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## Report of the Director of Neighbourhoods & Housing

### South Leeds Area Committee

Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2006

### Subject: Area Managers Report

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**Electoral Wards Affected:**

Ardsley & Robin Hood  
Morley North  
Morley South  
Rothwell

**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

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## Executive Summary

This report details a range of activities taking place within the Outer South Leeds area, providing information to the committee and requesting members' views on several important issues.

### 1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To bring to Members' attention in a succinct fashion, brief details of the range of activities with which the Area Management team are engaged, and that are not addressed in greater detail elsewhere on this agenda. It provides opportunities for further questioning or the opportunity to request a more detailed report on a particular issue.

### 2.0 Town and District Centre Regeneration Scheme

2.1 A report was taken to the Program Management Board on 14<sup>th</sup> June in respect of Marsh Street car park redevelopment. The report requested the authorisation to progress to detailed planning stage and for the commissioning of the work to take place. This is the first scheme in the programme to progress to this stage of development. Approval was given, and the anticipated timescale for completion of the work is now January 2007.

2.2 A separate report on the proposed Morley Bottoms scheme appears elsewhere on this agenda.

### **3.0 Activities for Young People- John O'Gaunts Neighbourhood Improvement Plan.**

3.1 A consultation meeting took place at the Rose Lund centre on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2006 to explore the potential for additional resources for young people. Unfortunately there was a poor response from local residents, as there was to the previous consultation aimed at addressing this issue. The consultation dealt with the possibility of erecting a youth shelter in the vicinity of the Rose Lund Centre. Having considered the possible location of the shelter it is suggested that the vicinity of Rose Lund would give ample opportunity to erect a facility which could be used by young people without creating undue disturbance to local residents. It estimated that an amount of approximately £15,000 capital should be sufficient to provide for the acquisition and installation of a youth shelter. At present there is £11,000 remaining in the Well-being Capital Budget ring fenced for the John O'Gaunts Neighbourhood Improvement Plan, however it is anticipated that £5,000 will be required for the provision of a community garden at Templelawn. Consequently the Area Committee is being asked to ring-fence an additional £9000 to ensure that sufficient funds are available for the youth shelter. Subject to this Committees agreement to this proposal, it is intended to bring back to this Committee a full report for approval of this matter in the autumn cycle.

### **4.0 Summer Activities Programme**

4.1 At the time of preparing this report it seemed that insufficient activity was being planned in Outer South Leeds to justify the production of a specific summer activities brochure.

### **5.0 Gardening Scheme**

5.1 The new gardening service commissioned by the Area Committee for Rothwell, Ardsley Robin Hood and Lofthouse operated by Care & Repair Leeds started this week. The gardener, Emily Spencer, is now dealing with the 40 referrals received to date. In addition to the Area Committee funding the service also receives funding from Greenfingers Leeds. Clients are charged £10 an hour. The response so far has been very good, support and assistance has been provided Rothwell Live at Home Scheme and Rothwell in Bloom. The gardening equipment is being stored at Swithens Farm in Rothwell free of charge. Further referrals will be taken and placed on the waiting list. **Referrals should be made to Care and Repair on 0113 240 6009.**

### **6.0 Town Centre Manager**

6.1 Following the failure to appoint to this position in the recent recruitment round, a further round of publicity for the vacancy has taken place. This has resulted in a small number of potentially suitable applicants coming forward. Shortlisting and Interview arrangements are being put in place. It is anticipated that interviews will have taken place by the end of July 2006.

## **7.0 West Ardsley Community Centre**

7.1 Previous agreement has been given by the Area Committee to fund the refurbishment of this community centre to the sum of £10,000 (reference applies). At the time concerns were expressed regarding the lack of use being made of the centre, and the monies were provided to allow for internal redecoration and to install a central heating system. This work would enable increased activities to take place at the centre including childcare provision delivered by an external provider. It is worthy of note that this centre is expected to be the only one which will transfer to the Area Committees portfolio which shows a projected financial surplus. To facilitate the necessary work, Leeds City Council City Services Department has entered into protracted negotiations with Transco regarding the supply of mains gas to the centre. Despite these negotiations Transco has insisted on installing a new pipe from the mains rather than connecting the centre to the pipe which supplies the adjacent school. Initial estimates for the provision of a gas main and connection were in the region of £1000. However, this has risen to an actual cost of £6714, as a result of the need to connect to the mains. As this matter had become extremely protracted, and the quotation from Transco was only valid until 10<sup>th</sup> May (after which time there would have certainly been further considerable delay and possible expense), following consultation with Members, City Services requested Transco to undertake the work. This Area Committee is now asked to formally agree that £6564 from the Area Committees Well-being capital budget is allocated to finance this additional expenditure. This represents the amount that is required over and above the £150 still remaining within the budget from the initial £10,000 allocation.

