

Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Citizens & Communities)

Report to North West (Inner) Area Committee

Date: 24th October 2013

Subject: Area Update Report

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Kirkstall, Headingley, Hyde Park & Woodhouse, Weetwood	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

This report provides members with a summary of sub group and forum business since the September Area Committee. This includes an update on the work which took place around Student Changeover with recommendations for 2014; work being undertaken in Little London and Hawksworth Wood; and the appointment of the Wellbeing funded Community Development Worker.

Recommendations

The North West (Inner) Area Committee is asked to:

- Note and action as appropriate the Key Messages from Sub Groups and Forums.
- Note the update on the work around Student Changeover and agree the recommendations of the Changeover Planning Group.
- Note the update on the work of the Area Leads.
- Note the work being undertaken in Little London and Hawksworth Wood.
- Note the update on the former Royal Park School and Leeds Girls High School Sports Facilities sites.
- Note the appointment of Better Leeds Communities as the VCFS partner to deliver targeted Community Development Work in Inner North West and Outer West.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 This report provides members with an update on recent Sub Group business and the current position relating to other project activity. This includes an update on the work which took place around Student Changeover in 2013 and recommendations for 2014, work being undertaken in Little London and the appointment of the Wellbeing funded Community Development Worker.

2 Background information

- 2.1 An Area Committee update report is submitted at every cycle of Area Committee meetings unless there is no additional business to report from sub groups or any other project activity to report. Partner organisations and Council services will contribute information to the Area Update Report.

3 Main issues

Forum and Sub Group Key Messages

3.1 Planning Sub Group

- 3.2 Planning sub group met on the 11th September 2013. They discussed a variety of planning applications and issues. The following issues were discussed:

- An update on the Neighbourhood Planning process.
- Following a meeting chaired by Cllr Peter Gruen looking at purpose built student housing, it was agreed to amend part B of the Core Strategy Policy H6. The amendment was taken to the Council's Executive Board on the 4th September with a view to submitting the proposed changes to the Planning Inspector before October 2013. Targeted consultation on the new amendment was undertaken in September 2013.
- Neighbourhood Design statements work is on-going and a meeting took place in September with the steering group for Far Headingley and Weetwood and West Park NDS and Leeds Met University. A latest draft will be out for public consultation in the autumn.
- Various planning applications including – Victoria Road Swimming Pool site, Sandfield House, 13 – 17 Shaw Lane, Tesco Kirkstall District Centre and St Anns Mill weir and Burley Mill weir Kirkstall.

Key Messages

- 3.3 The Area Committee are asked to note the discussions of the Planning Sub Group.

3.4 Environment Sub Group

- 3.5 Environment Sub Group met on 2nd September 2013. The following issues were discussed:

- Susan Upton provided a graphical presentation of the bin collections per ward. The sub group asked for this to be presented at every future meeting.
- The alternate weekly bin collection and work on the menu of options for the ASHORE area is ongoing. The next stage is the Member consultation.
- A pilot scheme in the ASHORE area is being considered, if agreed the start date may coincide with the phase 2 go-live date of 11th November. Areas of Weetwood and Kirkstall are included in phase 2.
- The WNW Environmental Services Locality Team provided an overview of the service and the delegation.
- During the period of 24th July and 1st Sept 2013 there were 358 requests for service received by the WNW Locality Team.
- Chris Baird gave an update on the work he is undertaking as Environmental Coordinator, a post which is funded through Area Committee.
- An update was given on the Freshers work and initial evaluation reports on Changeover.
- Parks & Countryside provided an update on work in each ward.
- Parking Services provided an update on issues within the North West (Inner) area.

Key Messages

3.6 The Area Committee are asked to note the discussions of the Environment Sub Group.

3.7 **Transport Sub Group**

3.8 A joint Transport Sub Group for North West (Inner) and North West (Outer) Area Committees was held on 13th September 2013. The following issues were discussed:

- 20mph Zones around schools and the various schemes used to accompany these zones.
- An update on NGT was provided. The next phase is the consultation window for the Transport & Works Act Order which is open from 19th September to 31st October. Comments must be submitted directly to the Secretary of State for Transport.
- A resolution will be required when full council meet on 13th November 2013.
- The NGT Team are planning a public enquiry for around 2 months likely starting in April 2014.
- There were extensive discussion about the consultation process, the operating costs, the effect of future technologies, losing public park space and trees, work which has been put into improving other provisions and green energy issues.

