111,930		
Premises Costs	20,110	Incl. £5k Works in default (recovered by income)	
Supplies and Services	107,790	Operational materials/equipment	
Fleet & Transport Costs		Contract hire of 5 x pathsweepers, 1 x enforcement van, 1 x headingley Scarab, 2 x roadsweepers, 1 x deleafing vehicle & 1 x bulk motor	Planned to be delegation
Fleet Hire	280,530		Master Key Fuel (further work)
Leasing costs	30,880		£44k
Maintenance/repairs	81,920		FPN income (£84k) (change in current system / ICT)
Fuel	161,730		Managers vans £12k
Vehicle insurance	4,870		Water (Standpipe charges) £30k
Staff travel	32,650		
	592,580		
Legal Costs	17,840	Cost of prosecutions and advice	
Support Costs - HRA	7,660	Financing costs of Bin replacement	
Prudential Borrowing costs	10,000		
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	2,867,910		
INCOME	11,000	Ad hoc cleansing, Court Costs and recovery of 'Works in Default'	Fuel - ongoing inflation pressures
SUB TOTAL	2,856,910		Attendance management
Targeted efficiency	48,800	Transfer of Estate Caretakers (33k) and ELI target /line by line (16k)	TOIL
NET BUDGET	2,808,110		Agency usage
			Fleet - replacement costs

It is important to stress that the service will always firstly attempt to meet any additional requests through it's existing resource and use of capacity days etc. However, the first call on capacity days and core budget will be to ensure existing SLA commitments are being met – particularly through recovering lost days due to leave, sickness, mechanical failure or weather conditions.

Cost of services to tackle localised, additional needs that the main SLA and associated delegated resource can not deliver:

1. Ad-hoc requests (per hour):

Litter picker	£15
Enforcement Patrols (inc litter patrol, dog patrols)	£23 *
Mechanical Path or Road Sweeper	£18 (assumes use of existing vehicle)

2. Additional posts (per annum):

		Without cover	Cost of cover (based on 30 days/year)
Litter picker (Street Attendant) – doing 35hrs per week	1 day/wk	£3,800	£630
	2 days/wk	£7,600	£1,260
	3 days/wk	£11,400	£1,890
	4 days/wk	£15,200	£2,520
	5 days/wk	£19,000	£3,150
Enforcement Officer	1 day/wk	£5,800 *	
	2 days/wk	£11,600 *	
	3 days/wk	£17,400 *	
	4 days/wk	£23,200 *	
	5 days/wk	£29,000 *	

3. We can also provide quotes for one-off pieces of work that are “off highway” as such – e.g. clean ups of bits of land. These quotes would be bespoke to the job required and would either be through our own staff being brought in on overtime or through an approved contractor.

A further option is Continental Landscapes for cleaning up and cutting back etc bits of land not in the contract. Such request would be best made through ourselves initially, and we would get P&C to negotiate a quote from CL if it's something we could not do.

(note – there are additional costs that the service may incur in relation to FPNs. legal recharges and case management. Therefore the income received from any FPNs/prosecutions would be retained by the locality team and used to offset these costs)*

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Report author: Sean Flesher
Tel: 3957451

Report of the Director of Environment and Housing

Report to West Inner Area Committee

Date: 18th December 2013

Subject: Annual Report – for the Parks and Countryside Service

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. This report provides an area profile of key assets and services provided in the West Inner area.
2. It highlights the current progress towards Leeds Quality Park (LQP) status for community parks in the area. It provides the costs of achieving and retaining LQP status in community parks up to the year 2020.
3. It details capital improvements in community parks, sport pitches and fixed play in the area for the last 12 months and planned improvements to be delivered in the next 12 months.
4. It gives a detailed breakdown of events and volunteering in the area.
5. It gives an overview of the streetscene grounds maintenance contract along with a schedule of assets maintained and frequency of operations with information on performance during 2013.

Recommendations

6. The Area Committee is requested to note the content of the report and to communicate priorities for investment in community parks, playing pitches and fixed play facilities in light of the issues raised.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 This report seeks to further develop the relationship between the Parks and Countryside service and the West Inner Area Committee, as agreed at Executive Board.
- 1.2 It provides an overview of the service and sets out some of the challenges faced along with key performance management initiatives. In addition it seeks to provide a positive way forward for delivering the extended role of the Area Committee.
- 1.3 In particular it sets out at an area level progress made in attaining Leeds Quality Park standard. It also sets out investment need to attain and sustain LQP standards.

