



## Report of the Director of Environments & Neighbourhoods Directorate

### South Leeds (Outer) Area Committee

Date: Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2008

### Subject: Area Managers Report

#### 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

## Executive Summary

This report details a range of activities taking place within the Outer South Leeds Area, some of which are 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 Participatory Budgeting

- 2.1 The Participatory Budgeting (PB) Steering Group met for a second time on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> January.
- 2.2 Following agreement at the last Area Committee to allocate £10,000 to the project, the Narrowing the Gap Group has confirmed £1,000 funding for 2007/08 with a further £10,000 towards the project available in 2008/09.
- 2.3 Aire Valley Homes are represented on the Steering Group and have confirmed that the £10,000 contribution towards the projects can be transferred to the Area Management budget so as to hold PB funding in one place.
- 2.4 Promotion of the scheme is due to start on the 14<sup>th</sup> of February with leafleting being carried out on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> February. Area Management are attending

Drighlington Parish Council public meeting to promote and explain the training, consultation and Decision Day events organised.

- 2.5 Three training events are planned in the week commencing 25<sup>th</sup> of February. The Priority Neighbourhood Development worker will run three identical sessions at different locations and different times to attract a mix of residents. These training events will explain the PB concept and the role of residents. Consultation will also be carried out to identify project ideas that can be developed through capacity building and partnership working with other agencies.
- 2.6 The Steering Group have submitted an update report to the Narrowing the Gap Group in February.

### **3.0 Area Delivery Plan 2008 – 2011**

- 3.1 Work has commenced on developing the 2008 -2011 Area Delivery Plan (ADP) for the Outer South Area Committee. This plan will link closely to the Leeds Strategic Plan (LSP) which Area Committees were consulted on in November 2007. The LSP ensures that themes within the Vision for Leeds, Local Area Agreement and Leeds Regeneration Plan are integrated which will help address neighbourhood needs. The ADP will be based on the LSP's thematic improvement priorities and the strategic outcomes. The ADP will also take into account the greater range of responsibilities delegated to the Area Committee from the start of the next municipal year. Local performance indicators will also be developed to show how specific actions provide benefits locally as well as how they are contributing to city-wide targets.
- 3.2 Part of the ADP development process will incorporate some forms of consultation – with Ward members, the community and relevant agencies. The need to avoid consultation fatigue particularly with members of the community will be taken into account in the following proposals:

#### **Ward Member Consultation**

Following consultation the revised LSP improvement priorities are in the attached at **Appendix 1**. Members are encouraged to express their view on preferred priorities for this Area Committee's ADP. Councillors may also wish to discuss theme champion roles, where each Member would be able to oversee and take a special interest in one or more of the LSP themes within the Committee's ADP. In addition, it is suggested that Members meet informally to feed in views on the above on behalf of their Wards and as such agree a time and date for this meeting to take place.

#### **Community Consultation**

Two exercises are planned to confirm issues which have consistently been raised by the community in the recent past either through NIPs or other consultation. For example there will be an analysis of key issues from previous consultation exercises as well as reviewing suggestions which local residents have put forward to improve their area.

The other exercise is a postcard (**Appendix 2**) which will be sent to a number of community groups representing various communities in Outer South Leeds and placed within various community access points such as libraries, sports centres, community centres, one stop centres, etc. The postcard asks people to put forward their views on what they feel are the big issues that we need to tackle in the 2008 – 2011 ADP and the big ideas for addressing these particular problems.

### **Agency Consultation**

Meetings are planned with all the relevant agencies to discuss specific actions relating to their service and set targets on various issues to pursue over the next three years.

- 3.3 It is anticipated that a draft ADP will be presented at the April Area Committee, with a final version going to the June meeting for final agreement to implement. It is then intended that quarterly monitoring of the plan will take place with the Area Committee receiving a full progress report on the ADP twice a year.

### **4.0 Town & District Centre Regeneration Scheme**

- 4.1 As reported recently the major part of the Marsh Street works regarding the resurfacing and layout of the car park have been completed. Mouchel Parkman. As requested a full report appears elsewhere on the agenda.
- 4.2 Work is still progressing on the planning for the regeneration of Morley Bottoms. The results of the traffic survey are expected in the next couple of months. The advertising hoarding site has been secured, which will see the construction of the lay by with start on site in April. Meanwhile, officers continue to pursue Section 215 notices on several properties.