Key Messages

3.9 The Area Committee are asked to note the discussions of the Transport Sub Group.

3.10 Forum Update

3.11 There have been two forums held since the last Area Update Report to Area Committee, one Hyde Park & Woodhouse Forum and one Headingley Forum. Areas for discussion included community safety, environmental issues and highways.

Key Messages

3.12 The Hyde Park & Woodhouse Forum requested a representative from Asset Management report to the North West (Inner) Area Committee with an update on the site of the former Leeds Girls High School on Chestnut Grove and the site of Royal Park School.

3.13 Area Leads

3.14 The new Area Lead member roles have now met with the appropriate Executive Board member and Council Services. The sessions took place between September and October and included an introduction to the issues within each of the portfolio theme and the opportunity for Area Lead members to raise the local challenges which they would like to explore. Area Lead members will now be meeting with the local service representatives to agree a programme of work for each theme.

3.15 It is proposed to use existing sub-group arrangements, and where no local group exists the Area Support Team will work with Council Departments to ensure that Area Lead members have appropriate support arrangements in place locally. It is the intention of Executive Board members to meet with Area Lead members over the year. Area Committee Chairs will agree local arrangements to ensure Area Lead members have the opportunity report back to the Area Committee on key pieces of work.

3.16 Little London Update

3.17 With the commencement of the PFI housing contract in Little London and the imminent start of a range of other capital improvements, such as the primary school expansion and replacement of the community centre, work is being undertaken to ensure that these programmes are linked to broader activity in the area. Members of the Area Support Team have met with the PFI contractors SC4L and Strategic Housing colleagues to agree an approach to working together. Discussions with some local members and stakeholders have identified that an informal stakeholder group would be helpful to ensure we have regular conversation with local partners while the PFI and other construction activity takes place. Further work will be undertaken to determine how this could work in practice.

3.18 Royal Park School

3.19 Following the decision at Executive Board in July to demolish the Royal Park School building, the Executive Member for City Development met with representatives from the local community to discuss a proposal to take over the building. The group

advise they have the backing of a local businessman or consortium of people who are prepared to invest the £3.24m it is estimated would be necessary to refurbish the building. On that basis it has been agreed that if a viable proposal can be developed within three months then demolition works could be halted, but in the meantime preparations for demolition will continue. Discussions are still on-going, with a deadline of the end of October 2013.

3.20 Leeds Girls High School Sports Facilities, Victoria Road

3.21 Following the landowner's request for a review of the decision to list the site as an asset of community value, an oral hearing took place on 27th September. After hearing evidence from the landowner, nominator, ward members and the Chief Asset Management and Regeneration Officer, the Director of City Development has decided to overturn the decision and remove the site from the list of assets of community value. It was decided that it was not realistic to think the site could be brought back into a use which furthered the social interests or social wellbeing of the local community. The Localism Act sets out no right of appeal for the nominator.

3.22 Community Development Worker

3.23 As previously reported, the North West (Inner) Area Committee, agreed to employ a jointly-funded community development worker with the West (Outer) Area Committee. The post will work directly with individuals and community groups to provide practical advice to develop their capacity to deliver projects and represent the needs of local communities. This will create a new opportunity for Area Committees to directly respond to the needs of local groups, who may have the aspiration to do more in their community, but require some help and advice to organise their activities and access funding.

3.24 The Area Committees have now undertaken a tender process to select a VCFS organisation to deliver the community development project on their behalf and have appointed Better Leeds Communities (BLC) as the VCFS partner to deliver targeted Community Development Work in Inner North West and Outer West. BLC are now in the process of recruiting to the post of Community Development Worker.

