



Report of the Director of Neighbourhoods & Housing

Inner North West Area Committee

Date: 29th June 2006

Subject: Neighbourhood Management

Electoral Wards Affected:

Headingley
Hyde Park & Woodhouse
Kirkstall
Weetwood

Specific Implications For:

Ethnic minorities
Women
Disabled people
Narrowing the Gap

Council
Function

Delegated Executive
Function available
for Call In

Delegated Executive
Function not available for
Call In Details set out in the
report

Executive Summary

Following the confirmation of successful applications to Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) and Safer Stronger Communities Fund (SSCF), implementation of a Neighbourhood Management Initiative in Little London & Woodhouse has been undertaken. This work has included development of various activities addressing predominantly issues of health, the environment and crime.

In order to spread the benefits of the Little London & Woodhouse initiative, a number of other areas across inner north west have been identified as potential areas for development of improvement plans. This includes the area that forms an arc from Woodhouse, across Hyde Park and down to the Burley end of Kirkstall.

1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 This report provides an update to the Area Committee on neighbourhood management within inner north west. It provides information on neighbourhood management activities in the area, with particular focus on progress in Little London & Woodhouse, as well as some specific detail about how the £39,000 Wellbeing funding approved by the Committee in February 2006 is to be spent.

- 1.2 The report also seeks to gain agreement from the Committee about other areas where Neighbourhood Improvement Plans (NIPs) could be developed during 2006/07.

2.0 BACKGROUND

Little London & Woodhouse

- 2.1 A neighbourhood management scheme has been developed for Little London & Woodhouse. To help support this work, applications were submitted to both the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) and Safer Stronger Communities Fund (SSCF). As a result £220,000 NRF was awarded (2006/07 only, with possible extension to 2007/08) along with SSCF resources of £86,730 revenue and £73,000 capital. The SSCF revenue continues for four years, but with a gradually reducing amount of money, whilst the capital funding lasts for two years.
- 2.2 In addition to the above, £39,000 was approved by the Inner North West Area Committee as a contribution towards this scheme in February 2006.
- 2.3 The neighbourhood management work will deliver a major theme of the Safer Stronger Communities Block of the Leeds Local Area Agreement (LAA). The project will be monitored from July 2006 by the Government Office for Yorkshire & Humberside, against specific measures designed to track the improvement of local services and reduction in crime and anti-social behaviour. Key programme activities have therefore been developed with a view to early delivery of common priority actions.
- 2.4 In addition to the resources bought in through NRF, SSCF and Area Committee, Area Management has agreed a secondment of a member of staff from Leeds North West Homes who will be the Little London Regeneration Manager.

Neighbourhood Management Activities in Little London & Woodhouse

2.5 *Streetscene*

A team of Community Caretakers dedicated to Little London & Woodhouse will work to address environmental issues in the area. The team will replace the existing CAST service within the area, having enhanced skills to address issues that CAST could not. Capital funding will be used to purchase a vehicle for this team. The team will be recruited locally through Jobs & Skills and be put through a 6 week training course. Training will cover a wide range of basic skills including carpentry, bricklaying, horticulture and customer service. It is anticipated that the team for Little London & Woodhouse neighbourhood management will be on the ground by the end of August 2006.

2.6 *Policing*

A dedicated team of one sergeant and 5 officers will work in the area, tackling all aspects of crime and anti-social behaviour, including regular patrols and targeted operations. SSCF capital funding will be used to lease a motor vehicle for 2 years to provide high visibility policing in the area. This element of neighbourhood management has been operating since the beginning of June.

2.7 ***Health Activities***

This will deliver a programme of healthy living activities including nutritional advice, and wellbeing and lifestyle sessions. Activities will be directly managed through a partnership between Active 4 Life and Community Action Little London & Servias (CALLS). Recruitment of a co-ordinator for this project has taken place, with the successful candidate already in post.

2.8 ***Intensive Family Support***

This project will reflect a similar scheme on the Beck Hill Estate in North East Leeds. It will provide intensive support for young people and their families in the area, identified through the area's Community Safety Multi Agency meetings and referrals from, amongst others, the police, social services and education providers. The aim of this project is to reduce anti-social behaviour, therefore contributing to the wellbeing of both the families involved and the wider community. The scheme in Beckhill has encountered development and delivery problems due to the lack of a co-ordinating officer. For this reason part of the allocated funding will be used for a full-time co-ordination post. The role will be split between Little London & Woodhouse and Beckhill, dedicating 3 days to the prior and 2 to the latter. Recruitment has already taken place, with the successful candidate due in post in mid July.