### **5.0 Cleaner Neighbourhoods**

- 5.1 The Cleaner Neighbourhoods Sub Group met on the 17<sup>th</sup> January and received updates from City Services, Parks and Countryside and Area Management on progress with the action plan for the Outer South.
- 5.2 City Services officers attended to explain and discuss the process and current provision of the grass cutting contracts with Glendales. This was well received by Members and clarified the process of adding and removing grass cutting sites to the Glendale contract and issues that arise and how City Services resolve them.
- 5.3 Members agreed that the additional litterbin provision for 2007/08 should include the litterbin locations still outstanding for 2005/06 in Ardsley and Robin Hood and Rothwell. City Services have agreed to purchase, install and maintain litterbins at the locations on behalf of the Area Committee. **Appendix 3** details the locations for additional litterbins.
- 5.4 At the December Area Committee, Members agreed to match Morley Town Councils allocation of £5,000 with £6,000 from the Well Being Budget towards the purchase of a Glutton Street Cleaner for Morley. Area Management are liaising with City Services to confirm final costs and operating details.
- 5.5 The next meeting of the Cleaner Neighbourhoods Sub Group will take place at 10.30 am on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2008.
- 5.6 The Recycling and Waste Team have completed a monitoring operation covering over 128,000 household recycling bins. This exercise has identified those routes with high contamination and low participation. The next phase is to doorstep all the households identified.

- 5.7 A door stepping agenda has been circulated to Area Management Teams showing when the door stepping will take place in their area. The Education and Awareness Team have offered to speak with any community groups and tenant and resident associations about the exercise. It is likely that there will be further door knocking to include other areas not on the initial target list. In the Outer South door stepping will take place in East Ardsley and Thorpe Wood, week commencing 24<sup>th</sup> March.
- 5.8 Arising from the NIP meeting in John O'Gaunts (JOG), £5,000 towards additional litterbins in the John O'Gaunts has been requested. City Services have confirmed they have the capacity to empty and maintain these proposed additional litterbins. Locations will be identified by the JOG residents associated and supported by the PNDW and the NIP. Members are asked to consider approving £5,000 from the Rothwell capital allocation for the purchase of additional litterbins.

## **6.0 Operation Champion**

- 6.1 The Crime and Grime initiative 'Operation Champion' was carried out on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> December 2007 in Oakwells and Fairfax and the wider Drighlington community.
- 6.2 The operation targets Crime and Grime and is a chance for agencies like West Yorkshire Police, Aire Valley Homes, City Services, Probation, West Yorkshire Fire Service, Youth Service, DVLA and Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs (HMRC) to work within a neighbourhood and jointly target their services and support.
- 6.3 Door knocking was carried out in four areas within the Drighlington Parish Council area to promote free services available to residents including; fire safety checks, free energy saving light bulbs and discount vouchers for Disklocks from Morley Police station.
- 6.4 The following is a summary of the outcomes:
- Over 9 tonnes of bulky waste was collected
  - 234 energy saving light bulbs and 104 timer switches were distributed.
  - The Fire Service received 73 requests for fire safety checks and 105 requests were referred to CASAC for property safety checks.
  - DVLA identified 73 untaxed vehicles
  - Probation Service spent 4 hours completing environmental improvements
  - HMRC tested 24 vehicles for red diesel.
  - ASBU and AVH visited 16 properties in relation to tenancy issues and Youth Service completed 7 visits to inform young people of local provision.
- 6.5 An Operation Champion will take place in the Rothwell Ward at the end of February, with a planning meeting due on the 8<sup>th</sup> February.

## **6.0 Additional Wellbeing Allocation**

- 6.1 In September 2007, the Area Committee received a report which announced an additional allocation of Wellbeing funding of £50,000. The Area Committee asked for a further report to clarify the use of this funding as well as agreeing to spend £1,875 on a survey of the usage of Queensway Car Park in Morley. The November Area Committee received a further report on this and among other things agreed;

## 6.2 Conservation Area Audits

The last Area Committee received confirmation that the cost of the audits in Morley & Rothwell had been revised to £16,000. Area Management are waiting for a specification and timetable for the work at which time we will liaise with Morley Town Council and Sustainable Development with regard to the Morley element of this work.

## 6.3 Morley Town Hall

Following discussion at the November Area Committee a report on this is available for consideration elsewhere on the agenda.

