



SCRUTINY BOARD (ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOODS)

Meeting to be held in the Civic Hall, Leeds on
Wednesday, 26th March, 2008 at 10.00 am

A pre-meeting will take place for ALL Members of the Board
in a Committee Room at 9.30 am

MEMBERSHIP

Councillors

B Anderson (Chair)	-	Adel and Wharfedale
C Beverley	-	Morley South
A Blackburn	-	Farnley and Wortley
D Coupar	-	Middleton Park
Mrs R Feldman	-	Alwoodley
A Gabriel	-	Beeston and Holbeck
D Hollingsworth	-	Burmantofts and Richmond Hill
G Hyde	-	Killingbeck and Seacroft
R Lewis	-	Pudsey
A Ogilvie	-	Beeston and Holbeck
L Rhodes-Clayton	-	Hyde Park and Woodhouse
F Robinson	-	Calverley and Farsley

Please note: Certain or all items on this agenda may be recorded on tape

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A G E N D A

Item No	Ward/Equal Opportunities	Item Not Open		Page No
1			<p>APPEALS AGAINST REFUSAL OF INSPECTION OF DOCUMENTS</p> <p>To consider any appeals in accordance with Procedure Rule 25 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules (in the event of an Appeal the press and public will be excluded.)</p>	
2			<p>EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC</p> <p>To identify items where resolutions may be moved to exclude the public.</p>	
3			<p>LATE ITEMS</p> <p>To identify items which have been admitted to the agenda by the Chair for consideration.</p> <p>(The special circumstances shall be specified in the minutes.)</p>	
4			<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</p> <p>To declare any personal / prejudicial interests for the purpose of Section 81 (3) of the Local Government Act 2000 and paragraphs 8 to 12 of the Members Code of Conduct.</p>	
5			<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</p> <p>To receive any apologies for absence.</p>	
6			<p>MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING</p> <p>To receive and approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on 27th February 2008.</p>	1 - 6
7			<p>OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - MINUTES</p> <p>To receive and note the minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 5th February 2008.</p>	7 - 12

Item No	Ward/Equal Opportunities	Item Not Open		Page No
8			<p>ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOODS REVENUE BUDGET IMPLICATIONS 2008/09</p> <p>To consider a report of the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods on the implications of the agreed budget within Environment and Neighbourhoods for 2008/09.</p>	13 - 28
9			<p>WASTE SOLUTION PROGRAMME FOR LEEDS</p> <p>To consider a report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development on the Waste Solution Programme for Leeds.</p>	29 - 34
10			<p>THE ROLE OF THE COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY SECTOR IN DEVELOPING THE INTEGRATED WASTE STRATEGY FOR LEEDS</p> <p>To consider a report of the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods on the role of the Community and Voluntary Sector in developing the Integrated Waste Strategy for Leeds.</p>	35 - 42
11			<p>WORK PROGRAMME</p> <p>To consider a report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development on the Board's Work Programme.</p>	43 - 50
12			<p>DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>To discuss arrangements for a Board meeting to be held in April 2008.</p>	

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Agenda Item 6

SCRUTINY BOARD (ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOODS)

WEDNESDAY, 27TH FEBRUARY, 2008

PRESENT: Councillor B Anderson in the Chair

Councillors C Beverley, A Blackburn,
D Coupar, Mrs R Feldman, A Gabriel,
D Hollingsworth and R Lewis

78 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillors B Anderson and A Blackburn declared personal interests in any matters relating to their membership of West/North West Leeds Homes ALMO. Councillor D Hollingsworth declared a personal interest in any matters relating to his membership of Leeds East/North East Homes ALMO.

(Councillor R Lewis also declared a personal interest later in the meeting under Minute No. 85.)

79 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors A Ogilvie, L Rhodes-Clayton and G Hyde.

80 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The Chair requested an addition to **Minute 75** of the minutes - Integrated Waste Strategy for Leeds–The Role of the Third Sector - an additional bullet point under main issues discussed to read: 'The Board discussed the need to use equitable cost comparisons when comparing collection/disposal costs, to help demonstrate value for money.' This was agreed by the Board.

RESOLVED – That with the additional bullet point to Minute 75 to read: 'The Board discussed the need to use equitable cost comparisons when comparing collection/disposal costs, to help demonstrate value for money', the minutes of the meeting held on 30th January 2008 be approved as a correct record.

81 **Matters Arising**

The Chair advised the Board that, with regard to Minute 74: **Budgetary Issues and Considerations**, the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods had been invited to report back to the March meeting of the Board.

In addition regarding Minute 75:**Integrated Waste Strategy for Leeds – The Role of the Third Sector**, the Chair advised that this report was also scheduled to be submitted to the March meeting of the Board.

82 Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Minutes

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 8th January 2008 be received and noted.

83 Executive Board - Minutes

RESOLVED – That the minutes of The Executive Board meeting held on 8th February 2008 be received and noted.

84 Performance Report Quarter 3 2007/08

The Head of Policy, Performance and Improvement submitted a report outlining the key performance issues considered to be of corporate significance for the Environment and Neighbourhoods Directorate as at the end of Quarter 3 (1st October to 31st December 2007).

Neil Evans, Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods, attended the meeting to present the report and respond to questions from the Board. The Chair also welcomed to the meeting, Executive Board Members Councillor J L Carter (Neighbourhoods and Housing) and Councillor S Smith (Environmental Services).

Issues raised by the Board on particular Performance Indicators were in brief summary:

- **BV-174 and BV-175 – The number of racial incidents recorded by the authority per 100,000 population and the percentage of racial incidents that resulted in further action** – Issues of under reporting were raised by Members. The Board requested information on the further action taken on racial incidents by area.
- **CP-CS50/LAA-SSC8/PSA1 – Reduce overall crime levels in Leeds by 35% by 2008** – Members were of the view that the current 30.5% reduction in crime levels was an excellent result as this was a very ambitious target.
- **LKI-EH8/CPA-H18 – Percentage of private sector homes vacant for more than 6 months** – Officers advised that the Council was very effective in chasing up landlords of vacant property and taking enforcement action. Performance was however being affected by the falling student market in Headingley and the increase in long term empty 'investment' properties in new city centre developments. Members expressed concern regarding properties that had been empty for some time and which had become derelict. It was suggested that Officers focus their efforts on particular problem areas of the city.
- **SP-KPI1 – Service users who are supported to establish and maintain independent living** – Officers advised that the comparative information should soon start to be published by other authorities.
- **BV-184a/CP-HM51/CPA-H1 and BV-184b/CPA-H2 – The proportion of local authority homes which were non-decent at 1st April 2007 and the percentage change in the proportion of non-decent LA homes which are not decent between 1st April 2007 and 1st April 2008** –

Officers advised that the results seemed static due to work being carried out on the basis of individual elements rather than whole-house improvements. Officers further advised that they were confident that decency levels would be met by 2010.

- **BV-91/CPA-E7A and BV-91b – Percentage of population resident in the authority’s area serviced by a kerbside collection of recyclables and Percentage of households resident in the authority’s area served by a kerbside collection of at least two recyclables –**
 - ◆ Officers advised that significant sums of money were being provided for the development of the service and they were confident that targets for this year would be achieved. (*Detail of this would be included in the Budget report scheduled for the Board’s meeting in March.*)
 - ◆ The issue of providing high rise flats with recycling facilities was raised by Members, along with the need to encourage recycling by high rise residents – Officers advised that there were now planning regulations with regard to recycling facilities for new high rise flats.
 - ◆ With regard to the percentage of green bin waste being contaminated, Members were advised that this was about 4%.
 - ◆ Officers agreed to provide Members with information on these indicators on a Ward basis.
 - ◆ With regard to providing temporary recycling facilities on new housing estates, Members were advised that such facilities were not always practicable, however the Department was keen to provide more communal facilities generally.
- **LKI-RC1 – Number of household collections missed per 100,000 collections** – Officers advised that the disparity in reporting missed bins by crews and members of the public had been brought to the attention of the management team.
- **BV218b/LAA-SSC57 – Percentage of abandoned vehicles removed within 24 hours from the point at which the authority is legally entitled to remove the vehicle** - Officers advised that when contracts came up for renewal, contingency measures would be looked at to cover for when contractors were unavailable.

The Chair thanked the Executive Members and Officers for attending and responding to the issues, queries and concerns raised by the Board.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the report be noted.
- (b) With regard to BV175/CPA-H19 – The percentage of racial incidents that resulted in further action - that information be provided to the Board by Officers on the further action taken on an area basis.
- (c) With regard to BV-91/CPA-E7A and BV-91b – Percentage of population resident in the authority’s area serviced by a kerbside collection of recyclables and Percentage of households resident in the authority’s area served by a kerbside collection of at least two recyclables – that information be provided to the Board by Officers on these indicators on a Ward basis.

85 Safer Leeds Partnership Plan

Draft minutes to be approved at the meeting
to be held on Wednesday, 26th March, 2008

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods submitted a report seeking the Board's comments on the draft Safer Leeds Partnership Plan which was attached to the report. The Plan set out the priorities for 2008 – 11 and reported on the progress made towards the current three-year Safer Leeds Strategy running from 2005 until 2008.

Richard Jackson, Chief Officer, Leeds Community Safety and Harvinder Saimbhi, Community Safety Development Manager, attended the meeting to present the report and respond to questions from the Board. They were accompanied by Councillor J L Carter, the Executive Board Member for Neighbourhoods and Housing and Chair of Safer Leeds Board.

Members raised a number of issues and questioned Officers on various aspects of the Plan, in particular:

- **Performance monitoring and reporting** of progress against the targets set out in the Plan - Officers reported that performance was monitored and reported on a regular basis to the Safer Leeds Partnership Board, the Safer Leeds Partnership Executive and Government Office for Yorkshire and Humber (GOYH).
- The need for **prostitution** and **domestic violence against males** to be addressed in the Plan.
- **Funding** – Members were advised that funding for the Safer Leeds Partnership was received from a variety of sources and although less money was available than the previous year, Officers were confident that the activities outlined in the draft Plan could be delivered.
- **Rape** – the low prosecution rates and the need to encourage reporting of this crime – Members were advised that with very specialised issues such as rape, the Safer Leeds Partnership worked in partnership with existing dedicated West Yorkshire wide units. The Chair outlined that statistical data regarding rape and where to access this information, could be added to the Board's Work Programme.
- **Under age drinking and the supply of alcohol to minors** – Members requested information on the alcohol strategy.
- The frequency of and attendance at '**Face the People**' events – Members were of the view that as well as the city wide event, smaller neighbourhood events were also necessary in order to engage with a wider audience.