## **8.0 South Leeds Vocational Training Scheme**

8.1 Last year both Inner and Outer South Area Committees gave support to Education Leeds to enable them to work with schools to enhance and diversify their curriculum offering to include more opportunities for young people to undertake vocational rather than purely academic based courses. This followed on from some of the key themes of the Tomlinson report and was felt to be a real opportunity to capture the interest and potential of young people who were struggling with primarily academic based options. At the time of developing this proposal it had been hoped to match fund the Area committee's financial contribution with European regional development funds. The subsequent expression of interest was turned down by Government office and consequently both Committees agreed to a more modest scheme to go forward. A detailed report on this scheme has been received from Jackie Burton 14-19 Co-ordinator for Education Leeds. The report is attached in appendix 1

## **9.0 South Leeds District Partnership**

9.1 The board of the District partnership met on 15<sup>th</sup> May and received presentations in respect of Making Leeds Better, Holbeck Urban Village and the relation with the wider regeneration of South Leeds and Children Leeds (south) Partnership. The Board also discussed the regeneration action plan, the review of the District Partnership and the Education, Employment and Training sub- group. This new subgroup will seek to develop detailed action plans aimed at narrowing the employment and training deficits in the most deprived super output areas. Within the Beeston Hill and Holbeck area much of this work will be progressed as part of the Learning Zone programme, but separate process will need to be established for Central Middleton and Belle Isle. The reports for the District Partnership and minutes

of meetings are available on the Leeds Initiative website by following the links to the south Leeds Partnership section.

- 9.2 The bid to secure a learning zone scheme for Beeston Hill and Holbeck was submitted by Learning Partnerships with support from the South Leeds District Partnership. The bid has passed through the Learning and Skills Councils first stage of evaluation and is now subject to detailed negotiations regarding actual delivery and costs. It has transpired that the scheme will, if agreed, need to be completed by December 2007, not Easter 2009 as initially anticipated; however the same amount of finance is available for this shorter period.

## **10.0 Staffing Update**

- 10.1 At the time of writing, staffing within the Outer Area Team remains problematical. Of the three posts only one is currently filled. However the SO1/2 position has been advertised and at the time of writing it was expected that the PO2 position would shortly be advertised. It may be possible to report on progress of this at this committee.

## **11.0 Leeds City Council Annual Survey Results**

- 11.1 In late 2005 a survey of just over 2000 Leeds residents took place to determine their views in relation to the services provided by the City Council. This survey was weighted to provide a representative sample of all the residents of Leeds. Responses were also recorded in accordance with the residency of individuals in terms of the five wedges. It is intended to bring a more detailed report on this survey to a Committee in the autumn cycle when it will be of use in considerations relating to the priorities to be included in the following years Area Delivery Plan.

## **12.0 About Leeds**

- 12.1 Following consultation with Area Committees in 2005 an evaluation has been undertaken regarding the effectiveness of the City councils civic newspaper. Key findings were:

- About Leeds ranked first in how respondents would prefer to receive council news.
- 85% of respondents said it was clear easy to understand and represented good value.
- 68% of people said they used local media as their main source of information about the Council compared to 58% who quoted About Leeds

- 12.2 In 2005/6 it was not necessary to utilise funding allocated by some of the Area Committees to finance the newspaper. Consequently it has also been decided that the newspaper will continue to still be published on the same quarterly schedule with similar levels of input from area committees, but that no funding will be required from the Area Committees.

## **13.0 Recommendations**

- 13.1 To approve the allocation of £6564 from the well being capital budget to finance the installation of a gas supply to West Ardsley community centre.

## **Appendix 1**

### **South Leeds Vocational Training Programme**

During the academic year 2005/2006 priority has been given to develop the 14-19 curriculum based upon 2 main criteria:

1. Curriculum areas where there is a workforce deficit
2. Engaging challenging students (potential NEET adults) in recognised qualifications

As such, the following programmes have been developed this year to address those issues. This is a pilot year for the programmes and the aim is to develop them based on their strengths next academic year. The key to all of these programmes, however, is that they are built on collaborative partnership arrangements and all parties have an investment (be it time, financial or otherwise) in them.

Priority has not been given to any one school. Places have been allocated, in the first instance, to all schools on a pro rata basis (other than at Belle Isle Family Centre which is targeted due to charity funding criteria). Some schools, however, are keener to engage and take places than others, though the spread across the wedge is actually fairly equitable.

None of these courses would have been possible were it not for the support of the Inner and Outer South Area Committees. It is this investment in local students and the local area which has allowed us to develop the following innovative models.