## 7.0 Morley Literature Festival

7.1 As some of you may be aware Paula Truman, the Director of the Morley Literature Festival in 2007, was successful in applying for the Clore Leadership Programme. (More information on [www.cloreleadership.org](http://www.cloreleadership.org)) This means that she is undertaking a one year programme in leadership skills for the cultural sector and is currently on secondment at a theatre in London. The course is very demanding and Paula feels that she would not be able to give this and the Literature Festival the full attention they deserve this year.

7.2 Following discussions with the Chair of the festival we have been fortunate in identifying that Jill Morris, former manager at Border's book shop, is currently working on a freelance basis and is able to take on the role of Festival Director. Jill, is also an editor with excellent contacts in the publishing industry and although she has not organised a literature festival she has a wealth of experience in organising individual events and working with authors and publishers. To fill any gaps in Jill's experience Paula has agreed to act as her adviser and/or 'critical friend' to the festival. This will also ensure there is a smooth transition period and that the experience gained in 2007 is not lost. We feel that this is an excellent solution to what could have potentially been a difficult situation; the learning, relationships and experience established last year will not be lost and we have the added advantage of taking on someone with crucial publishing contacts and experience.

7.3 At the December Area Committee Members received an evaluation report and agreed to support the continuation of the festival. Members are asked to consider allocating £10,000 from the Well being budget towards supporting the 2008 festival.

## 8.0 Public Conveniences, Midland Street, Woodlesford

8.1 These toilets which are managed by City Services but are the responsibility of Area Management have been shut for over a year following complaints from Police and local residents. Property Services have received an enquiry to purchase.

8.2 At the last meeting the Area Committee agreed the disposal of the public convenience subject to the capital receipt from the sale being used to fund a replacement facility.

8.3 Area Management have been informed that any proceeds from the sale of the public convenience would go to a 'central pot' and a decision would be made at a corporate level as to what the money is used for. Further to the Area Committee's request for the capital receipt from the sale of the public convenience being used to fund a replacement facility, then a separate request would need to be put forward to asset management group initially if a new facility was required.

8.4 The Area Committee is asked to confirm its supports the sale of this public convenience on the terms outlined in 8.3.

## **9.0 Queensway Car Park Morley**

9.1 The December Area Committee considered a report which presented the results of a recent survey at this car park and suggested improvements. The Area Committee resolved to adopt 'Option One' (sections 1 & 2 will offer a maximum 2 hour stay) as the preferred way forward, subject to a 6 month review. The committee also agreed to fund the scheme up to £6,000 subject to negotiating a financial contribution from Wm Morrison's.

9.2 In the light of representations received locally Morley Members have requested an opportunity to discuss this matter further and the original report is attached at **Appendix 4** for consideration. Members are asked to note that Wm Morrison's have agreed a contribution of £6,000, plus £600 contingency to support the implementation of the scheme.

9.3 The Area Committee is asked to consider the attached appendices and agree a preferred option for implementation.

## **10.0 West Ardsley Community Centre**

10.1 Following on from a report which was presented to Area Committee in November, requesting a rent reduction on charges for the use of West Ardsley Community Centre, further work has been undertaken on gathering financial information from Kaleidoscope. The account information is of a confidential nature and will be presented to Members on the day of the Area Committee. Given the commercially sensitive nature of this information, it will have to be returned to officers following the debate.

10.2 The reasoning behind the request is because of the time it has taken to build up usage of the before and after school clubs due to the delay in opening the facility, as a number of problems occurred with getting the heating system working in the building. The request for rental payments to continue at £3,000 per annum, will allow Kaleidoscope to reduce the amount of losses incurred and give more time to increase numbers of children attending the holiday club, which will generate further income and keep the club sustainable.

## **11.0 Recommendations**

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

11.2 The Area Committee is asked to agree an informal meeting to consider the ADP.

11.3 The Area Committee is asked to approve the location list for the 2007/08 additional litterbin allocation as outlined in 5.3.

11.4 The Area Committee is asked to agree £5,000 towards additional litterbins in John O'Gaunts as outlined in 5.8.

11.5 The Area Committee is asked to agree a funding contribution towards the 2008 Morley Literature Festival as outlined in 7.3.

- 11.6 The Area Committee is asked to confirm its supports the sale of the public convenience at Midland Street, Woodlesford on the terms outlined in 8.3.
- 11.7 The Area Committee is asked to consider the attached appendices as outlined in 9.2 and agree a preferred option.
- 11.8 The Area Committee is asked to consider the request for a rental reduction of £3,000 per annum to Kaleidoscope for the use of West Ardsley Community Centre. The amount of rent due to be reviewed on an annual basis.