The Chair thanked Officers for attending the meeting.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That Members' comments on the Safer Leeds Partnership Plan be noted and included in the development of the Plan prior to it being formally adopted.
- (b) That the issue of statistical data pertaining to rape and the accessibility of this information be added by the Principal Scrutiny Adviser to the Board's Work Programme for future consideration.
- (c) That information on the alcohol strategy be provided to Members by Officers.

(Note: Councillor R Lewis declared a personal interest in this item as a Member of the Safer Leeds Partnership.)

86 Waste Solution Programme for Leeds

The Head of Scrutiny Support and Member Development submitted a report presenting Members with a brief update on the project, notifying Members of proposals for developing the evaluation criteria and of a presentation at the meeting on the proposed consultation framework.

Pippa Milne, Recycling and Waste Manager, and Andrew Lingham, Senior Project Manager (Waste Solution) attended the meeting to present this item and respond to queries and comments from the Board. Andrew Mason, the new Chief Environmental Services Officer was also introduced to the Board and outlined his responsibilities.

The following additional information provided before the meeting was recirculated to Members at the meeting:

- The Waste Strategy Forward Consultation Plan 2008/09,
- An Overview of the Evaluation Process and,
- The Board's Work Programme as regards the Waste Strategy – Scrutiny Inquiry.

Officers advised Members on the evaluation methodology and procurement process.

Lengthy discussion took place during which Members queried the current **status of the Leaders' Waste Strategy Working Group** and the **proposal to merge its work with that of the Scrutiny Board**. In particular, Members queried the compatibility of the scrutiny role with that of the Leaders' Working Group. The Chair undertook to clarify the issues raised by Members.

Members expressed their displeasure that the circulated information had not been distributed with the agenda papers and that, although their views were being sought on the proposed **consultation exercise**, the process had already begun and therefore the requested deferral of this item on the agenda was not possible. As a result, Members were disappointed that their comments on the proposed questions to be included in the March edition of the 'About Leeds' newspaper could not be taken into account as the editorial process had already been finalised, and that this had not been made clear at the outset. Members were however advised of the proposal for the **evaluation criteria** to be examined in more detail at the March meeting of the Board.

With regard to the **consultation exercise**, Members' views on the blandness of the questions and concerns whether the focus groups would be representative of the wider community of Leeds were noted.

The Chair requested assurances that the next stage would be carried out in a more open and detailed way.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That Officers discuss with Members how revised questions could be incorporated into the consultation process and whether these questions should be asked at the focus group meetings.
- (b) That a breakdown of how many people in each Ward would take part in the focus groups be supplied by Officers to the Board.
- (c) That the Board's consideration of the evaluation criteria be deferred until such time that the status of the Leaders' Waste Strategy Working Group has been clarified and more details provided regarding the compatibility of the scrutiny role with that of the Working Group.

87 Work Programme

The Head of Scrutiny and Member Development submitted a report on the Board's work programme.

Appended to the report was a copy of the Board's Work Programme as at January 2008 (Appendix 1) and the Forward Plan of Key Decisions – 1st February 2008 to 31st May 2008 (Appendix 2).

In brief summary, the following issues were raised:

- An outstanding question from the **2007/08 budget** as to where in the papers was there mention of the anticipated savings in reducing the Area Management Teams from five down to three.
- Regarding the item on **Rodent Control** planned for the March meeting of the Board – members were advised that this item had been deferred so that a representative from Rentokil could report to the Board
- Regarding the report on the **Leeds Strategic Plan** scheduled in the Board's Work Programme for March, the Board requested that only the indicators relevant to this Scrutiny Board be supplied.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the contents of the report and appendices be noted.
- (b) That the issues as raised above be noted and the Work Programme be amended accordingly.

88 Date and Time of Next Meeting

Noted that the next meeting of the Board would be held on Wednesday 26th March 2008 at 10.00am, with a pre-meeting for the Board at 9.30am.

The Chair thanked Members for attending and the meeting concluded at 12.15pm.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, 5TH FEBRUARY, 2008

PRESENT: Councillor P Grahame in the Chair

Councillors S Bentley, J Chapman,
B Gettings, T Hanley, A McKenna, W Hyde,
E Minkin and R Pryke

APOLOGIES: Councillor B Anderson

77 Chair's Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, in particular the representatives of local running clubs, who were present in connection with Agenda Item 9, Leeds Half Marathon, and Members and officers introduced themselves.

78 Declaration of Interests

The following Members made personal declarations of interest in respect of the following items:

Councillor Chapman – Agenda Item 11 (Minute No. 84 refers) – ALMO Working Group – Progress Report – Director of West North West Homes Leeds ALMO Board.

Councillor Gettings – Agenda Item 11 (Minute No. 84 refers) – ALMO Working Group – Progress Report – Member of Outer South Area ALMO Panel.

79 Minutes - 8th January 2008

- (a) Leeds Strategic Plan and Council Business Plan 2008-2011 – Outcomes and Priorities (Minute No 73 refers)
The Head of Scrutiny and Member Development undertook to pursue and circulate the proposed final amended wording referred to in the second bullet point of this minute

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 8th January 2008 be confirmed as a correct record.

80 Minutes - Executive Board - 23rd January 2008

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Board held on 23rd January 2008 be received and noted.

Final minutes - approved at the meeting
held on Tuesday, 11th March, 2008

81 Scrutiny Inquiry - Responding to the Needs of Migrants and their Families

Further to Minute No 65, 11th December 2007, and Minute No 75, 8th January 2008, the Committee received an update from Neil Evans, Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods, who was present at the meeting, regarding the progress and work of the multi-agency officers New Migrant Communities Task Group on this issue in Leeds.

In brief summary, the main areas of discussion were:

- The fact that Leeds, due to its facilities and economy, was attractive to both economic migrants and refugees and asylum seekers;
- The need to bear in mind the distinction between **economic migrants**, who often were from EU Accession States in Eastern Europe, and **refugees/ asylum seekers**, often from world trouble spots, the different rules applying to these groups and their different needs. There was a national and local strategy in place for dealing with refugees and asylum seekers, their distribution across and within regions, and the Council was involved in discussion and negotiations with the Government in this regard. There was no such strategy or controls in respect of economic migrants. Economic migrants had no right to access **benefits or social housing** for the first 12 months, but having established themselves during that period, they were entitled under EU law to the same rights as a citizen of the UK – not preferential rights;
- The historical context to the current situation as outlined above;
- The **benefits of immigration**, as well as some of the difficulties, and the need to better disseminate information and dispel myths;
- The importance of **communicating directly with immigrant communities**, not just between agencies, taking on board the experience and support structures established by earlier immigrants, and the need not to forget the immigrant communities already well-established in the City, such as Kurds and French-speaking black immigrants;
- The recent Government decision to reduce funding nationally for **English lessons** for immigrants, and what Leeds could do to enhance this service and to provide appropriate **translation and interpretation services**;
- Members requested further information regarding the **numbers and ethnic breakdown** of refugees and asylum seekers across the Yorkshire and Humber region. The situation regarding the numbers of both refugees and asylum seekers and economic migrants arriving in the area had changed dramatically over the past 10 years, and this in turn would involve **service planning** changes to meet different needs.

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods undertook to take on board Members comments, to supply the additional information requested and to provide the Committee with a **further update report** following the proposed publication in March of the results of the research project currently being undertaken under the auspices of the Task Group.

Final minutes - approved at the meeting
held on Tuesday, 11th March, 2008

RESOLVED – That the report be noted, and the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods submit a further progress report later in the year.

82 Leeds Half Marathon

Further to the cancelled Call-In meeting scheduled for 23rd January 2008, following a decision to reinstate the Leeds Half Marathon for 2008 and to review its long-term future, the Committee considered a report submitted by the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development and also received further evidence in respect of this matter.

Present at the meeting to respond to Members' queries and comments were Councillor John Procter, Executive Member (Leisure), Martin Farrington, Acting Chief Recreation Officer and Mark Allman, Head of Sport and Active Recreation. Also invited to speak were Bob Jackson (Valley Striders running club), Colin Morath (Abbey Runners) and Bob Foulkes (Horsforth Harriers).

In brief summary, the main areas of discussion were:-

- The **background** to and reasons behind the original decision to cancel the Half Marathon in 2008. Principally, these had been a desire to provide effective support to the Jane Tomlinson 'Run for All' 10k event, the close proximity of the proposed dates of the two events in May 2008, the pressures imposed on the Sport and Recreation Service by organising either of these events, let alone two virtually simultaneously, the relative importance and status of the Half Marathon and the number of participants in comparison with the 'Run for All', and long standing issues regarding the route and condition of the Half Marathon course and the amount of disruption caused by the necessary road closures. The officer decision to cancel the Half Marathon in 2008, taken in consultation and with the agreement of Councillor Procter, and pending a review of the long term future of the event, had therefore been taken for valid reasons. However, this decision had proved unpopular, especially amongst the running fraternity, and a decision had been taken to **reinstate** the race, but to move it to September. One possible date had been 21st September, but it was now more likely to be **7th September**, and this date was currently being canvassed with interested parties;
- The lack of **consultation** with Members and interested parties, which had it taken place might have avoided the controversy, and the need for appropriate consultation to always be a prime consideration whenever delegated decisions were taken. Two specific suggestions arising from the discussion were the proposed formation of a **forum** comprising representatives of local running clubs, with whom the Council could consult, and the **Council publishing details of local running events on its website**, both of which it was felt would aid communication and co-ordination. The decision also did not appear to have been included in the **Forward Plan of Key Decisions**, and the Head of Scrutiny undertook to investigate.

