

DRAFT 1 - IMPaCT Neighbourhood Improvement Plan

April 2008 to March 2009

Introduction

IMPaCT was born out of the “The Granges Partnership “ which was formed in 2001 with an initial focussed on improving housing conditions. With new national initiatives and funding streams the partnership has adapted to make the most of opportunities. It has grown in numbers over the last year with a regular membership of 30 organisations, roughly half of those belonging to the voluntary and community sector. IMPaCT has been empowered to oversee the delivery of Intensive Neighbourhood Management (INM) in Chapeltown and Harehills and is now the recognised arena for partnership working in the locality.

Intensive Neighbourhood Management was established as a four year initiative, beginning in 2006/7. It aims to improve the quality of life for residents and ensure that service providers are more responsive to neighbourhood needs and improve their delivery.

This Neighbourhood Improvement Plan covers the period April 2008 to March 2009 but recognising that long standing issues may take longer to resolved. The Plan has been drafted using the most up to date intelligence and data available and as such, the priorities set out here are grounded upon a sound evidence base.

A city wide evaluation of Neighbourhood Management is currently underway and results are expected in Summer 2008. There is more to be done at the neighbourhood levels to evaluate the effect of Intensive Neighbourhood Management to date and this Plan will be reviewed and amended to incorporate new learning.

Context

The IMPaCT area stretches from Harehills Road in the East to Potternewton Road in the North and to Scotthall Avenue in the West. The area is defined by the Super Output Areas (SOA) that fall within the 3% most deprived areas according to the Indices of Deprivation rather than any collective notion of a neighbourhood, rather it contains many individual neighbourhoods. There are five SOAs in total, two fall within the Gipton and Harehills electoral ward, three fall within the Chapel Allerton electoral ward. Chapeltown Road, Roundhay Road and Scotthall Road are major arterial routes that cut through the INM area.

There are 8,801 people living in the INM area and over half of them are under 30 years of age. The largest ethnic group is Asian or Asian British (40%) followed by White (29%) and Black or Black British (22%) according to the 2001 Census. The area is also home to recent immigrant communities such as Zimbabweans, Somalians, Polish and Iraqi Kurdish. The area is rich in community activity including many BME representative groups and a number of tenants and residents associations.

There are a number of major regeneration schemes that have been taken into account in developing this plan, these include:

- Townscape Heritage Initiative - Lottery funding has recently been secured to restore and repair local Victorian and Edwardian properties and to carry out restoration work along Chapeltown Road.

DRAFT 1 - IMPaCT Neighbourhood Improvement Plan April 2008 to March 2009

- Chapeltown Road Development Plan - a realistic physical regeneration proposal for Chapeltown Road setting out how public and private sector investment will be harnessed to regenerate this major arterial route.
- Sharing the Success – the Chapeltown Catalyst Centre, Urban Biz, is now up and operational, refurbishment work on the Harehills Catalyst Centre is planned this year. Enterprise Ambassadors are working in local schools and outreach work is underway to connect people and identify enterprise opportunities.
- Chapeltown Integrated Transport Corridor - A series of transport improvements are planned for Chapeltown Road in 2008 including road safety improvements, traffic management measures and enhanced pedestrian safety.
- The North East (Inner) and East (Inner) Area Delivery Plans are currently being developed and enhanced Community Engagement work is also underway through Area Committees.

Local Trends

The Indices of Deprivation 2007 shows a relative overall improvement in all the 5 SOAs that make up the Chapeltown and Harehills Intensive Neighbourhood Management Area compared to the Indices of Deprivation 2004.

However, as rankings have changes elsewhere on the Index, the Sholebroke's and Scotthall area has now become ranked nationally as the Leeds' worst SOA. The Indices of Deprivation 2007 is largely derived from 2005 government data and so does not reflect recent changes or measure the effectiveness of IMPaCT's Intensive Neighbourhood Management approach.

Notwithstanding the multiple problems evidenced through the Indices of Deprivation, Leeds City Council's Annual Survey 2007 shows an improving trend in the parts of the city with Intensive Neighbourhood Management. Here are some of the headlines:

- 69% of respondents living in the INM areas of Leeds (69%) are satisfied with their neighbourhoods as places to live compared to 63% in 2006.
- 71% of respondents living in the INM areas of Leeds feel that they "belong" to their local area – mirroring the city figure.
- Less people feel that their neighbourhood has "got worse", the proportion responding to this question has fallen from 34% in 2006 to 21% in 2006.

The Annual Survey does not provide results for each INM area and so cannot identify any specific trends for Chapeltown or Harehills but is a useful tool in measuring more recent changes. A residents perceptions survey is currently being undertaken by East North East Homes that will help measure progress and improvements at the neighbourhood level. Those results will be incorporated into this document when available in Spring 2008.