#### **Painting and Decorating Programme**

Working in collaboration with Joseph Priestley College, Leeds South Homes, Kier Construction (and their contractors), students from South Leeds High, Morley High and Woodkirk are studying towards a BTEC Introductory Certificate in Construction (Painting and Decorating being the specialist unit). Between January and April 2006, students have spent one day per week working on community projects such as painting the communal areas of Dulverton Court, Cottingley. All students are provided with protective clothing and boots, which should also be of benefit to them when looking for employment. The college has the advantage of assessing the student whilst in a realistic environment. Kier Construction has generously offered to pay one contractor per group of 4 students per day's work spent with them. The students are experiencing a realistic placement. The obvious benefit to the sheltered housing is that they have newly painted rooms to a high standard and this has been done by local young people. To date (March 2006), 80% of the students have secured either a job or a further course in Construction for when they leave this year.

#### **Garden Maintenance (GAP) Project**

Working with Groundwork Trust, 8 'challenging' students from Royds, South Leeds High, Morley High, Bruntcliffe and Woodkirk schools have embarked on a 2 year courses. They are working towards an ASDAN qualification and have completed a wide variety of ground maintenance and recycling projects. This is a very 'hands on' course and projects have been referred to us by a number of local Councillors in order that we address areas according to a priority of local need. Once again, this is an effective project which engages students with

their local environment in a very positive way. Students attend Groundwork Trust every Friday.

The cost of this course is approx £25,000 per year. This is payable directly to Groundwork Trust and covers all staff costs, raw materials and clothing for students. There is a very high staff: pupil ratio. This project is only possible through support from both South Area Committees, due to the costs. Schools could not afford to sustain this provision on their own as there would be an annual shortfall of approx £21,000.

### **Construction**

This is an exciting new development of partnership working to deliver the BTEC First Diploma in Construction in September 2006. This is the equivalent of 4 GCSEs (grades A\*-C). In the first instance, this will be between Bruntcliffe High and Jobs and Skills Construction Centre (Clarence Road). Bruntcliffe were the only school in outer South Leeds not able to deliver Level 2 Construction qualifications on site, yet have a high need for such qualifications. Students are to be taught in an innovative way in so far as part of the qualification will be taught in school and then students will go to the excellent facility at the Construction and Skill Centre for their skills training. This collaboration aims to enable school staff to be inducted into delivering part of the qualification, whilst ensuring that students are given expert industry standard skills training. We also aim to make best use of their excellent network of industry contacts throughout the course.

The funding arrangement for this is to be shared between Bruntcliffe, the Construction Skills Centre and Education Leeds with additional support from the Area committees essentially paying for the students PPE kit. Some funding has already been paid to hold a parents' evening during March 2006 at the centre, which had 100% attendance and was extremely successful.

### **Project Kitchen – Belle Isle Family Centre**

The project with BIFC 2005/2006 has been a collaboration with a voluntary sector organisation and an innovative use of funding to support and engage students from priority Super Output Areas.

Students undertook a full academic year of training in the kitchen on site provided by the Trainer Chef. This included customer care, handling money, ICT development, healthy living, child care (in the case of one student). BIFC received funding for a support worker to work alongside 4 young people on a full year programme. The criteria for the students were that they had to live in a SOA in the vicinity of BIFC and they had to be in the final year of school (aged 15/16). The students chosen for this year were from South Leeds High due to the proximity of the school. The students were very low achievers and were expected to be in the future NEET category. Funding from The Princes Trust was also used to kit out the students in their kitchen attire. All students achieved an Entry Level Qualification in Food Preparation. Three of the 4 students have gained places on courses at Thomas Danby college.

Next year (2006/2007), BIFC are hoping to expand the project to 8 students from 2 schools, with the aim of also offering places to Cockburn High School

Funding for this project came from both the Area Committee and this enabled the project to take place and for BIFC to gain City and Guilds centre accreditation. This means that BIFC can now accredit all learners that come to the centre with a City and Guilds qualification.

### **Collaboration Between Schools**

Part of the role of 14-19 development with schools is to support them with the government White Paper and in particular with preparation for the new specialised diplomas (from 2008). It is widely acknowledged (and specified in the White Paper) that schools working in isolation cannot offer access to the full range of qualifications at a high quality. In preparation for this, it is imperative that schools start to collaborate as soon as possible. September 2006 will see the beginnings of such collaboration initially between Woodkirk, Bruntcliffe and Joseph Priestley College. The 2 schools are to share cohorts of learners for a range of vocational qualifications for which the schools have neither enough facilities nor suitably qualified staff. Since the inception of this collaboration, the schools have also progressed with sharing expertise in their own areas of specialism, which is invaluable in terms of partnership working.

South East Leeds has a very well established Learning Development Partnership (the SELP) which is supported by substantial amounts of Increased Flexibility funding, as it is recognised that such arrangements are costly. The Woodkirk, Bruntcliffe partnership has been supported by £15,000 pump priming, per school, in the first instance, though this was not all LAC funding. It is important to note that this funding has enabled these schools to have up to 30-40 learners on the Construction course and hence, working back in local community based projects.