- **The long term future of the Half Marathon** – Councillor Procter indicated that the decision to reinstate the Half Marathon in September provided a breathing space for the Council and interested parties to review the longer term future of the event. In its early years, the Leeds Half Marathon had been an extremely popular, well supported and high profile event. Perhaps due to the proliferation of events since then, its popularity had waned somewhat, although it still attracted in the region of 3,000 runners. Councillor Procter indicated that while ever there was sufficient demand from participants for the Leeds Half Marathon, he was happy to support its continuation – it was up to the entrants to prove its popularity. The documented problems with the route, and the strain imposed on the Sport and Recreation Department in organising the event, were matters which would have to be taken into account when planning for the future.

The original decision had, in part, been taken in order to allow the Council and the Department to concentrate on trying to establish a high profile, nationally recognised event for the City, and it was possible that the **Jane Tomlinson 'Run for All'** would provide that opportunity in terms of possibly up to 10,000 participants, sponsorship and media coverage.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the report be noted and Members be informed of the agreed final date of the 2008 Leeds Half Marathon.
- (b) That the matter be referred to the Scrutiny Board (Culture and Leisure) with a view to that Board monitoring the proposed review of the event for 2009 and beyond.
- (c) That OSC receive a further report in due course when the proposed future of the event is clearer.

83 Recommendation Tracking - Scrutiny Inquiry - 'When Contracts Go Wrong'

Further to Minute No 36, 11th September 2007, the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development submitted a report updating the Committee regarding progress on the implementation of its recommendations arising from the Committee's 2006/07 Inquiry entitled 'When Contracts Go Wrong'.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the report be noted.
- (b) That in respect of the first two recommendations, these be categorised as 4 (not achieved, but progress made acceptable, and continue monitoring) and the third recommendation be categorised as 2 (Achieved).

84 ALMO Working Group - Progress Report

Further to Minute No 40, 9th October 2007, and Minute No 75, 8th January 2008, the Committee received a progress report from the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development regarding the work of the ALMO Working Group, which had been looking at issues surrounding the use of Right to Buy receipts within the capital programme and whether or not an Inquiry was necessary.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted and the Working Group meet at least one last time to resolve any outstanding issues.

85 Performance Report - Quarter 3 2007/08

The Head of Policy, Performance and Improvement submitted a report updating the Committee on performance against targets across a raft of statutory and local indicators, involving all the Scrutiny Board's areas of responsibility, highlighting achievement levels for Quarter 3 (1st October to 31st December 2007).

Marilyn Summers, Chief Executive's Department, attended the meeting and responded to Members' queries and comments. In brief summary, the main issues discussed were:-

- The significant improvements in performance in the areas of **crime reduction and adult social care**;
- Continuing concerns regarding **staff sickness absence levels**. It was agreed that this matter should be picked up by the Scrutiny Board (Resources);
- **Graffiti** – The on-going problems with tackling graffiti were noted, and Members expressed concern at the apparent lack of progress in tackling the problem. Surprise was also expressed at the reference to the 'targeting of resources to the areas of greatest need, such as recreation and industrial areas'. Whilst graffiti was an eyesore wherever it appeared, Members stated that residential areas were a greater priority, and called for greater consultation with Ward Members e.g. Inner North West area. The issue was referred to the Scrutiny Board (Environment and Neighbourhoods) for further consideration;
- **Youth Provision** – The patchy nature of the provision of the youth service across the City was remarked upon, with some areas having no provision at all and others having inadequate provision which did not take into account recent expansions in population numbers. Sickness levels amongst youth workers was also an issue. Councillor W Hyde stated that the Scrutiny Board (Children's Services) was considering these same statistics at its meeting on 14th February and would take into account Members' comments;
- **Adoptions** – It was noted that the Council would not achieve its target for raising the rate of adoptions for Looked-After Children and Young People in Leeds. It was felt that to a large degree this was a direct consequence of an increase in the number of social workers employed and the continuing high number of children and young people placed in care in Leeds for their own protection.

RESOLVED – That subject to the above comments, the report be received and noted.

86 Work Programme

The Head of Scrutiny and Member Development submitted a copy of the Committee's work programme, updated to reflect decisions taken at previous meetings, together with a relevant extract from the Council's Forward Plan of Key Decisions for the period 1st February to 31st May 2008.

RESOLVED – That subject to any changes necessary as a result of today's meeting, the Committee's work programme be received and noted.

87 Dates and Times of Future Meetings

Tuesday 11th March 2008

Tuesday 8th April 2008

Both at 10.00 am (Pre-meetings at 9.30 am)

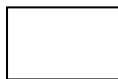
Report of the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods

Scrutiny Board: Environment

Date: 26th March 2008

Subject: Environment and Neighbourhoods Revenue Budget 2008/2009

Electoral Wards Affected:



Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

1.0 Background

1.1 At its meeting on the 30th January Scrutiny Board (Environment and Neighbourhoods) requested that during the current municipal year the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods be invited to report back to the Board after the 2008/2009 budget had been finalised and agreed, to enable the Board to more fully consider the financial constraints affecting the Department and to identify the impact in any specific service areas.

1.2 This report sets out details of the Environment and Neighbourhoods, both General Fund and Housing Revenue Account, for the financial year 2008/2009.

2.0 General Fund services

2.0.1 The original estimate has been prepared at outturn prices.

2.1 Service Context

2.1.1 The approved Integrated Waste Strategy for Leeds will require significant investment by the Council over the forthcoming years, if objectives are to be met. The strategy incorporates the diversion of waste from landfill in the short to medium term (2007/08 to 2013/14) by the implementation of service developments designed to increase recycling and composting to more than 50% by 2020, and in the longer term, the utilisation of a residual waste technical solution to commence 2014.

2.1.2 In August 2007 the Council was informed of the Government's intention to address the backlog of unresolved asylum cases by July 2011. The implication of this target is that the Council will need to make available appropriate accommodation to meet

the requirements of this proposal.

- 2.1.3 The Leeds Housing Decency Programme will come to an end in 2010/11, with programmed investment declining year on year to this point. This reduction will have financial implications for those General Fund services that are reliant on work to support the programme.
- 2.1.4 In November 2007 Executive Board approved proposed changes to Area Committee responsibilities and working arrangements with a view to increasing the scope for services to be delivered at a local level.
- 2.1.5 A fundamental review of Jobs and Skills has been undertaken in order to reposition the service to respond to a changing national agenda for worklessness, and support the Council's own strategic objectives in this area. The change is intended to move the service away from being reliant on external funding to being a more prominent and effective provider of services, working with strategic partners to a defined agenda.
- 2.1.6 From 2008/09 the Department of Communities and Local Government has terminated the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF), a targeted area based grant available to local authority areas based on District ranking on the Index of Deprivation. Leeds was allocated £14.9m in 2007/08. NRF has been replaced by a new grant, the Working Neighbourhoods Fund (WNF), designed to improve employment and enterprise in disadvantaged neighbourhoods.
- 2.1.7 Unfortunately, Leeds, by a narrow margin is not eligible for funding under the qualifying criteria. The Council will receive transitional funding to manage its exit from NRF of £8.9m in 2008/09 and £3.5m in 2009/10. The work programme is being reviewed to manage the reduction in funding so as to minimise its impact and sustain improvements gained to date that are required to achieve the delivery of our strategic priorities.

2.2 Summary of the Revenue Budget

Actual 2006/07		Original Estimate (OE) 07/08	Latest Estimate (LE) 07/08	Variation OE to LE 07/08		Original Estimate (OE) 08/09	Variation OE 07/08 to OE 08/09	
				£000	%		£000	%
£000		£000	£000	£000	%	£000	£000	%
370,381	Gross Expenditure	353,336	361,893	8,557	2	353,760	423	0
253,944 Cr	Income	233,354 Cr	240,562 Cr	7,208 Cr	3	236,674 Cr	3,320 Cr	1
116,437	Net Expenditure	119,982	121,331	1,349	1	117,086	2,897 Cr	2 Cr
35,569 Cr	Charges to other directorates	36,293 Cr	34,281 Cr	2,012	6	30,438 Cr	5,855	16
80,868	Net Cost of Service	83,689	87,050	3,361	4	86,648	2,958	3

2.3 Explanation of variations between the Original Estimate 2007/08 and the Original Estimate 2008/09 (£2,958k)

- 2.3.1 The variation between the OE 2007/08 and the OE 2008/09 can be summarised as follows:

£000

Net Cost of Service – Original Estimate 2007/08	83,689
Transfer to/from Revenue Support Grant	827 Dr
Adjusted Base	84,516
Changes in prices	3,346 Dr
Service budget changes	
• Other factors not affecting the level of service	4,314 Cr
• Changes in service levels	3,745 Dr
• Efficiency savings (cashable)	1,529 Cr
	2,098 Cr
Technical adjustments	361 Cr
Variations in charges for capital	1,245 Dr
Net Cost of Service – Original Estimate 2008/09	86,648 Dr

2.4 Changes in prices

2.4.1 The impact of the budgeted pay award together with an increase in the employer's superannuation contribution will result in an increase of £1,624k. Other price variations of £890k reflect known fuel and waste site gate fee increases. A further £8 per tonne increase in Landfill Tax based on projected tonnages will cost £1,773k.

2.4.2 In total increases in income of £941k reflect a 5% price increase, and in respect of car parking, this increase will be implemented following a review of price and tariff bandings for both on street and off street parking.

Provision has been made for a 2% increase on grants to voluntary organisations.

2.5 Service Budget Changes

2.5.1 Income from the mandatory licensing of high risk houses in multiple occupation (HMOs) has been less than anticipated, and in order to reflect this level of demand, running costs now reflect the reduced level of activity (£309k).

2.5.2 The contract for operating a regional asylum facility at Hillside has been adjusted by £68k, and also the impact of asylum case resolution which will reduce income down by £210k.

2.5.3 In respect of Homelessness accommodation and the Sheltered Warden service, it is intended to review the process to increase the recovery level of eligible income (£150k).

2.5.4 In October 2007 responsibility for management of the Hollies and Pennington hostels transferred to the private sector with relevant staff being subject to TUPE. Residual costs associated with these facilities are partially offset by the reconfiguration of the night worker service at these establishments (£248k).