2.9 ***Drugs Outreach***

This will deliver drug outreach support in the area. A similar project has previously been delivered through the PCT, proving extremely successful. The work will build on this success by developing new initiatives in the area and improving access to drugs outreach services. This project will be delivered by Bramley & Rodley Community Action (BARCA), which has a proven track record in delivering this type of project. It is anticipated that delivery of this project will commence at the end of June 2006.

2.10 ***Sexual Health***

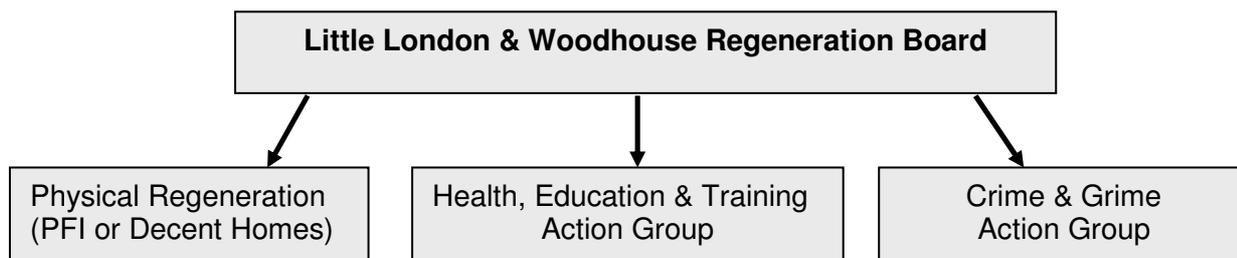
This scheme will deliver sexual health drop in sessions for young people in the area, managed and co-ordinated by Youth Point. Sessions will include GP support and female circumcision support (a need for which has been identified in the area). The project started being delivered at the end of May 2006.

2.11 ***Enforcement***

This will look at tackling a wide variety of issues through means of a dedicated area officer. Problems identified include, parking, litter, fly-tipping, graffiti, abandoned/untaxed vehicles, dog fouling, planning, fly-posting and unsightly gardens. It is anticipated that the officer will be in post by August 2006.

2.12 ***Community Involvement***

2.13 Below is the proposed structure for the Little London & Woodhouse neighbourhood management. The structure fits with the current/previous arrangements in place with the Little London Neighbourhood Board, related Task Groups and the Little London Multi-agency Group.



- 2.14 It is proposed that community representation is at all levels within the above structure. Work is taking place at the moment to engage with both existing groups, such as Little London Tenants & Residents Association and Community Action Little London & Servias, and the wider community. This is of particular importance in Woodhouse where there are no such groups.
- 2.15 There has already been community involvement in the recruitment of the Health Activities Co-ordinator.
- 2.16 In order to avoid duplication of meetings for both residents and officers, a proposal has been agreed with community representatives in which the existing Little London Multi-Agency Group becomes the two Action Groups shown above. As the Multi-Agency Group met on a monthly basis it has been agreed to rotate the 2 Action Groups so that they fit in with the existing schedule, meeting on alternate months.

The timetable for meetings is:

Crime & Grime	June 2006 August 2006 October 2006 December 2006 February 2007
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Health, Education & Training	July 2006 September 2006 November 2006 January 2007 March 2007
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- 2.17 The Crime & Grime Action Group had its first meeting on 5th June, at which Terms of Reference were agreed, a Chair elected and a full briefing provided to attendees on the neighbourhood management initiative and related projects/activities.

Other Neighbourhood Management Activities

3.0 Co-ordination

- 3.1 A Neighbourhood Initiatives Co-ordinator post has been created to take a lead on developing and delivering neighbourhood management and improvement plans across the North West wedge, including Little London & Woodhouse. The Co-ordinator will work closely with Area Management project officers, as well as key partners and local communities to ensure that real improvements are seen in identified areas.

3.2 An arc has been identified from Woodhouse, into Hyde Park and through to the Burley area of Kirkstall, across which neighbourhood management style service delivery will be spread out from Little London & Woodhouse. A key area of work for the Co-ordinator will be to aim to secure similar service improvement across this arc through mainstream resources, as will be achieved in Little London & Woodhouse through the extra money.

