

**Report of the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods**

**To: Inner West Area Committee**

**Date: 6<sup>th</sup> December 2007**

**Subject: Area Managers Report**

<p><b>Electoral Wards Affected:</b></p> <p>Armley Bramley and Stanningley</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Ward Members consulted (referred to in report)</p>	<p><b>Specific Implications For:</b></p> <p>Equality and Diversity <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Community Cohesion <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Narrowing the Gap <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	
<p>Council Function <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Delegated Executive Function available for Call In <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Delegated Executive Function not available for Call In Details set out in the report <input type="checkbox"/></p>

**Executive Summary**

The purpose of this report is to inform members of progress on a number of projects in Inner West Leeds as follows

- Area Delivery Plan 2008-11 consultation events
- The future of West Leeds District Partnership
- Community Centres update
- West Leeds Gateway update
- Funding proposals for LEGI and Access to Employment
- Leeds Bradford corridor

Inner West Area Committee members are invited to note the contents of the report and to comment on any aspect of the matter raised.

**1.0 Purpose of This Report**

1.1 This report informs members about actions on a number of Inner West Area Committee priorities.

**2.0 Background Information**

2.1 The priorities of the Inner Area Committee are set out in the Area Delivery Plan agreed by members in February 2007. This report updates members on a number of specific actions under this plan.

2.2 The Area Delivery plan for the Inner West Area Committee 2008-11 will include new priority areas for Area Committees. This report also identifies how local community views will be sought and identifies future partnership arrangements.

### **3.0 Main Issues**

#### **Community Consultation Events**

3.1. West Leeds Area Management is proposing to run a number of community consultation events in the New Year to assist the Inner West Area Committee in preparing the new Area Committee delivery plans. Unlike the previous plans this will be a three year plan, running from 2008-11 and will have a number of new priority areas to reflect the new responsibilities of the Committee.

3.2. The intention is to hold two sessions on two Mondays in January and February 2008 between 3-7pm. There will be one event per ward, one in Armley, and one in Bramley. These will be run in conjunction with staff from the North West police division community policing team, West North West Homes, Leeds PCT, West and North West Environmental Health, Children Leeds West and other local partners.

3.3. The technique to gather information will be the "Planning for Real" approach involving large scale maps of each ward so that residents can highlight areas of concern and opportunity. The event will enable residents to meet ward members, the Community Police and Council officers and to

- put views forward
- find out more about council services
- learn more about efforts to improve local neighbourhoods
- help make services work better

3.4 The approach will be to a number of tables, each with a map and information about the key responsibilities of area committees. Children's Services will be involved to ensure we give the event maximum publicity amongst young people. People from BME and other disadvantaged groups will be specifically encouraged to attend. The sessions will provide information that will be of value to all services in their service planning and will offer useful spin offs in terms of joint working.

#### **West Leeds District Partnership**

3.5 The West Leeds District Partnership is to be abolished following from the proposals in the Area Management Review reported elsewhere to this Committee. The West Leeds District Partnership has been one of the most successful in the City. Since its formation in 2004 it has led the partnership input into the West Leeds Gateway regeneration area, the multi agency crime and grime sweeps under "Project Apollo/Champion", the support for Culture and Sporting developments, the joint work between Leeds and Bradford, and an annual award event to recognise achievement in local people. It has been especially successful in engaging with business, such as Elite Forwarding and Farnell in One and has featured in a DVD made for the Department of Communities and Local Government about this. The "Strategy for Success" document published in 2005 has largely been implemented. The success of the partnership has been recognised by the City Council through a bid for

“Beacon Status” by the City Council – the visit for this was made by the adjudicators to the Lazer Centre earlier this November, an event in which all District partners, public, private and voluntary sector put in their support.

3.6 The Partnership is due to be stood down after its final meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> December 2007.

### **New partnership arrangements**

3.7 The Area Committees will take on the District Partnership role of oversight into the work of the local agencies.

3.8 Administrative co ordination of partnership work will in future be undertaken by a West and North West senior officer group drawn from senior representatives of interested organisations and stakeholders including

- Primary Care Trust
- Police
- ALMO
- Leeds City Council
- Children Leeds
- Leeds Initiative
- Other local partners as appropriate

3.9 West and North West wedge will however continue to have a number of partnership organisations as follows

- Children and Young People partnerships (2 existing partnerships– one for west and one for north west) - led by the locality enablers
- Community Safety – an existing partnership led by North West Police
- Housing- an existing partnership led by West North West ALMO

3.10 The Voluntary Sector (through VOICE) will feed in to all of these partnership organisations. Each partnership would have the opportunity to feedback on its work to Area Committee on an annual cycle

### **Children and Young People’s awards**

3.11 The final West Leeds District Partnership awards event will be held on 12th December – the 2007 West Leeds Children and Young People’s awards, organised jointly with Children Leeds. These awards will celebrate the success of children and young people in our area. A special award ceremony will be held at Stanningley Rugby Club. Prizes worth up to £50 each have been offered by member organisations of the West Leeds District Partnership to which members are invited.

## **Community Centres update**

### **Wyther**

3.12 The Inner West Area Committee approved the closure of Wyther Park Community Centre in December 2006. Learning and Leisure with whom the building is vested have also declared it surplus to requirements

3.13 Consultation took place with the remaining user group over a long period of time and this involved Elected Members and Officers from Asset Management, Learning and Leisure and Regeneration. Following discussions, a proposal for the group to lease the centre was developed and this was progressed with the understanding that the group would be in a position to manage the facility and pay all running costs estimated at approx £10,000 pa. The group indicated they had a sponsorship arrangement that would support these costs but this did not materialise.