DRAFT 1 - IMPaCT Neighbourhood Improvement Plan April 2008 to March 2009

Partnership Priorities

Safer, Stronger Communities Fund is a relatively small resource compared to mainstream investment and other discretionary funding streams that come into the locality. In order to achieve a radical transformation, Neighbourhood Management must identify and establish mechanisms that accelerate the delivery of critical service improvements and improve the overall quality of life.

Appendix B sets out a number of suggested activities to be funded with Safer, Stronger Communities Fund from April 2008 to March 2009. It provides some considerations in terms of sustainability and additionally as well as linking proposed activities to the Leeds Initiative improvement priorities. Plans to sustain service improvements will include discussions with service providers about how successful elements are continued through their own budgets in the longer term and how commissioning budgets can assist in maintaining support for specific projects when SSCF funding comes to an end.

The section below presents the currently available evidence base that underpins the suggested activities in Appendix B.

- **Health** - Visits to Accident & Emergency are higher than the national average (318 for Chapeltown and Harehills compared to 283 per population). Infant mortality is also particular issue in Chapeltown – rates here are 3rd worst in the city. Leeds City Council's Annual Survey 2007 highlights investment in Health and well-being as a key issue for residents in INM areas. This was ranked in the top 5 most important aspects in making somewhere a good place to live (24% of respondents compared to just 8% city average). Promoting healthy lifestyles and raising awareness of health issues can be tackled best through a partnership approach.
- **Worklessness** - There has been a small reduction in the percentage of the working age population claiming a Jobcentre plus benefit (39% in 2006 compared to 34% in 2007.) However the number of people claiming Job Seekers Allowance continues to creep up from 530 in 2005, to 580 in 2006, to 615 in 2007. Over the last few years there has been significant resources invested to increasing the take up of training, employment and enterprise opportunities. The creation of two Job Shops and two Catalyst Centres in Chapeltown and Harehills provide a solid infrastructure where people can access advice and support. The key challenge seems to be to increase on the ground collaboration between interested organisations so more people are reached and connected with these opportunities.
- **Community Safety** - The number of crimes per thousand population continues to be higher than the city average (225 compared to 134 city wide). However domestic burglary is below the city average (18.4% compared to 25.6% city wide) and has been falling for the last two years. The rate for drugs crimes is 10 times the city average. Information relating to community tensions suggest the most common issues refer to verbal abuse and intimidation often targeting Black and Minority Ethnic victims. Harehills is highlighted in recent police analysis as a critical area, the levels of tensions in Chapeltown are lower than expected in comparison to other similar areas. One of the key challenges is in

DRAFT 1 - IMPaCT Neighbourhood Improvement Plan April 2008 to March 2009

strengthening the role of residents in Neighbourhood Tasking arrangements as a driver for action.

- **Environment** - There have been radical improvements in the visible street scene that need to be sustained. ENCAMS (formerly known as Keep Britain Tidy) undertook a survey of the area in 2005/6 and found that 30% of the streets had unacceptable levels of litter and detritus, the same survey in 2006/7 found that only 5.6% were unacceptable. Environmental Education Campaigns have been undertaken in local secondary and primary schools and in addition a door-knocking re-cycling campaign is currently happening in Chapeltown and Harehills./ project currently underway. Recent enforcement achievements have had a positive effect on the cleanliness of streets and the levels of anti-social behaviour. In spite of these achievements there remain a specific grot spots where an intensive concentration of activity is required.
- **Young People & Family Support** – *Further Information to be added NE Children Leeds* Educational achievement is also low compared to city averages with only 27% achieving 5+ GCSE's grades A-C in 2005 and 31% in 2006. As a proxy measure of low income, it is significant that 49% of households in the area are in receipt of a local authority administered benefit (Housing Benefit and/or Council tax)
- **Resident Engagement** - From a variety of local intelligence sources, it is clear that there continues to be a perceived lack of information about local activities and concerns about not knowing what's going on. It is also clear that perceptions of the area continue to be negative in spite of recent positive press coverage. The North East (Inner) Area Committee is developing a series of Community Engagement Events across the Chapel Allerton, Roundhay and Moortown wards in response to some of these concerns. In addition Archway have been developing the IMPaCT Residents Network, primarily as a vehicle for communication and with a current membership of 80 it is beginning to demonstrate its potential.

Delivery Arrangements

This draft plan will form the basis for continued consultation with local ward members, the IMPaCT partnership, inter-agency tasking teams and IMPaCT residents network to ensure activity is endorsed, supported and targeted at local needs.

The Neighbourhood Management Team will provide regular progress reports to the IMPaCT Partnership as well as to LAA Management Board via Environment and Neighbourhoods Regeneration Service.

Regular progress reports will be provided to the North East (Inner) Area Committee and the East (Inner) Area Committee as well as continuing informal briefings with ward members.

Detailed delivery plans will be drawn up for each individual activity as part of the local commissioning process managed by the Neighbourhood Management Team. These will include SMART objective setting and quarterly outputs and milestones so that the progress of activities can be closely monitored.

**DRAFT 1 - IMPaCT Neighbourhood Improvement Plan
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