4.0 Neighborhood Improvement Plans

4.1 In March 2006 Members were asked to identify neighbourhoods within their wards that they felt could benefit from a multi-agency focused improvement plan, perhaps tackling one or two priorities at a time for that area.

4.2 Profiles for suggested areas will be produced including community facilities, services, service delivery, resources, and issues. Once issues have been mapped an improvement plan will be formulated, detailing what actions need to be taken, by whom, within what timescale and if there are any related resource implications. The specific actions will be developed in conjunction with the relevant group/agency that will carry out the action.

4.3 The plans will include both short (1 to 6 months) and medium (6 to 12 months) term actions. Quarterly monitoring will take place to ensure actions are being progressed and that these are having a real impact on the local community.

5.0 Neighbourhood Evaluation

5.1 *Headingley*

Thornvilles & Harolds

This area right at the southern tip of Headingley ward is adjacent to both the Kirkstall and Hyde Park & Woodhouse wards. In fact the SOA that this neighbourhood falls into crosses over the boundary with Hyde Park & Woodhouse.

Census information for this SOA shows that there are 608 households, some of which will fall outside of the Thornvilles/Harolds, with a population of approximately 1400. Of this population about 500 are aged 20-24, a reflection on the high density of students in the area.

This is the only residential area within Headingley that is ranked nationally within the worst 10% in the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004. Out of 476 SOAs in Leeds this area is ranked 149th worst in terms of Multiple Deprivation.

Probably the most significant statistic within the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IoMD) for this area is that nationally it is the 219th worst SOA in terms of the Living Environment. This concentrates on assessing deprivation in both the 'indoor' and 'outdoor' living environments, such as social and private housing in poor condition, households without central heating, air quality and road traffic accidents.

The SOA is also ranked amongst the worst 10% nationally within the Crime Domain. This is reflected in intelligence from the local police force, indicating there is a particularly high domestic burglary rate.

The type of housing in this area is mainly terrace housing, occupied predominantly by a transient student population.

A limited amount of work has been undertaken in the past to try to improve the condition of the environment within this area. In particular, a bin yard improvement scheme was carried out a few years ago, a number of which have been well kept; others however have not been maintained.

The initial issues highlighted for this area are streetscene, policing and community safety.

The area is covered by the South Headingley Community Association.

5.2 **Hyde Park & Woodhouse**

Little London

This inner city area is the only SOA within the inner north west wards to be ranked within the worst 3% nationally.

Little London is an area that has long been widely identified as a deprived neighbourhood. As such it has been the focus of a number of regeneration proposals, the most recent of which is being developed at the moment.

Neighbourhood Renewal Funding and Stronger Safer Communities Funding has been awarded to develop and implement a neighbourhood management scheme within this area.

Woodsley Road/Belle Vue Road

This area is in the south-west of Hyde Park & Woodhouse ward. It is an area with a high BME population, has its own small district centre on Woodsley Road and comprises a mixture of housing stock, mainly back to back and through terraces. The area has a community centre and a number of voluntary/community groups such as the Burley Lodge Centre and Hyde Park Source.

The area falls into an SOA that is ranked in the worst 10-20% nationally in terms of multiple deprivation and in particular the domains for Crime, Health Deprivation and Disability and Income Affecting Older People all have rankings within the worst 10%.

Issues highlighted in this area centre on streetscene and community cohesion.

5.3 **Kirkstall**

Hawksworth Wood

The Hawksworth Wood estate sits in the north of the Kirkstall ward. The estate as a whole crosses 2 SOAs, the majority falling within the SOA that is ranked within the worst 5% nationally. Working on figures for this 5% SOA, the estate has a population of approximately 1469, living within 640 households.

Interestingly, the only domain within the IoMD that is not ranked within the worst 10% is that of Barriers to Housing Services. Further more, all the remaining domains, with the exception of Income Affecting Children and Income Affecting Older People, fall within the worst 10% nationally. Most significantly the Crime and Living Environment Domain ranking are very high, 675 and 104 respectively (out of 32,482)

The area has been the focus of some resources in past years. There is a dedicated neighbourhood warden, an active community association which has provision for a full time worker and a new Children's Centre has just been built on the estate.

The Hawksworth Wood Community Association work very hard at making improvements to the area and bringing in additional resources and funding. At present the Association has commissioned independent consultants to assist with the development of a housing plan which proposes to demolish a number of flats, disposing of the site for development and reinvesting the capital receipt into environmental improvements within the area.