3.14 After this a more straightforward letting was put in place with the group with effect from April 2007 for 12 months and a sum of £1,500 pa was agreed as a contribution from the group towards running costs.

3.15 A visit to the centre in June 2007 by City Services staff revealed specific issues with the building, and concerns about alleged inappropriate use by the key holders. Several items of essential repairs and maintenance issues were identified. Due to the nature of the issues identified and repairs required the centre was closed and the centre keys were returned by the Twilight Twirlers.

3.16 Alternative accommodation has been offered to the group at Bramley CC (which is located just under a mile away). These facilities were offered as a formal letting on a temporary basis rent free whilst issues with the Wyther centre were considered. The booking is scheduled for Monday and Thursday between 5 – 8pm, the centre caretaker is present during the booking and opens and closes the centre. Youth Service, who look after Bramley CC, have advised that the group could be offered space on an official letting/booking basis for a long term period.

3.17 A report was presented to Asset Management group on 30th November 2007 recommending demolition of the building and then to progress to disposal of the site.

### **Moorside**

3.18 Discussions have taken place between the Strategic Landlord, with whom the Moorside Community Centre is vested, West Area Management and the two groups involved in the dispute around the management of the Centre. Advice is being followed that has been offered by Legal Services. The prime intention is to have a sustainable management committee that can offer a community facility to the local residents. Meetings with both parties are due to take place by mid December.

## **West Leeds Gateway Regeneration Area Action Plan**

3.19 The mechanism for taking the West Leeds Gateway Area work forward has been through the preparation of an Area Action Plan under the Local Development Framework. This is a lengthy process but will test the Area Regeneration Framework for soundness and

will provide a robust framework for long term regeneration. The consultation period will start on the preferred option on 15th January 2008 for 6 weeks until February 2008. A programme of events, exhibitions and publicity is being planned.

3.20 A report will go to Executive Board on 19th December 2007 seeking authority for the public consultation on the proposed options, following consideration by Development Directorate and the Development Plan Panel. The following document is being prepared:

1. Final Preferred Option
2. The Sustainability Appraisal
3. Baseline Study
4. Consultation Report
5. Questionnaire
6. Maps
7. Context Map showing the Regeneration area
8. Key Proposals Map showing intervention areas and sites
9. Proposals maps for the 7 areas of intervention
  - Central Armley including Town Street, Mistress Lane, Theaker Lane and Far Fold
  - Armley Mills
  - Canal Road and Ledgard Way
  - Canalside
  - New Wortley and the Gyratory
  - Oldfield Lane
  - Tong Road/Wellington Road
10. Conservation Areas Map
11. Aerial Photograph with AAP boundary
12. Greenspace and Greenlinks

3.21 This final plan will be presented to Area Committee in February 2008

### **Business Forum**

3.22 A Business Forum will be held at Armley One Stop on the 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 6pm. This will be part of the consultation process on the West Leeds Gateway plan and a briefing on the proposals for Armley Town Street

### **Funding bids: Local Enterprise Growth Initiative (LEGI)**

3.23 Following the report to the last Inner West Area Committee in October 2007 a funding application was submitted under the LEGI programme. This asks for funding to establish a Development Trust as part of Bramley and Rodley Community Action (BARCA) – Leeds. The Development Trust will have the task of supporting the growth of local enterprise work throughout West Leeds.

3.24 BARCA has submitted a full funding application of £210,000 for two years to go before the LEGI Programme Board in February 2008. This application will also secure finance for Phase 1 - a Catalyst Centre based on Stanningley Road at the CUBIC centre. This will be a managed workspace for start up businesses. Phase 2 will be the “move on” accommodation working with Park Lane College. Phase 3 will be the building of a new facility for start up

businesses and developing existing businesses. Pending the agreement to funding phase 1 then a Business Development Worker will be in post by Easter 2008.

### **Funding bids: Access to Employment (A2E)**

3.25 A funding application for £400,000 has been submitted for 2008-10 funding for Worklessness. Under the title "Local Futures" this bid focuses on the needs of lone parents and those young people not in education employment and training. It has been prepared jointly by West and North West District Partnerships so covers the most deprived neighbourhoods in both these areas. The project will have four main centres: New Wortley, Fairfield in West and Burley Lodge and Cardigan Centre in North West; the overall project manager will be BARCA . The proposal for funding from the Area Committee to support this bid is covered in the wellbeing report elsewhere on the agenda.

### **Leeds Bradford Corridor.**

3.26 Following the presentation of the Leeds Bradford work to the last Area Committee, a report has been drafted to go to the Executive Boards of Leeds and Bradford Councils in December 2007 that agrees to the principle of joint working between Leeds and Bradford councils and seeks the necessary joint resources (£100,000 from each authority) to support the work programme over the next two years.

## **4.0 Council Policy and Governance, Legal and Resource Implications**

4.1 The Area Delivery Plan for Inner West is administered through West Leeds Area Management team. This report had indicated progress on tackling a number of projects crucial to delivering the next plan 2008-11

## **5.0 Recommendations**

5.1 Inner West Area Committee members are invited to note the contents of the report and to comment on any aspect of the matter raised