3.25 Hawksworth Wood Update

3.26 Hawksworth Wood Village Hall – Following the refurbishment of St Mary's Church Hall, the venue has now been reopened as Hawksworth Wood Village Hall. North West (Inner) Area Committee granted £10,000 Wellbeing funding to Hawksworth Wood Older People's Service (HOPS) to support the renovation works. The Hall is a valuable space for HOPS to improve the delivery of services to older people however it is expected the whole community will use the space.

3.27 HAVA Big Local – The HAVA Board has now been in place for a number of months. Since their election, they have held eight HAVA Board meetings, one Board workshop, two public meetings and a number of task group sessions. Through these meetings they have created and submitted Terms of Reference, drafted a Community Profile and submitted an application for additional Pathway Funding. Additionally they have finalised the application process for small grants and recruited a writer for the HAVA Community Plan. All of these actions will help determine how the £1 million will be spent.

- 3.28 In order to further raise the profile of the work of HAVA, the group have started development of a HAVA website and newsletter. The group has also begun planning activities for 2014.
- 3.29 **Student Changeover and Freshers**
- 3.30 Planning work and additional resource provision for Student Changeover and Freshers was undertaken by Leeds City Council and partners over the summer months. This year the Changeover period spanned several weeks as the three Universities all finished for the term on different dates.
- 3.31 Additional Environmental resources included the provision of two additional bulk crews to clear fly tipping, proactively clear waste from yards and where bags had been slashed; ensuring two bin collections per week for each property throughout much of the area worked and the bin crews were also proactively removing waste from yards/gardens.
- 3.32 The University Student Unions worked together to run a number of projects. Leeds University Union's Leave Leeds Tidy project worked with various charities to organise drop off points for unwanted item. They also recruited a number of student volunteers delivering door to door advice to their peers. Leeds Met Students' Union's Refloat held 2 collections in Hyde Park and Headingley.
- 3.33 This year the Leeds Anti-Social Behaviour team carried out additional patrols in the Inner North West area with Safer Leeds Officers and the Police responding to noise nuisance reports. The project was funded by the Area Committee and ran for three weeks during changeover and six weeks during Freshers.
- 3.34 A full evaluation report of Student Changeover and Freshers can be found at **Appendix 1**.

Key Messages

- 3.35 The Student Changeover and Freshers Group have recommended changes to both the planning process and the operational process.
- The dates for the planning meetings will be set in advance at the beginning of the year, starting in early March with a workshop for all partners to allow new ideas to be put forward and considered.
 - Incorporate the Communications Plan, Changeover Plan and Freshers Plan into one streamlined, easy to read, document which retains the calendar of actions.
 - Improve the engagement of the target demographic of students and young professionals through increased use of social media; specifically encouraging partners to use Twitter and Facebook to create a culture of sharing, retweeting and linking messages.
 - Explore new ideas to work with local food banks to avoid food being wasted and to improve glass collections.

- Create an information sheet which gives advice about waste management, to be distributed by landlords in their new tenant packs.
- Incorporate any requirements about alternate weekly collections and ASHORE pilot project areas.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

4.1.1 Elected members have been consulted on the content of this report.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

4.2.1 There are no equality and diversity issues in relation to this report.

4.3 Council Policies and City Priorities

4.3.1 The Area Committee Functions and Priority Advisory Functions were approved by the Executive Board in June 2009. This approval was rolled forward to 2010/11 and is also being rolled forward to 2011/12 with amendments to the environmental delegation. The Area Functions are included in the Council's Constitution (Part 3, section 3c).

4.4 Resources and Value for Money

4.4.1 There are no resource implications as a result of this report.

4.5 Implications, Access to Information and Call In

4.5.1 There are no legal implications or access to information issues. This report is not subject to call in.

4.6 Risk Management

4.6.1 There are no risk management issues relating to this report.

5 Conclusions

5.1 This report provides members with an update on recent Sub Group and Forum business and other project work undertaken by the Area Support Team.

6 Recommendations

6.1 Members are asked to:

- Note and action as appropriate the Key Messages from Sub Groups and Forums.
- Note the update on the work around Student Changeover and agree the recommendations of the Changeover Planning Group.
- Note the update on the work of the Area Leads.

- Note the work being undertaken in Little London and Hawksworth Wood.
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7 Background documents

None