2.5.5 The budgeted deficit in respect of the door factory in Roseville Enterprises is expected to increase in 2008/2009 reflecting a reduction in the level of anticipated orders from the ALMOs (£232k), as the Housing Decency Programme nears completion over the next three years.

2.5.6 Additional resources (£100k) have been provided to support the

development of the Joint Services Centre programme.

- 2.5.7 A sum of £50k has been incorporated into the budget, to match a similar amount being provided by Bradford City Council, and this resource will be used to promote regeneration and development opportunities with the Leeds-Bradford corridor.
- 2.5.8 In response to the repositioning of the service to meet the Council's priorities in relation to worklessness, combined with the loss of external funding and other income reductions within the Jobs and Skills service, there have been consequential impacts in respect of expenditure on staff, premises, materials, contractor payments as well as a reduction in payments to other providers (£223k).
- 2.5.9 In line with the Waste Strategy additional resources (£1,171k) have been provided to enhance the current collection service. Although the service developments have yet to be finalised, it is intended that the Garden Waste Brown Bin Collection service is expanded to build on the success of the pilot introduced in October 2006 and introduce, where appropriate a fortnightly SORT kerbside collection. In addition further resources will be provided to support the implementation of these service enhancements including enhanced education and awareness to help and further increase participation in recycling (£365k).
The service developments are designed to increase the combined recycling and composting rate to 30% by the year end.
- 2.5.10 Disposal costs associated with recycling and reuse are projected to increase by £273k although this is offset by a 10% reduction in the amount of waste taken to landfill. This reduction in volume will result in landfill tax and gate fees savings of £540k and £377k respectively.
- 2.5.11 Through the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (LATS), which was introduced in 2005/2006 as a means of ensuring compliance with the European Union targets on the reduction of biodegradable waste sent to landfill, income of £597k is anticipated through the sale of surplus permits in 2008/2009.
- 2.5.12 Additional resources (£750k) have been provided to support the implementation of the Authority's Waste Strategy including the procurement of a residual waste facility.
- 2.5.13 Income which is receivable from electricity generation at the closed Gamblethorpe landfill site is projected to reduce by £135k. This is due to a reduction in the amount of electricity being generated from the site being offset by an increase in the price received from its sale.
- 2.5.14 Vehicle repair budgets within Streetscene Services have been increased by £263k in order to more accurately reflect the level of expenditure that is actually being incurred. This increase will largely be offset by the delivery of efficiencies relating to the management of the Refuse Collection fleet.
- 2.5.15 Within Streetscene Services income is budgeted to reduce by £114k largely as a result of reductions in income receivable for second collections and trade waste.

- 2.5.16 A reassessment of the overall provision for the implementation of job evaluation across all directorates of the Council, has resulted in £619k of the provision within Environment and Neighbourhoods being transferred to other directorates.
- 2.5.17 The reduction in cost in respect of the administration of Housing Benefits (£449k) is due to a combination of savings on running costs and a change in the method of apportioning costs between Housing and Council Tax Benefits which has reduced the recharge to Housing Benefits.
- 2.5.18 In order to continue the fortnightly collection of SORT material from bin yards, £100k has been provided to maintain this service, whilst an additional £115k provides for the increased cost associated with replacing lost or damaged wheeled bins in residential properties.
- 2.5.19 Income associated with Penalty Charge Notices is projected to increase by £191k largely as result of the Government requiring Local Authorities to review and revise the current level of statutory charges.
- 2.5.20 Budgeted resources in the 2007/2008 base budget, which reflect contributions to and from the Authority's General Reserves, are no longer required (£420k).
- 2.5.21 Central Recharges have reduced by £1,001k largely reflects the realignment of support budgets to reflect the new directorates structures across the Council.
- 2.5.22 In 2008/2009 NRF and SSCF grant has reduced and this will require the Directorate to manage corresponding expenditure reductions.

2.6 Efficiency savings

- 2.6.1 Following the publication of the Gershon report on public sector efficiencies, in setting the budget the council is required to identify actions to improve efficiency and quantify the expected gains. Cashable gains represent the potential to release savings in cash for other areas of spend; non-cashable efficiencies relate to improved outputs or enhanced service quality for the same expenditure, efficiencies that achieve reductions in fees and charges to the public, and improvements to productive time (unless fewer staff are needed as a result). In terms of this directorate the following savings have been identified.

Nature of saving	Total £k
<i>Staffing efficiencies will generated through an increase in the budgeted number of vacant posts across a range of services that include Environmental Health, Housing Needs, Regeneration and Support Services.</i>	606
<i>The continued review of the utilisation of staff and focus upon managing all areas of expenditure within Community Centres will generate efficiency savings.</i>	100
<i>Within Streetscene Services efficiencies will derive through the extent to which overtime and Agency staff are utilised to deal with service demands.</i>	100
<i>More informed utilisation of bulky collection resources will require fewer resources to be deployed to provide this service.</i>	100
<i>A fundamental review of the deployment and utilisation of the Refuse Collection fleet has identified efficiency savings particularly around the size of the reserve fleet.</i>	250
<i>Within the Street Cleansing service there will be a reduction in the level of provision set aside to cover sickness.</i>	100
<i>Within Refuse Collection, revised contract arrangements have resulted in a reduction in external hire arrangements</i>	38
<i>A detailed review of the Directorate's budget will generate efficiency savings.</i>	235

2.7 Prudential Borrowing

2.7.1 In addition to the above budget, provision of £699k has been made for the revenue implications of approved prudential borrowing schemes:

Care Ring

Gamblethorpe Flare Stack

Replacement Wheeled Bins

New Wheeled Bins – SORT and Garden

East Leeds Household Waste Site re-development.

Kirkstall Road Car Park

Car Park Pay and Display Machines replacement programme

2.8 Technical Adjustments

2.8.1 The authority is required to comply fully with accounting standard FRS 17 – Retirement

Benefits. This means that the pension costs shown in service accounts are required to be the current service cost rather than the amounts actually paid out in relation to pensions during the year. The overall impact of this adjustment year on year is to decrease the net cost of service by £361k. There is no impact on Council Tax levels as the effect of the FRS 17 adjustment is reversed by a contribution from the Pensions Reserve.

2.9 Variations in charges for capital

- 2.9.1 Overall capital charges have increased by £1,245k. Depreciation charges have increased by £138k, whilst there has been an increase of £1,107k in deferred charges which reflects increased expenditure on Disabled Facilities Grant and on Housing private sector renewal schemes.

3.0 Housing Revenue Account

- 3.0.1 The 2008/09 Original Estimate has been prepared at outturn prices which means that allowances for inflation have been included in the budget submission.
- 3.0.2 This report includes the ongoing financial arrangements in respect of the Arms Length Management Organisations (“ALMO’s”) which took responsibility for managing the Council’s stock of housing from February 2003. Following an ALMO review, including a city wide ballot of tenants, the management function has been delivered by three new ALMOs from 1st April 2007.
- 3.0.3 In accordance with the Council’s Policy and Budget Framework, decisions as to the Council’s budget and Housing Rent increases are reserved to Council. As such the purpose of this report is to propose a budget to Council, and thus the decisions recommended by this report are not eligible for call in.

3.1 Variation Original Estimate 2007/08 to Original Estimate 2008/09

- 3.1.1 The budget for 2008/09 has been constructed on the achievement of working balances of £3.7m at 31 March 2009, which represents around 2.5% of the non-ALMO costs including negative subsidy. This is considered to be an acceptable minimum level of balances following the transfer of services and responsibilities to the ALMOs. The transfer of services also includes an element of transfer of risk and the ALMOs are able to retain their own working balances.

- 3.1.2 The reasons for the movement from 2007/08 to 2008/09 are:

- a) The negative subsidy the Council is required to pay back to the Government has increased significantly following the housing subsidy settlement. The Council revenue contribution per property in negative subsidy has increased from £1,008 (net of Rental Constraint Allowance) per property to £1,154 which is a £7.4m increase. Additionally falling interest rates and reduced premiums and discounts have generated a cost of £2.1m, although this is offset by reductions in actual capital charges.
- b) There is no proposed increase in the management fee to ALMOs, apart from the disaggregation of budgets during the year, although further provision has been made for ALMO Performance Incentives of £0.271m to reflect the ALMO’s contribution to the CPA assessment.

- c) Finalisation of the SCA allowances payable through the Housing Subsidy grant to the ALMOs is still awaited from CLG.
- d) The transfer of HR and payments staff to the new Business Support Centre during 2007/08, along with the revised treatment of regeneration staff as an internal recharge rather than direct employee cost, has resulted in a reduction of £0.8m in employee costs.
- e) For the staff directly employed within the Housing Revenue Account, a pay award of 2.0% has been provided, which together with other inflationary increases means additional costs of £0.28m, plus FRS17 pension adjustments of £0.17m.
- f) Increases in net rentals & service charges are expected to generate an additional £5.9m, details of which are given below in section 4.
- g) The number of claims for disrepair has been steadily falling throughout the year with the average number of cases per month now around 9. Accordingly it has been possible to further reduce the provision required to meet these claims by £0.025m.
- h) Improved collection of current and historical debt has allowed a reduction of £1.026m in the cost of bad debts;
- i) Costs relating to support & other services reflect a £2.36m increase. This increase reflects increased costs relating to customer services (£1.235m), and £1.1m PPU and regeneration charges for the Little London and Beeston Hill & Holbeck PFI schemes. There is an ongoing review of the appropriateness of the support charges to the HRA and any changes arising from this review will be phased in over later budgets.
- j) After an increase in the unitary charge for Swarcliffe (£0.315m), a budgeted contribution of £0.5m (£0.8m 2007/08 OE) will be made to the sinking fund which represents the net surplus made in the year.
- k) Interest rates have dropped marginally, but the major change in the capital budget is the deferment of the planned repayment of unsupported heat lease borrowing by one year to fund budgetary pressures in 2008/09.

