



Leeds
CITY COUNCIL

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Report of the Director of Environments & Neighbourhoods Directorate

South Leeds (Outer) Area Committee

Date: Monday 7th July 2008

Subject: Town Centre Summits

Electoral Wards Affected:

Morley North
Morley South
Rothwell

Ward members consulted
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

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 presents the detailed results of the annual Summits held in Rothwell (February 29th) and Morley (March 6th). The Summits were chaired by Area Manager Dave Richmond and comments made at the events have been used to create a preferred way forward for each town centre over the coming year. The Summit documents are attached in date order as **Appendix 1** (Morley) and **Appendix 2** (Rothwell).

Each year the Summit is reassessed to ensure it continues to debate and agree upon key projects for the town centre. Ideas being considered for next year's event include: Extending the event to include some form of awards ceremony recognising achievements and key instigators from the private and voluntary sector. Improving the recording and displaying all suggestions from the floor for debate. Consider increasing the opportunity for the audience to express their views on the evening.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 This is the second year of Summits and “Big Ideas” for Morley and Rothwell. Each event involved a public meeting for users of the town centre. Individual invites are sent to councillors, town centre businesses, appropriate public sector offices and voluntary organisations. Publicity in local newspapers provides the general public with the opportunity to attend.
- 1.2 The annual Summit identifies major drivers for the economic regeneration of Morley and Rothwell town centres. Alongside developing projects, these form the town’s “Big Ideas” featured in the respective town centre Action Plans.
- 1.3 The Summit is not intended as a forum to debate ongoing issues, (although it does feature an update on existing ‘big ideas’). The discussion of ideas in more detail can take place at the Morley or Rothwell Town Centre Partnerships.
- 1.4 The first Summit was in 2007 and, as it was a new process, many initiatives came forward. These initiatives are now progressing which means fewer new ideas came forward this time.
- 1.5 The Summit format needs to be constantly reappraised to ensure it remains topical, interesting and constructive. In light of this, ideas for the 2009 event could include an awards ceremony, an agreement on the evening as to which audience items should be discussed and a straw poll evaluation on the success of the evening.

2.0 Finance

- 2.1 Any costs arising through the Big Ideas will be individually itemised and, wherever funding is required, an individual costing will be developed. Many of the ideas will be funded by the private sector or Town Centre Management budget.

3.0 Implications for Council Policy and Governance

- 3.1 There are no direct implications for the above as a result of this report.

4.0 Legal and Resource Implications

- 4.1 There are no direct implications for the above as a result of this report.
- 4.2 Projects developed as a result of Town Centre Management work are predominantly resourced through partnership working and the town centre management budget. However, there is a potential impact on the Area Committee Well Being funding

5.0 Conclusions

- 5.1 The Summits’ “Big Ideas” can be included within the Town Centre Management Action Plans for the current year and continue to support the development of the improving town centres.

6.0 Recommendations

6.1 Members of the Outer South Area Committee are requested to:

- (i) Note the content of this report.
- (ii) Consider the report and comment as appropriate.