2 Background information

Service Description

- 2.1 Leeds City Council has one of the largest fully inclusive local authority Parks and Countryside services, managing almost 4,000 hectares of parks and green space. This includes 7 major parks, 62 community parks and 95 recreation grounds and 391 local green spaces, which include 144 playgrounds and 500 sports facilities ranging from skateboard parks to golf courses, and which play host to 600 events annually. The service also manages a nursery which produces around 3 million bedding plants each year, 97 allotment sites, over 800km of Public Right of Way (PROW), and 156 nature conservation sites, as well as 23 cemeteries and 3 crematoria.

Description of Priority Advisory Function

- 2.2 The priority advisory function for Area Committees relates to community park provision that have a wide range of facilities, including general recreation, sports pitches, play and formal and informal horticultural features.
- 2.3 Where developments are less significant or only impact on one site then ward members and community groups are informed and consulted using established procedures. It is important to note that good levels of engagement with ward members exist and this function seeks to enhance this engagement.
- 2.4 There are proposals currently being considered to increase the scope of this delegation to include development and horticultural maintenance of cemeteries, recreation grounds, natural areas and local green space in addition to community parks. These proposals would delegate investment decisions and the setting of resource priorities using the asset register as the basis of allocation to each area committee. Consultation and rollout is currently being directed by the Area Leaders team.

3 Main issues

Area Profile of the Service

- 3.1 The following table summarises community green space assets managed by Parks and Countryside in the West Inner Area Committee:

Asset	Quantity
Community parks	6
Playing Pitches:	
Football	17
Rugby League	6
Rugby Union	1
Bowling greens	4
Playgrounds	7
Multi-use games areas	3
Skate parks	1

- 3.2 Regarding bowling green provision, it should be noted that a report was considered by Executive Board in October 2013 that approved revised arrangements as follows:
- The introduction of a charge which would see the implementation of a season ticket at a cost of £25 in 2014/2015 rising to £31.50 in 2017/2018.
 - The removal of 1 bowling green at 6 sites across the city with more than 1 bowling green. This does not include any bowling greens in the West Inner Area Committee.
 - That where feasible, appropriate arrangements are established in order for bowling clubs to meet the costs associated with their own direct use of gas and electricity by March 2014.

Community Parks

- 3.3 The community parks in the West Inner area are as follows:

- Armley Park
- Bramley Falls Wood Park
- Bramley Park
- Gotts Park
- Rodley Park
- Stanningley Park

- 3.4 The current position on the quality of these sites is examined later in this report as is the investment need to attain or sustain the Leeds Quality Park standard.

Sports Pitches

- 3.5 Parks and Countryside provide annual pitch hire for sports teams. The table below shows the number of teams with current bookings playing on pitches in the area: *(note this excludes clubs who have a long term lease in place)*

Age Group	No of Teams
Open Age	14
Juniors	26

Volunteering in the Parks and Countryside Service

- 3.6 The service continues to focus on increasing the number of volunteers and groups working in the area to achieve the following:
- To increase corporate volunteering working in partnership with Business in the Community and Leeds Ahead
 - Continue to improve involvement with the many “in bloom” groups in Leeds.
 - It is an ambition to have a volunteer group for every community park where there is a site based gardener.
- 3.7 It is estimated that volunteers across all groups contribute 143 days of voluntary work in the West Inner area over a 12 month period. The tables below provide details of volunteering in the area since January 2013:

Voluntary work supervised by Parks and Countryside staff:

Site	Organisation	Task	Volunteer Days
Armley Park	General Public	Family nature event: trees, seeds and all things green	0.5
		Family nature event: WILD Art	1.9
	General Public	Family nature event: mini-beast hunting	4.3
		Family nature event: trees, seeds and all things green	5.4
		Family nature event: WILD Art	4.1
	Leeds Wildlife Volunteers	Rhododendron bashing throughout wood, replaced 5 bench tops throughout site, coppiced laurel at entrance to woods	6.8
Rodley Park Recreation Ground	Leeds Wildlife Volunteers	Tree planting	13.0
Total			36

Local business volunteers supervised by Parks and Countryside staff:

Site	Organisation	Task	Volunteer Days
Armley Park	Premier Farnell	Woodland path cutback and vegetation clearance	15.5
	Leeds City College	Woodland path cutback and vegetation clearance	7.0
		Woodland path renovation and litter clearance	9.5
Bramley Falls Wood Park	Corporate Group	Entrance improvement, tree pruning, litter clearance	10.8
Stanningley Park	Corporate Group	Playground painting	3.8
Total			46.6

Volunteer groups working independently in the West Inner area:

Group Name	Number of Volunteers	Estimated Volunteer Days
Armley Common Rights Trust	5	10
Bramley Fall Residents Association	10	20
Friends of Bramley Park	10	30
Total	25	60

Events

- 3.8 The bookings and licensing team provides assistance in helping community and other groups organise events with particular emphasise on ensuring legal and safety requirements are met but do not deter groups and organisations from organising activities. The table below shows a list of events held in the Inner West area in 2013:

Site Name	Month	Event	Total
Armley Park	July	Change for Life fun day - Jan Burkhart	1
Bramley Falls Wood Park	January	Northern Film School filming - Olivia Clarkson	1
Bramley Park	June	Bramley Music Festival	1
	July	Bramley Carnival	1
	October	Wild Pictures	1
	November	Pudsey & Bramley Athletic	1
	November	Bonfire	1
Raynville Crescent POS	August	Back Yard Breeze	2
Total			9

Community Parks – Leeds Quality Park Status

3.9 The Parks and Green Space Strategy approved at Executive Board in February 2009 sets out the vision and priorities to 2020. One of the key proposals contained in the strategy is the aspiration for all community parks to meet the Green Flag standard for field based assessment by 2020. The Green Flag Award Scheme represents the national standard for parks and green spaces. It has been developed around eight key criteria as follows;

- **A welcoming place** - how to create a sense that people are positively welcomed in the park
- **Healthy, safe & secure** - how best to ensure that the park is a safe & healthy environment for all users
- **Clean & well maintained** - what people can expect in terms of cleanliness, facilities & maintenance
- **Sustainability** - how a park can be managed in environmentally sensitive ways
- **Conservation & heritage** - the value of conservation & care of historical heritage
- **Community involvement** - ways of encouraging community participation and acknowledging the community's role in a park's success
- **Marketing** - methods of promoting a park successfully
- **Management** - how to reflect all of the above in a coherent & accessible management plan or strategy and ensure it is implemented.

3.10 The Parks and Countryside service reports annual performance against two local indicators based upon the Green Flag Award scheme;

- *The percentage of Parks and Countryside sites assessed that meet the Green Flag standard.*
- *The percentage of Parks and Countryside community parks which meet the Green Flag standard. Performance against these indicators is illustrated in section 3.28.*

3.11 The indicator includes an assessment of each community park which has particular relevance to Area Committee engagement. The scheme is known as the Leeds Quality Park (LQP) standard. The following table provides a current profile of these assessments for the West Inner Area Committee.

Site	Year Assessed	Welcoming Place	Healthy, Safe, Secure	Clean, Well Maintained	Sustainability	Conservation / Heritage	Community Involvement	Marketing	Meets Standard?
Armley Park	2013								No
Bramley Falls Wood Park	2011								No
Bramley Park	2011								No
Gotts Park	2013								No
Rodley Park	2012								No
Stanningley Park	2013								No

Key:

Meets Leeds Quality Park Standard on average for this key criteria	
Below Leeds Quality Park Standard on average for this key criteria	

- 3.12 From this table, there are no parks identified that meet the Leeds Quality Park, and overall, the position remains unchanged compared to the previous Area Committee report. It should however be noted that since the last assessment of Bramley Park in 2011 investment of around £180k has been undertaken which should enable the park to achieve LQP standard when assessed in 2014.
- 3.13 It is planned in 2014 that the process of inspection will change to ensure that all community parks are assessed annually, rather than every 3 years as at present. This will allow improvements that have been made to be reflected in the performance standards in a more immediate way.
- 3.14 Improvements to community parks taking place during 2013 are as follows:
- Bramley Falls Wood Park – Item of play equipment (£10k)
 - Stanningley Park – Item of pay equipment (£10k)
 - Rodley Park – Landscaping, drainage, new infrastructure, interpretation and horticultural works (£77k) works underway
 - Bramley Park – Flood lighting scheme (£22k)

- 3.15 The following table provides a perspective on the minimum level of investment required to achieve the LQP standard for the five remaining parks. It also includes the level of reinvestment required across all the community parks in order to sustain the LQP pass up to 2020;

Site Name	Cost to Achieve (excluding fixed play)	Reinvestment (excluding fixed play)
Armley Park	£51,500	
Bramley Falls Wood Park	£93,000	
Gotts Park	£30,000	
Rodley Park	£29,000	
Stanningley Park	£157,479	
Total to achieve LQP	£360,979	
Average annual reinvestment		£20,868
Total reinvestment to 2020		£146,076
Overall total investment to 2020		£507,055

- 3.16 Reinvestment levels are estimated according to the expected lifespan of equipment and infrastructure as set out below:

Description	Timescale for Recurring Investment
Signage and interpretation	5 years
Fixed play (including MUGA's/skate parks)	10 years
Bins and benches	15 years
Paths and infrastructure	25 years
Landscaping	25 years

- 3.17 Planned and proposed improvements for the next 12 months are;

- Dunkirk Hill – tree works, paths, other infrastructure and interpretation (£91k).
- Armley and Gotts Park – tree works, paths, other infrastructure and interpretation (£73.5k).
- Armley Park – infrastructure improvements (£100k approx.).