3.2 Swarcliffe PFI

- 3.2.1 There is also a contribution to the Swarcliffe PFI sinking fund of £508k in 2008/09. The contract for Swarcliffe PFI commenced on 1 April 2005.
- 3.2.2 This reflects the net surplus made in year being the excess of income, including government grant and the unitary charge. This is as a result of the way in which the Government allocates grant support for PFI which results in surpluses in the early years of such schemes.
- 3.2.3 The reserve is to be retained to fund deficits in future years.

3.3 Rentals

- 3.3.1 The level of Council House rents are controlled through the application of the Government's Rent Restructuring programme.
- 3.3.2 The Government's Rent Restructuring Policy is based upon the following principles:
- social rent should remain affordable and well below those in the private sector;
 - social rent should be fairer and less confusing for tenants;
 - there should be a closer link between rent and the qualities which tenants value in properties; and,
 - differences between the rent set by local authorities and Registered Social Landlords (RSL) should be removed.

3.4 Rent Restructuring

- 3.4.1 The intention of the rent restructuring policy is that tenants across the country should be paying comparable social rents, allowing for variations in type of property and 'economic' circumstances. A formula has been devised to enable rents across the country to move to 'convergence' by the extended date of 2016/17.
- 3.4.2 In order for the Council's rents to reach convergence with the rest of the country, rents need to increase by 7.8% in 2008/09. This rental increase is 'relatively' high in order to 'catch up' after the dampening effect caused by the two years of 5% rent caps in 2006/07 and 2007/08, and that Leeds's rents are comparatively low compared to the rest of the country; rents should have risen by 7.3% in 2007/08 if this cap of 5% hadn't been implemented by the Government. Assuming no changes in inflation rates, then rents would also rise by around 4.9% in 2009/10; if rents are raised by 5.8% in 2008/09, then the equivalent rise in 2009/10 would be 6.5% to 'restore' convergence.
- 3.4.3 It should be noted that in calculating the Housing Subsidy grant, the Government has assumed that rents will increase by 5.8%, called the guideline rent. In making this assumption, the Government have given the Council the 'freedom' to raise additional rental income over and above the rental income it takes back through the subsidy system, through application of the 'convergence' rent of 7.8%.
- 3.4.4 Subsequently, Government policy implies a rent increase that should be 7.8% under rent restructuring, but no lower than 5.8% under the Housing Subsidy system; a 5.8% rent increase impacts upon the ability of the HRA to resource any uplift in the ALMO management fee.

3.5 Rent Compensation

- 3.5.1 After two years during which rent increases have been capped at 5%, CLG have informed Authorities that this cap is no longer applicable. Rents are again to be set under the rent restructuring formulae in accordance with their rent restructuring policy, but with a

convergence date put back to 2016/17; this convergence date is still subject to review and may change. As a consequence of this removal of the 5% cap, the compensation mechanism (Rental Constraint Allowance) in operation during these two years has been removed. Instead, authorities are expected to replace the loss of this compensation through the newly restored 'freedom' to raise rents above their guideline rent.

3.5.2 Compensation will no longer be paid in the year in which the rental loss has been incurred. Instead, CLG have proposed that compensation will be based upon the lost rent incurred through capping rent increases by inflation + a half % (4.4%) +/- £2.00 per week, and will be recognised in the following year's subsidy determination.

3.6 Overall changes in rents

3.6.1 Following the application of the seventh year of the Government's rent restructuring policy, the basis of which is partly determined by the value of properties & the number of bedrooms in each property, would mean that average rents would rise by 7.8%, representing an average rent increase of £4.23 over 48 weeks. Individual tenants are protected from large increases in rent in that the formula only allows rents to rise by inflation + a half % (4.4%) +/- £2.00 per week.

3.6.2 However, it is proposed that a lower average rent 'cap' of 5.8% is applied, representing a lower average rent increase of £3.16 over 48 weeks; although the effects on individual tenants will vary according to the restructuring formulae.

3.6.3 Consequently, rental income from housing stock is now budgeted to increase by £8.7m offset by a reduction of £2.8m through changes in property numbers.

The comparative figures are:

	<u>2007/08</u>	<u>2008/09</u>		
Actual Rent (average)	£54.54	£57.70	+5.8%	+£3.16

3.6.4 Rentals from garages (currently £5.25 per week) fall outside the rent restructuring rules and normally rise in line with average rental increases. It is proposed to increase garage rents by 5.8% to £5.55 per week.

3.7 Service Charges

3.7.1 Service charges, which fall within the constraints of rent restructuring, are subject to the same 5.8% average increase as rents.

3.7.2 It is the intention of the Government's rent restructuring policy that service charges will be disaggregated by the end of the ten year implementation programme (2010/2011) and that rental income will reflect purely management & maintenance of properties. This is not currently the case and will need to be kept under review between

now and the end of rent restructuring.

3.8 Housing Subsidy

3.8.1 Housing subsidy is a notional calculation based on what the Government estimates we ought to spend on housing management and maintenance plus capital financing costs, offset by our guideline rental income & assumed mortgage interest receivable. Where this is negative we have to pay money to CLG. Leeds is a negative subsidy authority.

3.8.2 Allowances by property compared with the current year are:

<u>Housing Subsidy</u>	<u>2007/08</u>	<u>2008/09</u>	<u>change</u>	<u>change</u>
	£	£	£	%
Guideline rent	(2,645.18)	(2,799.03)	(153.85)	5.8
Rental Constraint Allowance	113.53	0.00	(113.53)	(100.00)
Management allowance	537.68	564.86	27.18	5.1
Maintenance allowance	985.87	1080.49	94.62	9.6
Management & maintenance	1,523.55	1,645.35	121.80	8.0
Negative subsidy per property	(1,008.10)	(1,153.68)	(145.58)	14.4
Major Repairs Allowance (MRA)	581.10	636.10	55.00	9.5
Total allowances	(427.00)	(517.58)	(90.58)	21.2

3.8.3 The overall impact on subsidy, after allowing for changes in property numbers and unit allowances is as below:

	<u>Final</u> <u>Determination</u> <u>2007/08</u>	<u>Final</u> <u>Determination</u> <u>2008/09</u>	<u>Change</u>	
	£K	£K	£K	%
Management & maintenance	93,168	98,810	5,643	6.1
Guideline rent & RCA	(151,739)	(164,754)	(13,015)	8.6
	(58,571)	(65,944)	(7,373)	12.6
Capital allowances	21,659	19,558	(2,100)	(9.7)
Negative subsidy	(36,912)	(46,386)	(9,473)	25.7
ALMO allowances	30,581	30,581	0	0.0
PFI	6,097	6,097	0	0.0
	(234)	(9,708)	(9,473)	4,039.0
MRA	34,702	37,294	2,592	7.5
	34,468	27,586	(6,881)	(20.0)

3.8.4 Initial expectations were for a two year settlement covering 2008/09 and 2009/10. However, this determination is only for 2008/09 and a new determination will be issued for 2009/10. On the 12th December 2007, Housing Minister Yvette Cooper announced a review of the Housing

Revenue Account subsidy system. This review will make its final report in spring 2009, setting out a way forward for the subsidy system, rents policy across all social housing, and spending needs for council housing; earlier advice is expected in 2008 to inform decisions about council rents and subsidy determinations for 2009/10 and 2010/11.

3.8.5 Subsidy trigger (2007/08)

3.8.5.1 Within subsidy, there is a possible variation in the basis of calculation of property numbers whereby if stock changes by 10% or 3,000 properties over two years, subsidy is then based on average stock in the year, whereas if we fail to hit that trigger, subsidy is based on property numbers at the start of the previous year (i.e. 1 April 07 for 2008/09). Property numbers need to fall by at least 1,802 to meet this trigger in 2007/08.

3.8.5.2 The current projections for 2007/08 are for sales of 469 properties (393 actually sold between 1 April and 31 December) compared with a total of 1,191 sold in 05/06 and 665 in 06/07. Additionally, demolitions of 578 are projected and other changes of 80; sales of 420 properties are currently projected for 2008/09.

3.8.5.3 There are a number of factors affecting RTB sales, not least:

- Property valuations are increasing generally.
- Decency work is being undertaken and it may be that potential applications are held up awaiting completion of this work. This will have an impact on valuations as well.
- The maximum discount in this region is £24,000 for both flats and houses, meaning that any increase in valuations is met by the potential purchaser.
- Discounts are also affected by the amount of expenditure on a property in the years prior to sale. Only approx. half a dozen RTBs are affected by this each year, although with expenditure on decency this may increase.
- From 18 January 2005 new tenants have to have a five year qualifying period. This is most likely to have an impact from 08/09 onwards as these tenants would have been entitled to exercise RTBs under the old rules at that point.

3.8.5.4 The RTB sales are a major factor in achieving the subsidy trigger. As a result of the reduction in RTB numbers this year, for the reasons outlined in 5.5.3., it is projected that the subsidy trigger will not be achieved resulting in an increase in negative subsidy of £2.0m.

3.8.5.5 Should we hit the subsidy trigger, then negative subsidy will decrease by £2.0m, although there will be a partial offset through an decrease in the MRA of £1.1m; MRA resource is related to housing capital expenditure.

3.9 ALMO Management Fees

3.9.1 The Management Fees to the ALMOs are divided into three elements: one for repairs; one for management costs; and a third category for grounds maintenance was introduced in 2005/2006. The principles for allocating repairs & management budgets to the ALMOs was established in 2003/2004, broadly based on the national housing subsidy model, and the allocation of grounds maintenance is based on land area.

3.9.2 The total repairs budget for the ALMOs takes account of the percentage increase given by the Government for repairs, adjusted for the reduction in stock. The ALMOs management costs are allocated in accordance with a formula, which follows the same factors which the Government use to allocate resources to Local Authorities and thus, in effect, treats each ALMO as if it were a mini HRA. The formula allocates resources to each area based on the numbers of properties, factors which acknowledge the additional costs associated with flats, and the extent of crime and social deprivation in an area.

3.9.3 It is proposed to hold the 2008/09 ALMO management fee at the 2007/08 level. The impact on the HRA budget is shown at Appendix 1.

