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## Report of the Director of Environments & Neighbourhoods Directorate

### South Leeds (Outer) Area Committee

Date: Monday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2007

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, which are not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda.

### 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 South Leeds District Partnership

2.1 The District partnership was due to meet on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2007. However, as this was after the submission of this report, the outcome of the meeting was unknown at the timing of writing. The agenda was as follows:

- Consultation on Draft Leeds Strategic Plan
- Proposed Changes to Area Based Partnership Working
- Multi-Agency Working in Neighbourhoods
- Highlight report - Health and Well Being Partnership.
- Highlight report – South Leeds Employment, Education and Training Group
- Organisational and Other Sub Partnership Updates

2.2 As previously reported the potential future scope and structure of all district partnerships is being considered by the Council, its partners and the Leeds initiative. An initial report was discussed at the Narrowing The Gap Executive Board at the end of September, and the issue will be raised with Leeds City Council Executive Board as part of a report concerning Area Management. The need to consider the changes has arisen from a range of factors including the reduction in the organisational boundaries of key partner agencies, proposed changes to Area Management, and the desire to ensure that ward members and Area Committees play a full and strategic influencing role in partnership working. A detailed report on these issues will be presented to all Area Committees during the December cycle, and following consultation with committees and other agencies, firm proposals will be discussed with the Executive Board of Leeds City Council and the Leeds Initiative Narrowing the Gap Executive early in the new year.

### **3.0 Morley Literature Festival Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> October**

3.1 The second Morley Literature Festival concluded on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> October. Over the five days of the festival, twenty three events were successfully held at Morley Town Hall and other venues across Morley. The festival director Paula Truman organised many free activities including potty poetry, a scrabble challenge, creative writing sessions, Manga workshops and puppetry. Significant successes were recruitment to the 'Friends of Morley Literature Festival' scheme and the numbers of volunteers from the local community organising and assisting with the stewarding. An evaluation report will be brought to the Area Committee in December detailing outcomes, finances and lessons learnt.

### **4.0 Youth Service**

4.1 At the September Area Committee, members requested that further information be submitted which clearly illustrates the ways in which the £315,689 funding allocated towards Youth Service provision in 2006/2007 was spent in the Outer South Leeds area.

4.2 The following details have been submitted by Youth Service to outline funding allocations.

4.2.1 The total Youth Service staffing budget is: £3,699,700  
The proportion allocated to Outer South Area is: £315,689

The Ward Breakdown is:

Ardsley & Robin Hood	£81,195
Morley North	£74,850
Morley South	£76,586
Rothwell	£83,058

- 4.2.2 The above figures relate purely to area based staff and do not include the costs of a wide range of services which are of great benefit to the area. For example, the figures exclude Herd Farm, Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, Equality Action, Health Education and a large number of city-wide schemes such as the Youth Council and initiatives run by city-wide voluntary organisations.
- 4.2.3 The budget delegated to Area Committee includes the 2 Area Youth Workers based in Outer South Area. The delegated budget does not include senior management, administration and staff carrying out functions such as training, quality assurance, service planning, monitoring etc.
- 4.2.4 Leeds Youth Service has actually spent £341,166 on the employment of staff working exclusively in Outer South Area.
- 4.2.5 In addition, the Outer South area budget has been used flexibly in 2006/7 to facilitate the following grants:

St Peter's Musical Group at Morley Community Church	£3,500
Gildersome Junior Cricket Club	£3,500
St Peter's Gildersome Adventure	£4,000
City-Wide	£7,603
Total	£18,603

4.2.6 Summary:

Actual Expenditures

Area Staffing	£341,166
Grants	£18,603
Total	£359,769

4.2.7 2006/7 Overspend £44,080

## 5.0 Town & District Centre Regeneration Scheme

- 5.1 The major part of the Marsh Street works regarding the resurfacing and layout of the car park have been completed. Snagging issues have been raised with Mouchel Parkman to check if any resolution to these can be made within the remit of the scheme. The bills for work carried out by the construction company Colas over the summer on the Marsh St car park are currently under scrutiny by Mouchel Parkman, the project manager for the improvement scheme. It appears that the construction company is requesting additional charges for work done which is over and above the original allocation of monies to this scheme and which Mouchel Parkman is currently querying. Until the final position is made clear on the legitimate expenditure, finishing off work such as regarding landscaping is on hold.
- 5.2 Work is still progressing on the planning for the regeneration of Morley Bottoms, detailed and complex negotiations are presently been undertaken with significant partners and interested bodies.

## **6.0 Cleaner Neighbourhoods**

- 6.1 The Cleaner Neighbourhoods Sub Group convened for the second time on Thursday 18th October at Morley Town Hall. The sub group worked through a newly created action plan (**Appendix 1**) that captures actions from the Area Delivery Plan and other issues identified.
- 6.2 Concerns regarding the operation of the grass cutting contract were raised by Members; in particular areas of grass not mapped and so excluded from the current contract were discussed.
  - 6.2.1 Aire Valley Homes agreed to receive details of these locations from Councillors, who are invited to email grass cutting locations to Sue Spellman who will confirm whether or not these locations are currently in the Glendale's contract.  
[Susan.Spellman@avhleeds.org.uk](mailto:Susan.Spellman@avhleeds.org.uk)
  - 6.2.2 With regard to CAST, City Services are currently updating their list of environmental hotspots. Again Ward Councillors are invited to email sites of concern to be added to the list. Hotspot locations to be emailed to [Angela.Smith@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:Angela.Smith@leeds.gov.uk)
- 6.3 An update was given by the Tidy Business Officer, City Services, who is promoting and delivering the Tidy Business Award scheme to businesses across the Outer South. The sub group recommended the officer made contact with the Town Centre Manager to target local businesses.
- 6.4 The next meeting of the Cleaner Neighbourhoods Sub Group will take place on Thursday 17th January 2008.

## **7.0 Care & Repair. Garden Maintenance Service**

- 7.1 This is a summary of the work undertaken between April 2007 and the end of August 2007. A full report is being prepared (when the growing season finishes) and will be presented at the December Area Committee examining the finances in detail in order to prepare for planning the service for 2008.
- 7.2 During the period from April to the end of August 2007, a total of 353 gardening jobs were completed at the homes of 91 different clients. A few of these were one-off clearances, but 85 clients have been receiving a regular service. In the business plan the target for the number of clients to receive a regular service in 2007 was projected to be 75.
- 7.3 The response from the clients has continued to be extremely good, and several came along to our recent AGM to express this view in person. The general view from the clients is that they find the service to be efficient, cost-effective and essential for them to maintain their gardens. A considerable number of clients have been referred on for other services run by our agency.

7.4 Although the gardening service is proving to be very successful in terms of the numbers of clients, it is proving very difficult to generate enough income to cover the full costs of providing the service. This was exacerbated by the very wet weather earlier this summer. In October I will be carrying out a full review of the service and examining the finances in detail and will provide a further report at this time.

## **8.0 Recommendations**

8.1 The Area Committee is asked to note the above information and make comment as appropriate.