- 3.18 In terms of fixed play, work has been undertaken to set out refurbishment requirements over a 10 year rolling programme in support of the outcomes of the Fixed Play Strategy. The average cost of a new playground is currently about £120k; Multi-use games areas and skate parks are slightly cheaper on average at about £90k each. The table below shows the capital investment required on an ongoing basis to fund the area committees existing fixed play sites:

Fixed Play Type	No.	Total Replacement Cost £'s	Required Average Annual Spend £'s
Play Areas	7	840,000	84,000
Multi Use games Areas	3	270,000	27,000
Skate Parks	1	90,000	9,000
Totals		1,200,000	120,000

Area Committee funding for additional site based gardeners

- 3.19 A number of area committees provide additional funding for gardeners to increase site based presence at parks in the area.
- 3.20 Since the introduction of site based gardeners, analysis shows that complaints to both Ward Councillors and the Parks and Countryside Service have declined on sites with increased daily presence. In addition, the service has observed an increase in the number of residents using parks and open spaces.
- 3.21 The site based gardeners increase working relationships with users, local residents and community groups. These site based staff further increase users satisfaction and support the aspiration to increase volunteer groups working within parks.

Streetscene Grounds Maintenance

- 3.22 Following a procurement exercise the streetscene grounds maintenance contract was awarded to Continental Landscapes Ltd (CLL) with effect from 1st January 2012. The management of the contract became the responsibility of Parks and Countryside with effect from the 1st September 2012 soon after the service transferred directorates. This enabled improvements to the management of the contract by integrating staff into an existing team which already had considerable knowledge and expertise of horticultural maintenance as well as the management and delivery of grounds maintenance contracts. From April 2013 the service took over budget management responsibility from the former ALMOs and highways along with undertaking monitoring activity and responding to customer enquiries and complaints.
- 3.23 The contract includes highway verges and incidental land around social housing. The specification requires the contractor to undertake litter removal from sites as part of horticultural management operations supporting the council's wider efforts to maintain clean streets. The table below shows the asset breakdown of contract items for the West Inner area committee:

Asset Type	Annual Visits	Unit	Total Quantity
Amenity grass	14	M ²	514,291
Premium grass	28	M ²	25,952
Arterial routes	6	M ²	273
Rough grass area	3	M ²	7,852
Linear and sight line grass	3	M	615
Shrub and rose beds	4	M ²	14,549
Hedges	3	M	154

- 3.24 Following an assessment of performance during the first year of operation, the frequency was increased during 2013 from 2 to 4 visits on shrub and rose beds. These changes aim to address concerns with the levels of weed growth and litter evident between visits. The following tables provide a summary of contract performance from March to the end of October 2013 to reflect the grass cutting season:

Percentage of scheduled operations completed for each type of asset March to October 2013:

Asset Type	%
Amenity grass	100%
Premium grass	100%
Arterial routes	100%
Rough grass area	60%
Linear and sight line grass	67%
Shrub and rose beds	98%
Hedges	100%

- 3.25 It should be noted that approximately 1 cut was missed on rough grass areas and linear grass in the areas due to equipment failure.

Customer Enquiries and Complaints March to October:

Type of enquiry or complaint	Number 2012	Number 2013	% Change
Quality issues relating to operation undertaken	77	75	-2.6%
Streetscene land not maintained by the contract	30	32	6.7%
Advice on related horticultural issues	12	21	75.0%
Health and safety incidents and accidents	8	4	-50.0%

Scrutiny

- 3.26 An update report was considered by the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Board during October 2013 that identified progress against recommendations made including the increased frequency of operations, established consultation with members on shrub bed removal, additional works being delivered by the contractor improving skill retention, and improved arrangements for contract management. It was agreed that a further update would be considered in autumn 2014.