3.9.4 Disaggregation

3.9.4.1 After discussions with the ALMOs, it has been agreed to disaggregate Emergency tree work (£102k) and grant funding RTGs (Resident Tenant Groups, £17k).

3.9.5 Performance Incentives

3.9.5.1 A number of performance incentives have been put in place to reward ALMO performance, especially in relation to contributions to a successful CPA assessment. Additional Performance Incentives are in place for arrears & voids management.

4.0 Recommendations

4.1 Members are asked to consider the information contained in this report and:

- a) Advise whether they require any further information and:
- b) Determine whether they wish to make any recommendations

Appendix 1

Housing Revenue Account Draft Budget - 2008/2009

Summary Budget

	<u>2007/08 OE</u> £000s	<u>2007/08 LE</u> £000s	<u>2008/09 OE</u> £000s
Employees	9,755	9,887	9,401
Premises	1,721	1,724	1,798
Supplies & Services	15,080	15,551	12,960
Transport	231	232	230
Internal charges	7,938	8,065	10,383
Provisions	3,435	2,230	2,325
Capital	21,029	22,622	18,735
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	59,189	60,310	55,832
internal income	(1,216)	(1,216)	(1,216)
rents	(153,872)	(154,701)	(159,854)
recharges to ALMOs	(6,151)	(7,019)	(6,602)
other income (inc. service charges)	(7,424)	(7,832)	(7,129)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	(109,474)	(110,457)	(118,968)
Housing Subsidy	36,917	37,917	46,386
ALMO Allowances	(34,839)	(30,581)	(30,581)
PFI allowance	(6,097)	(6,097)	(6,097)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	(113,493)	(109,218)	(109,260)
contribution to pensions Reserve	(41)	(41)	(113)
contribution to PFI Reserve	801	801	508
Contribution from specific reserves	0	(675)	
Contribution from ALMO Insp . reserve	0	(1,000)	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	(112,733)	(110,133)	(108,865)
 <u>Payments to the ALMOs</u>			
Management fees	76,844	76,844	76,844
Disaggregation of budgets	0	0	119
Distribution of ALMO Inspn. reserve	0	1,000	
Performance incentives	1,050	1,708	1,321
SCA Allowances	34,839	30,581	30,581
Budgeted Deficit	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	0	0	0
 <u>Reserves</u>			
General Reserves b/f	3,712	3,712	3,712
In year projected outturn	0	0	0
Budgeted deficit	0	0	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	3,712	3,712	3,712

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Report of the Head of Scrutiny Support and Member Development

Scrutiny Board (Environment and Neighbourhoods)

Date: 26 March 2008

Subject: Waste Solution Programme for Leeds

Electoral Wards Affected: All

Specific Implications For:

Ethnic minorities

Women

Disabled people

Narrowing the Gap

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 At the beginning of the municipal year, as part of the discussions around its work programme, Members identified the Waste Solution Programme for Leeds as a key issue for the Board to consider. Members have received a number of updates on the programme, which continues to be a priority area for the Board.
- 1.2 Running parallel to the Scrutiny Board has been the Leaders' Waste Strategy Working Group – a cross-party group that has also been monitoring the development of the Waste Solution Programme.
- 1.3 At its February meeting, the Board had a lengthy discussion regarding the proposal to merge the work of the Leaders' Waste Strategy Working Group with that of the Scrutiny Board: Members queried both the current status of the Leaders' Group and the proposal itself.
- 1.4 At the meeting, the Board resolved to defer its consideration of the evaluation criteria (relating to the residual waste treatment project) until such time that the status of the Leaders' Waste Strategy Working Group had been clarified and more details had been provided regarding the compatibility of the scrutiny role with that of the Working Group. Through discussion with the relevant officers, the Chair of the Board undertook to clarify the issues raised by Members.

2.0 Report issues

The Waste Strategy Implementation Working Group

- 2.1 At its meeting on 9 February 2007, Executive Board established the Waste Strategy Implementation Working Group (the Leaders' Working Group) to monitor the implementation of the approved Waste Strategy and to tender advice to the Executive Board – as detailed in the attached Executive Board report.
- 2.2 At the Leaders' Working Group meeting on 8 February 2008, it was proposed that work of the group be merged with that of the Scrutiny Board (Environment and Neighbourhoods) and that approval to the proposed arrangements would be sought from the Leaders of the individual political groups.
- 2.3 The Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods will attend the meeting to address any further issues raised by the Board.

The Role of Overview and Scrutiny

- 2.4 The general role of overview and scrutiny has been determined by 3 primary sources of legislation (The Local Government Act 2000; The Local Authority (Overview and Scrutiny Committees Health Scrutiny Functions) Regulations 2002; The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007). As a result, the legal and statutory role of overview and scrutiny is to.
- Review and develop policy, including making policy and budget proposals to the council;
 - Hold the Executive to account, including the review of proposed executive decisions and Call-in prior to implementation;
 - Undertake performance monitoring and review; and,
 - Scrutinise the NHS and other outside organisations.
- 2.5 As such, it can be seen that the role and purpose of the Leaders' Working Group, as set out in the terms of reference detailed in the attached Executive Board report, is compatible with the role of overview and scrutiny. However, in determining the Board's future role in relation to matters associated with the Waste Solution for Leeds, Members will need to be mindful of any duplication this may cause.

3.0 Recommendation

- 3.1 The Board is requested to reflect on the information outlined in this report and presented at the meeting and determine its position regarding further consideration of specific matters associated with the Residual Waste Treatment Project and, more generally, the Waste Solution for Leeds.



Report of the Director of City Services

Executive Board

Date: 9th February 2007

Subject: Establishment of a Leaders Waste Strategy Review Group

Electoral wards affected:

Specific implications for:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the gap

Eligible for call In

Not eligible for call in
(details contained in the report)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Further to a resolution made by the Council at the Extraordinary Council Meeting on the 13th December 2006 this report recommends the establishment of a Leaders Review Group to review the implementation of the approved Integrated Waste Strategy for Leeds 2005-2035 and to advise the Executive Board.

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Executive Board's approval for the establishment of a Group Leaders' forum to review the implementation of the approved Integrated Waste Strategy for Leeds 2005-2035 and to advise the Executive Board.

2.0 Background Information

2.1 At its meeting in December 2005 the Executive Board approved a draft Integrated Waste Strategy for consultation. Following public consultation the final strategy was adopted by the Executive Board on the 18th October 2006. At the Council Meeting on 13th December 2006, Council resolved that officers bring forward proposals for a Group Leaders' forum to review the implementation of the approved Integrated Waste Strategy and to advise the Executive Board.

3.0 Main Issues

- 3.1 It has been proposed that a forum should be established for the purpose of reviewing the implementation of the approved Waste Strategy and tendering advice to the Executive Board. It is further proposed that the membership of the forum be the Leaders, or their nominee, from the Liberal Democrats, the Conservatives, Labour, the Greens and the Morley Borough Independents.
- 3.2 The forum established would have the single purpose set out in paragraph 3.1 above. It would not be a decision making body nor would it scrutinize the decisions of the Executive Board. The structure of the forum best fit for purpose is therefore a Working Party rather than a Committee or Sub-committee.
- 3.3 The constitution of a Working Party means that it can meet at short notice without the requirements to publish an agenda five days in advance of its meetings, would meet in private without the requirements to admit the public, and would not be subject to the rules regarding political balance. It is, consequently, a flexible and responsive structure.
- 3.4 Terms of reference for the group are set out in Appendix 1.

4 Implications for Council Policy and Governance

- 4.1 There are no particular implications for council policy or governance. Whether a body is a committee or a working party depends primarily on the subjective intention of the local authority that establishes it. Although widespread use of such groups is not considered good practice they are perfectly legitimate in circumstances such as outlined in this report.

5 Legal and Resource Implications

- 5.1 There are no particular legal and resource issues. The Working Party can be supported by officers from within current resources.

6 Conclusions

- 6.1 It would be appropriate and beneficial for there to be established a forum to monitor the implementation of the approved Waste Strategy and to tender advice in that regard to the Executive Board.

7 Recommendations

- 7.1 That a Working Party comprised of the Leaders for the time being of the political groups represented on the council, or their nominees, be established for the purpose of monitoring the implementation of the approved Waste Strategy and tendering advice to the Executive Board.

TERMS OF REFERENCE**Overall Purpose**

To monitor the implementation of the approved Integrated Waste Strategy for Leeds 2005-2035 and to advise the Executive Board.

Terms of Reference

1. To monitor, review and challenge progress on the implementation of the Waste Strategy and associated action plan;
2. To review the delivery of the performance targets set out within the Waste Strategy;
3. To receive information and reports on the implementation of the policies contained within the Waste Strategy;
4. To consider future developments and enhancements to the Waste Strategy action plan;
5. To consider the Council's strategy for ensuring that the targets associated with the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (LATS) are met;
6. To review the Council's proposals for funding the implementation of the Waste Strategy;
7. To report and make recommendations to the Executive Board as appropriate.

Key Links

- Waste Strategy Programme Board
- Waste Strategy Group
- Climate Change Strategy Board
- Scrutiny Board – Environment and Community Safety
- Executive Board

There may be areas in which there is an overlap with the remit of the relevant Scrutiny Board. Arrangements will be made to consult with this Board where appropriate.

Frequency of Meetings

Meetings are to take place as appropriate.

Membership

Membership will consist of the Leaders, or their nominee, of the Liberal Democrats, the Conservatives, Labour, the Greens and the Morley Borough Independents. The Executive Member responsible for the Waste Strategy would be an Ex-officio member of the group.