Latchmeres

The Latchmeres are on the northern tip of Kirkstall ward. It is an area predominantly made up of semi detached, two storey houses. The area is bordered to the north by the Outer Ring Road and to the south by Hawksworth Wood.

The area is in an SOA that is ranked in the worst 20% nationally in the Index of Multiple Deprivation. Other IoMD domains that this area falls within the worst 20% are Employment Deprivation, Health Deprivation & Disability, Living Environment (worst 10%) and Education, Skills and Training Deprivation. According to the IoMD rankings this area is the least affected by Crime in Kirkstall ward.

Issues highlighted to date in this area are around young people and related low level anti social behaviour.

Graysons, Sandfords & Gilberts

This area is situated between Kirkstall Road and Kirkstall Hill. Around the Graysons and Argie Avenue are a number of medium rise flats which are managed by Leeds North West Homes. The Sandfords and Gilberts lie below the Graysons, directly off Kirkstall Lane.

The SOA which this neighbourhood falls into is ranked within the worst 20% according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation. The Living Environment is ranked within the worst 10%, with Employment, Health & Disability and Crime all being in the worst 20%.

The Graysons was originally suggested as a potential NIP are separate from the Sandfords and Gilberts. However, due to their close proximity to one another it is proposed that the 2 be looked at in conjunction with one another, in order to maximise impact and make best use of available resources.

5.4 **Weetwood**

Ivesons

This neighbourhood is located in the north of Weetwood ward, just to the west of the Otley Old Road. The SOA covering the Ivesons is ranked within the worst 20% in the Index of Multiple Deprivation, which is the highest ranking in the ward. Other IoMD domains highlighted as being in the worst 20% are in relation to income, employment, crime and living environment which is ranked 412th out of 32,482.

Issues highlighted to date within this neighbourhood are particularly to do with young people and anti social behaviour. There has been an ongoing problem with young people hanging around outside the parade of shops on Iveson Approach, often climbing on to the roof of a neighbouring block of residential flats and gaining access to the block. There are also a number of identified hotspots in terms of fly-tipping and litter in this neighbourhood, ones that are regularly cleared by CAST.

Silk Mills/Tinshill

This neighbourhood is just to the west of the Ivesons, in the north of Weetwood ward. The area is in a SOA that is ranked in the worst 20% for the Index of Multiple Deprivation. The majority of the domains that contribute to this ranking are outside of the worst 20%, with the exception of crime and living environment which are both within the worst 10% of areas nationally. The crime ranking is the worst in the ward and the living environment the second worst.

A number of issues have been identified by ward members that affect this neighbourhood, these include young people congregating in groups, a lack of play facilities in the area, on street parking that causes problems regarding vehicle access and grass verges, fly-tipping and litter hotspots, graffiti and anti social behaviour.

6.0 **Area Committee Contribution**

6.1 In February 2006 the Inner North West Area Committee approved the allocation of £39,000 Wellbeing funding towards the neighbourhood management scheme in Little London & Woodhouse.

6.2 This funding has been split to contribute to the overall cost of two elements of the neighbourhood management, policing (£24,000) and streetscene services (£15,000).

6.3 Both of these elements will have significant impact, not only on the neighbourhood management area but also the wider arc area of inner north west.

7.0 **Monitoring**

7.1 Update reports will be submitted to Area Committee on a six monthly basis.

8.0 Conclusion

- 8.1 The Little London & Woodhouse neighbourhood management initiative is seen as a catalyst scheme within the inner north west area. Commitment has been given by service providers, such as streetscene and the police, to deliver the same standard and level of service as neighbourhood management brings in Little London across the inner North West arc.
- 8.2 Due to implications on resources within North West Area Management it will not be possible to develop NIPs for all of those areas identified. For this reason it is suggested that one area is chosen for Headingley, Kirkstall and Weetwood from those detailed above. For Hyde Park & Woodhouse it is suggested that Little London & Woodhouse be the 2006/07 focus of neighbourhood management, with a view to identifying a further area for work in 2007/08.

9.0 Recommendations

- 9.1 Members are requested to;
- a) note progress with the Little London & Woodhouse neighbourhood management activity; and
 - b) agree to the Little London & Woodhouse area being the Hyde Park & Woodhouse focus for an improvement plan for 2006/07, and
 - c) agree that the first neighbourhood improvement plans be focused on three neighbourhoods within Headingley, Kirkstall and Weetwood, and agree which 3 neighbourhoods these should be.