Coordinated Working with Environmental Services

- 3.27 The Parks and Countryside Service move to the Environments & Housing Directorate in 2012 has given opportunities to improve collaborative working. In particular improvements in horticultural land management, cleansing and more efficient use of resources in regard to:

- Co-ordination of weed spraying activities with the grounds maintenance contract with a consistent approach to monitoring.
- Traffic Management arrangements co-ordinated to minimise costs and disruption of the highway.
- Litter collection in the vicinity of community parks, and as part of normal operations site based gardeners undertake an initial litter pick of the park which is being expanded to include some areas outside the curtilage of the park.

Conversely, street cleansing staff now assist with emptying litter bins in parks on a weekend when parks staff are not always present.

- The Parks and Countryside service has a number of welfare facilities and yard space available in most community parks distributed throughout the city which has provided an opportunity for the locality based teams to use these facilities for staff welfare provision and as operational bases.

Parks and Countryside Key Performance Indicators

3.28 The following table highlights key performance indicators relevant to the service;

PI Code	Description	2010/11 Actual	2011/12 Actual	2012/13 Actual	2013/14 Target
LKI-GFI / CP-PC50 / EM38	The percentage of parks and countryside sites assessed internally that meet the Green Flag criteria	23% Target: 23%	26.2% Target: 26.2%	30.8% Target: 29.4%	32.6%
New	The percentage of parks and countryside community parks which meet LQP status	33.9%	38.7% Target: 40%	42% Target: 47.5%	55.0%

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

4.1.1 Close liaison with community and ward members is already in existence, utilising a variety of mechanisms, for example through residents' surveys, multi-agency meetings and community forums. In addition volunteers, Friends of groups and local residents are regularly consulted on local projects with input on design and physical implementation of a wide range of site improvements.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

4.2.1 This report does not have any identified impact on equality and diversity arrangements.

4.3 Council Policies and City Priorities

4.3.1 The contents of this report set out how the Executive Board requirements can be met by taking a proactive approach to involve and engage Area Committees in matters relating to community parks.

4.3.2 The information within the report contributes significantly to the sustainable economy and culture city priority plan.

4.4 Resources and Value for Money

- 4.4.1 As part of the wider impact on local government and the Council in particular, the Parks and Countryside service has seen a £2 million budget reduction from 2011/12 to 2012/13 and a further reduction of £0.6 million in 2013/14, with a likelihood of a minimum further 16% reduction in the next few years. In meeting these challenging budget targets the service has already undertaken a number of steps, including reducing the number of managers and back office staff as well as price increases – including removing subsidy for bereavement services and allotment provision. As previously mentioned, outdoor bowls has also been recently reviewed working with representatives from the relevant associations resulting in revised arrangements in 2014.
- 4.4.2 The service has also sought to be enterprising and innovative including working in partnership to develop a conservatory at Golden Acre café, Tropical World refurbishment, sponsorship, nursery trading and increasing the level of volunteers. Agreement has been reached in principle with the Trade Unions to adopt seasonal working hours from January 2014 resulting in a saving of £140k by reducing the number of seasonal staff recruited each year whilst retaining permanent gardening staff and enabling the introduction of 6 further horticultural apprentices.
- 4.4.3 The service undertakes to sustain and develop the services provided to the public and has traditionally used a number of sources of financial support to achieve developments. These include grants from bodies such as Green Leeds Ltd, Sustrans, Natural England, National Lottery funding and developer contributions via section 106 (S106) funds.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

- 4.5.1 This report has no legal implications and is not subject to call in. There is no information which is confidential or exempt.

4.6 Risk Management

- 4.6.1 There are no significant risk management issues contained within the report, its conclusions and recommendations.

5 Conclusions

- 5.1 Community green space contributes in many ways to the delivery of the Corporate Priority Plan. They provide places for relaxation, escape, exercise and recreation. They bring communities together and make a positive contribution to the local economy, education, improve public health and well-being, and generally make a better place to live, work and visit.
- 5.2 Improvements to community parks, fixed play and playing pitches remain a priority, and there already has been investment made to deliver improvements along with further schemes identified. Issues are being addressed through the Parks and Green Space Strategy along with implementation of the Fixed Play Strategy and Playing Pitch Strategy.

- 5.3 Community engagement remains a key activity for the service with regular correspondence, attendance at meetings and briefings, along with more localised consultation where required.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 The Area Committee is requested to note the content of the report and to communicate priorities for investment in community parks, playing pitches and fixed play facilities in light of the issues raised.

7 Background documents

- 7.1 Area Committee Roles, Outer West Area Committee, 4th July 2011.
- 7.2 Annual Report for Parks and Countryside Service in West Inner Area Committee, West Inner Area Committee, 2012.
- 7.3 Parks and Green Space Strategy, Executive Board, February 2009.

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