Decision Making

Decisions in relation to the Waste Strategy and related services rest with the Executive Member for City Services and the Council's Executive Board, except where delegated to the Director of City Services



Originator: P Milne

Tel: (0113) 244 3231

Report of Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods

Scrutiny Board (Environment and Neighbourhoods)

Date: 26th March 2008

Subject: The role of the Community and Voluntary Sector in delivering the Integrated Waste Strategy for Leeds

Electoral Wards Affected: All

Specific Implications For:

Ethnic minorities

Women

Disabled people

Narrowing the Gap

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 At the beginning of the municipal year, as part of the discussions around its work programme, Members identified 'waste' and 'recycling' as key issues for the Board to consider: These issues continue to be priorities for the Board.
- 1.2 As part of an Integrated Waste Strategy for Leeds, which sets out to reduce the impact of waste on the environment, the Council has set out to reduce waste generation, reuse waste, increase recycling, recover value from non-recycled waste and significantly reduce the amount of waste going to landfill, with an aspiration to send zero waste to landfill.
- 1.3 To successfully deliver the Integrated Waste Strategy for Leeds, it will be necessary for the Council to work with a range of different organisations, including those from the community and voluntary sector, and to continue to adopt a partnership approach in relation to service development and delivery.
- 1.4 In the Integrated Waste Strategy for Leeds the significant contribution to the delivery of waste objectives made by voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations, including social enterprises, was acknowledged. Experience with VCS in other sectors suggests that the sector has the potential to achieve even more to support this strategy. These organisations bring innovation and increased competition to the waste industry and are credited with originally developing many of the approaches to waste management which are in mainstream use, and also helping to raise public awareness of many waste issues. They continue to develop local solutions for areas where conventional service delivery is difficult, and to broaden the range of separate waste streams which can be collected. Community organisations are especially active re-users of waste goods, with a number of organisations collecting furniture and appliances for refurbishment and reuse. Some VCS organisations support people on low incomes through discounted or free provision of items and include disadvantaged members of the community in their operations providing employment and training opportunities. For these reasons the strategy set out our intention to develop the partnerships currently in place and build capacity in this sector.
- 1.5 At its meeting on the 30th January the Board requested that the Waste and Recycling Manager be invited to present a report to a future meeting of the Board and that social enterprise representatives be invited to attend that meeting.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 There are a large number of groups currently operating in Leeds. These are listed below together with a brief outline of the work they undertake.
- 2.2 Leeds Organic Growers (LOGS) aim to provides a sustainable household green garden waste kerbside collection service for Kirkstall and Weetwood. Although collections have not yet begun it is hoped that they will commence shortly. Compost will be sieved, graded and bagged for sale to scheme members and the general public. Once collections commence LOGS will receive a recycling credit (equivalent to the composting gate free plus landfill tax) for each tonne of household garden waste composted.
- 2.3 BTCV provide general environmental awareness and have volunteer groups available for work on practical projects (e.g. compost bin areas etc). They are also working in primary schools across Leeds to raise awareness of 3Rs (reduction, reuse and recycling) and to increase the amount of waste being recycled in Leeds. This work has been ongoing for more than 3 years. It was initially funded by the City Council and CRED but is now wholly funded by the Council through a contractual type arrangement.
- 2.4 Groundwork is involved with various waste education projects in Leeds and across the region, often in partnership with other organisations. They work in partnership with Leeds City Council and BTCV on the primary education project outline above.
- 2.5 Leeds Play Network raises waste awareness through creative play. They take unwanted materials donated from business to reuse as inexpensive creative play resources for children.
- 2.6 Meanwood Urban Valley Farm City Farm provides a range of educational and learning opportunities to the community including information on recycling facilities.
- 2.7 Emmaus Sells quality used furniture, bikes, books, music and bric-a-brac. On site there is also a café, meeting room and IT suite to hire, and car parking. Their primary aim is to help homeless people by providing a home and work in a supportive environment.
- 2.8 Leeds and Moortown Furniture Store Ltd aim is to relieve poverty amongst individuals and families in Leeds by providing them with donated furniture and household goods without charge. Social Services support collection of goods and distribution to clients. Environment & Neighbourhoods Homeless Services also fund provision of furniture for their clients. In addition recycling credits are also received for household waste that is reused.
- 2.9 Poverty Aid UK operates a furniture collection and reuse service.
- 2.10 SLATE is a social enterprise operating in south Leeds, which was set up to run environmentally friendly businesses for the benefit of the local community and offer work opportunities to people with learning difficulties. Through the Feel Good Furniture Shop they collect people's unwanted furniture and sell it at affordable to prices. They receive recycling credits for household waste reused.

- 2.11 St Judes Furniture Store Collects and redistributes donated furniture & white goods for those in need in the community. Provides worthwhile work opportunities for volunteers and those on work training schemes. Like Leeds and Moortown they receive funding from Social Services and Environment and Neighbourhoods Homeless Services as well as recycling credits.
- 2.12 Seagulls Re-use Ltd Community RePaint service for Leeds; unwanted paint is collected from household waste sorting sites and businesses for checking, mixing and reuse by local community groups. Leeds City Council has developed a contractual type arrangement with this group and makes a payment for each collection made from a household waste sort site to reflect the avoided hazardous waste disposal for this type of material.
- 2.13 Scrap Creative Re-use is a mobile community scrap service promoting reuse through creative arts. Workshops and accredited training are delivered around the environment and arts.(e.g. recycled fashion, recycled jewellery, kite making, trashy textiles, scrap sculpture).
- 2.14 Bradford Environmental Action Trust runs Why Waste, a web based business waste exchange, that operates across West Yorkshire.
- 2.15 Leeds City Council's recycling and waste service works directly with a high proportion of these groups to increase recycling and reuse in Leeds. There are currently six groups which are part of our recycling credits scheme. In addition to waste diversion from landfill they provide valuable community and social benefits to the residents of Leeds. Some of those groups benefit from a contractual type arrangement whereby they provide a service to the Council in return for an appropriate payment where the recycling credit scheme is not suitable. Several groups also receive other Council funding to support their activities.
- 2.16 The support provided is not solely limited to payment of a credit advice and guidance is provided on new legislation. An example is the recent Waste Electrical Electronic Equipment Regulations (WEEE) which came into force in July 2007. The Recycling and Waste Service worked to ensure groups would still be capable of working alongside the Council's compliance scheme contractor to maximise white goods reuse.
- 2.17 Regular meeting with the groups both individually and through the Community Recycling Network Forum take place to discuss new ideas and look for new ways of working with the groups across the Council. This could be identification of new waste streams they may be able to divert for reuse or maximising their recycling of scrap materials from their activities.
- 2.18 The furniture reuse groups are allowed access to our eleven household waste sorting sites to collect reusable items of both furniture and white goods.
- 2.19 All the groups are offered free disposal facilities at our two transfer stations where they can discard/recycle items which are not suitable for re-use.
- 2.20 The Council is also working to encourage new VCS groups to develop recycling and reuse schemes. With this in mind a "Leeds Community Recycling Handbook" has been published. It has been developed for organisations or individuals developing projects in their local communities, which reduce the amount of rubbish being thrown

away. The handbook provides information on waste, guidance on starting a scheme and details of where to find help and support. The guide was commissioned by Leeds City Council and compiled by the Community Waste Network, Yorkshire and Humber.

3.0 **Recycling Credits Scheme**

- 3.1 The recycling credits scheme was introduced by the Environmental Protection Act 1990. It was designed to provide an incentive to encourage recycling by VCS Groups. The scheme's purpose was to make available to recyclers the savings in disposal and collection costs which result when they reuse or recycle household waste. The scheme had to operate in conjunction with a number of other economic and regulatory measures designed to promote more sustainable waste management.
- 3.2 Historically a number of VCS groups operated in Leeds and were paid a recycling credit based on a nominal amount of £ 3.00 per tonne. Many of these arrangements were historical i.e. pre 1998 and had not been formalised. Some groups also received a skip service for waste disposal funded by the Council. There was no consistency in the range of assistance and support being offered to the groups.
- 3.3 In the face of evidence that the design of the national scheme could inhibit effective and sustainable waste management, the Government reviewed and consulted on changes to the scheme in 2004. Amendments to the scheme were included in the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005. Detailed guidance on the changes was issued in April 2006. In essence it gave Leeds City Council the power to pay credits to third parties. However it did not place a duty on the authority.
- 3.4 The guidance gives Local Authorities more flexible powers to work with third parties and encourage improvement of the social and environmental well being of their area. They state that credits should be paid on household waste which is recycled or reused. Goods donated to charity shops are not classified as waste at the point of donation therefore Charity shops are not eligible to receive credits on goods donated to their shops. Calculation of the amount of credit which should be based on the tonnage of materials recycled and on agreed average weights for furniture, appliances and other items. A list of these average weights is produced by the Furniture Reuse Network.
- 3.5 In order better recognise the contribution made by VCS groups, to implement the new guidance and to provide a consistent approach for all groups wishing to claim a recycling credit, Leeds City Council has developed the approach outlined below. This has been done in consultation with VCS groups in Leeds and the Community Recycling Network.
- 3.6 Applicants for credits must demonstrate that they fulfilled certain pre-determined criteria. These criteria are designed to safeguard the groups and ensure our support is targeted to the right areas. Schemes must be -
- In compliance with Leeds' Integrated Waste Strategy
 - Agreed with LCC
 - Divert waste from landfill for recycling or reuse that would otherwise find its way into municipal waste stream
 - Measurable in terms of their contribution to increasing reuse, recycling or diversion from landfill
 - Delivering measurable social and economic benefits in accordance with the Councils best value obligations (i.e. Where arrangements for service

already exist either in house or through a conventional contract a group would have to be able to demonstrate that they offer better value for money).

- Operated by a not for profit trading organisation
- Provide training and employment opportunities to local disadvantaged groups
- willing to enter in a contract or agreement with the Council.
- Proactive in communicating the benefits of their activities & the benefits of recycling and reuse in general.
- Consistent and not in conflict with Leeds City Council policy.
- Aim to alleviate poverty by providing low cost, basic household items to people on low incomes.
- Established to benefit the Leeds community.

3.7 In certain circumstances it may be more appropriate that a contract is put in place rather than payment of a recycling credit. Either because of the nature of the waste or the service being provided. The scheme allows for this flexibility.

3.8 In accordance with the regulations groups will then receive a credit per tonne recycled or reused, equivalent to the average cost per tonne of waste disposal including landfill tax (from 1st April £47.86 per tonne). It should represent a net saving of expenditure to the Council on the disposal of the waste.

3.9 Additionally groups are also entitled to free disposal of any waste at the Council's transfer station. Alternatively they can opt in to the Council's waste collection contract and be reimbursed for the disposal element of the charge.

3.10 Groups have to demonstrate through an auditable procedure that items had been collected from Leeds post codes and passed back into the Leeds Community for re-use. This is to ensure we meet our responsibilities in relation to best value and prevent error or fraud.

4.0 Social Clauses

4.1 Social clauses are requirements within contracts or the procurement process which allow the contract to provide added social value through fulfilling a particular social aim. For example, a social clause in a public contract could prioritise the need to train or give jobs to the long-term unemployed in the community as part of the contracting workforce.

4.2 Leeds City Council Recycling and Waste Services are currently working together with the North East Centre of Excellence (NECE) to maximise social benefit through procurement.

4.3 NECE are working on behalf of the Government's Office of the Third Sector to deliver a commitment made in the Social Enterprise and Public Service Delivery Action Plans to progress work around the use of social clauses. The field work for this project is focused around 5 local authorities, Leeds being one, who have agreed to act as trial sites for the work.

4.4 The opportunity to work with NECE came along at an opportune time for the Recycling and Waste Service who are working towards the inclusion of a purpose built re-use shop as part of the re-development of the East Leeds household waste site. The plan

is to develop a shop along similar lines to current best practice, already in place in other authorities such as Warwick. The shop would sell reclaimed items from the adjacent household waste sorting site and potentially be run by a social enterprise. Thus providing both diversion from landfill and community benefits in the locality.

4.5 The project with NECE runs over a period of 10 weeks and is due to end in early April by which time we hope to have successfully developed a strategy to produce a contract including social benefit clauses which will be in harmony with the Councils own Delivering Successful Change Programme methodology.

4.6 The project is providing officers with the opportunity to network with colleagues in North Yorkshire who are also considering a re-use shop. In addition free legal advice is being provided by Anthony Collins Solicitors and social clauses specialist Mark Cook who co wrote the groundbreaking Joseph Rowntree Foundation report 'Achieving Community Benefits through Contracts.'

5.0 The Future

5.1 The Waste Strategy Group meets on a quarterly basis to

- support the delivery of the performance targets set out in the Waste Strategy.
- promote partnership working and innovation in the delivery of the Waste Strategy.
- Monitor, review and challenge progress on the implementation of the Waste Strategy and associated action plan.
- Formulate responses to policy, legislative and technological developments in the waste sector.

5.2 This group is chaired by the Executive Member of Environment and its members include representatives from external bodies. Amongst them is a representative from the Community Recycling Network to ensure that the potential of the VCS to contribute to the strategy is identified and facilitated appropriately.

6.0 Conclusions

6.1 There is significant VCS contribution being made to reuse and recycling in Leeds. They continue to develop local solutions for areas where conventional service delivery is difficult, and to broaden the range of separate waste streams which can be collected

6.2 Providing an equitable and transparent recycling credits scheme to financially support schemes contributing to the diversion of household waste is beneficial and will help to encourage other initiatives to develop.

6.3 Continued dialogue and joint working with the Community Recycling Network and existing VCS groups in Leeds will allow us to exploit further opportunities to work with the third sector in this area.

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Report of the Head of Scrutiny Support and Member Development

Scrutiny Board (Environment and Neighbourhoods)

Date: 26 March 2008

Subject: Work Programme

Electoral Wards Affected: All

Specific Implications For:

- Ethnic minorities
- Women
- Disabled people
- Narrowing the Gap

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Appendix 1 provides Members with a copy of the Board's current Work Programme.
- 1.2 The Forward Plan of Key Decisions for 1 April 2008 to 31 July 2008, is due to be published on 17 March 2008. This may usefully inform the Board's consideration of its Work Programme and as such will be issued separately, once available.
- 1.3 This is an opportunity for the Board to review and, where appropriate, amend its work programme to reflect any emerging issues.
- 1.4 In addition, as the end of the current municipal year approaches, it also provides an opportunity for the Board to identify potential issues for the forthcoming year.

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 The Board is requested to:
- (i) Consider the details presented in this report and appendices and, in particular, determine the priority and scope of any unscheduled items;
 - (ii) Receive and make any changes to the attached Work Programme following any discussions / decisions arising from the meeting;
 - (iii) Identify and determine the priority/ scope of any additional items for the Work Programme;
 - (iv) Agree an updated work programme, including an potential issues for the forthcoming year.

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APPENDIX 1

SCRUTINY BOARD (ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOODS) WORK PROGRAMME (MARCH 2008)

Item	Description	Notes	Type of item
Meeting date – March 2008			
Budget Implications (2008/09)	To consider a further report on the implications of the agreed budget within Environment and Neighbourhoods.	Budget proposals scheduled for Executive Board in December 2007.	RP/DP
The role of the Third Sector in delivering the Integrated Waste Strategy.	To consider a follow-up report on the role of Third Sector organisations and their relationship with the Council.	Follow-up report from January 2008.	B
Waste Solution Programme for Leeds	To consider the status of the Leaders' Waste Strategy Working Group and compatibility of the scrutiny role.	To help the Board determine its role in relation to matters associated with the Waste Solution for Leeds.	B

Item	Description	Notes	Type of item
Meeting date – April 2008 (date to be agreed)			
Scrutiny Inquiry into Housing Letting Pressures	To agree the Board's report and recommendations.		
Board's Annual Report	To agree the Board's contribution to the Scrutiny Annual Report.		

Key:

CCFA / RFS	Community call for action / request for scrutiny	PM	Performance management
MSR	Monitoring scrutiny recommendations	B	Briefings (Including potential areas for scrutiny)
RP	Review of existing policy	SC	Statutory consultation
DP	Development of new policy	CI	Call in

SCRUTINY BOARD (ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOODS) WORK PROGRAMME (MARCH 2008)

Unscheduled Items	
Leeds Strategic Plan – indicators and targets	<p>To consider the indicators and targets associated with the Strategic Plan.</p> <p>The text for the LSP, as agreed by the Executive Board on 12/03/08, will be circulated to Members. The indicators and targets will not be available until April and are likely to be circulated to the Board outside of the formal meeting cycle.</p>
Rodent Control	<p>Update report on partnership arrangements, including performance against agreed target times and details of preventative and educational work undertaken / planned.</p> <p>To be considered early in the new municipal year.</p>
Recommendation monitoring	<p>To receive a report tracking recommendations from previous inquiries, where the Board will also be asked to consider which recommendations it wishes to continue monitoring.</p> <p>To be considered early in the new municipal year.</p>
Statistical data and accessibility of information on rape crimes	<p>To consider prosecution rates and strategies deployed to encourage the reporting of such crimes.</p> <p>Priority and scope to be determined and considered in the new municipal year.</p>

Key:			
CCFA / RFS	Community call for action / request for scrutiny	PM	Performance management
MSR	Monitoring scrutiny recommendations	B	Briefings (Including potential areas for scrutiny)
RP	Review of existing policy	SC	Statutory consultation
DP	Development of new policy	CI	Call in

SCRUTINY BOARD (ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOODS) WORK PROGRAMME (MARCH 2008)

Unscheduled Items	
Leeds Housing Market	To receive a detailed report outlining proposals/ actions aimed at addressing the issues arising from the outcomes of the Housing Market Research previously presented to the Board. Housing Market Research information presented to the Board in November 2007.
Regeneration Projects	To receive regular progress updates on major regeneration projects within the City. Details to be confirmed.
Anti Social Behaviour	To consider the work of the Council and its partners aimed at addressing anti-social behaviour across the City. Priority to be determined.
Britain's Cleanest City (together with revisiting the Action Plan)	To consider the preparations / progress of the Council in relation to Britain's Cleanest City Award. Priority to be determined.
Environmental Management around Council Estates	To be confirmed Priority and scope to be determined.

Key:			
CCFA / RFS	Community call for action / request for scrutiny	PM	Performance management
MSR	Monitoring scrutiny recommendations	B	Briefings (Including potential areas for scrutiny)
RP	Review of existing policy	SC	Statutory consultation
DP	Development of new policy	CI	Call in

APPENDIX 1

SCRUTINY BOARD (ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOODS) WORK PROGRAMME (MARCH 2008)

Working Groups			
Working group	Membership	Progress update	Dates of meetings
CO2 Emissions	Cllr Anderson Cllr A Blackburn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ First meeting held with preliminary recommendations identified and endorsed by the Board. ▪ Climate Change events held at Bradford and Wakefield attended. Further event at Wakefield scheduled for 6 March 2008. ▪ Regional Scrutiny event (Meeting the Climate Change Challenge) scheduled for 18 March 2008. <p>A further meeting to cover resources and support issues is to be arranged, however it is unlikely that this aspect of the Board's work programme will be completed prior to the end of the current municipal year.</p>	1/11/07 14/1/08

Key:			
CCFA / RFS	Community call for action / request for scrutiny	PM	Performance management
MSR	Monitoring scrutiny recommendations	B	Briefings (Including potential areas for scrutiny)
RP	Review of existing policy	SC	Statutory consultation
DP	Development of new policy	CI	Call in

APPENDIX 1

SCRUTINY BOARD (ENVIRONMENT AND NEIGHBOURHOODS) WORK PROGRAMME (MARCH 2008)

Working Groups			
Working group	Membership	Progress update	Dates of meetings
Housing Letting Pressures	Cllr Anderson Cllr A Blackburn Cllr Gabriel Cllr Lewis Cllr Hollingsworth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Briefing meeting providing background information held on 19 December 2007. ▪ ALMO/ BITMO representatives attended meeting on 30 January 2008. ▪ Further discussion held on 27 February 2008, which covered potential approaches/ developments aimed at easing some of the current pressures. ▪ The Chair of the Board met with a Government representative from Communities and Local Government on 4 March 2008 ▪ An additional meeting between the Chair and the Deputy Chief Environmental Health Officer was held on 6 March 2008. <p>It is intended that the Board will agree its final report prior to the end of the current municipal year.</p>	19/12/07 30/01/08 27/02/08

Key:			
CCFA / RFS	Community call for action / request for scrutiny	PM	Performance management
MSR	Monitoring scrutiny recommendations	B	Briefings (Including potential areas for scrutiny)
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