



Report of the East North East Area Manager

North East (Inner) Area Committee

Date: 1st September 2008

Subject: Actions and Achievements Report

Electoral Wards Affected:

Chapel Allerton
Moortown
Roundhay

Ward members consulted
(referred to in this report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Council
Function

Delegated Executive
Function available
for Call In

x

Delegated Executive
Function not available for
Call In Details set out in the
report

Executive Summary

This report provides Members with an update on actions and achievements of the Area Management Team since the last Area Committee meeting in June 2008.

Purpose of this report

1. This report provides Members with an update on actions and achievements since the last Area Committee meeting. Appendix 1 gives a summary of issues raised at Area Committee meetings.

Highlights

Oakwood Town & District Centre (TD&C) Scheme

2. Oakwood T&DC scheme was split into two Phases in order to progress work on the resurfacing and remodelling of the Clock Car Park while the lengthier process of designing and approving the additional parking facility was undertaken. The work on Phase 1 of the Oakwood scheme was completed in February 2008. This did not include the lighting to the Clock Car Park, which was agreed would be undertaken as part of the Phase 2 contract.
3. Phase 2 of the scheme largely consists of the additional parking, street furniture and lighting. Phase 2 is currently having its final designs completed and approved by Planning and Highways. Once this has been done, work is scheduled to commence in late 2008, for work to be completed by the end of March 2009.
4. However, recently Phase 2 of the Oakwood scheme has encountered difficulties and the current financial projection for the scheme is showing an overspend.
5. The cause of the predicted overspend is that we have finally received the costings for movement of the statutory services from BT and YEDL of £69,000. As raised in recent reports to Programme Board, these costs are much higher than initially budgeted for, due to the shallow depth at which these services are currently buried. Added to the current cost estimates for Phase 2, it is now predicted that the overall amount for the scheme will exceed the agreed budget.
6. In order for the scheme to progress we will need to identify savings within the final design or additional sources of funding (probably a mixture of both). This may require some hard decisions to be taken on the final design specification. It may also require discussion with Members, in order to identify availability and willingness to part fund the scheme through sources such as Well-being; Section 106; Ward Based Initiative.
7. There has however been a saving identified from the Oakwood scheme through renegotiation of the fee element between Highways Department and the SDA. This money, coupled with modifications to the design, identified by SDA, would offset the additional costs.
8. Following discussion with LCC Highways, SDA have already been able to remove additional allowance for traffic management and have changed the range of street furniture. This combined with the corresponding reduction in percentage add ons has reduced the construction cost estimate of the Oakwood scheme. These savings together should bring us back within acceptable contingency margins, built into the scheme.
9. It is hoped to complete the whole scheme by the end of 2008/09 financial year.

Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI)

10. A report outlining the successful Chapeltown and Armley THI bids was submitted to Executive Board on 16th July 2008. The Board members agreed to support both schemes. An approval was given to inject £1.9 million into the capital programme which will be fully funded by Heritage Lottery Fund.
11. Following on from approval from Executive Board the contract documents have been thoroughly examined by Legal and Public Services and have now been signed by the Assistant Chief Executive (Corporate Services). The permission to start confirmation from EH will be dependent upon the submission of the Conservation Area Management Plans for Armley and Chapeltown, expected in September and October respectively.
12. Further heritage training has been confirmed for house holders at Harewood House on 14th August 2008. Critical and eligible properties within the conservation areas have been targeted through a mail shot to publicise the course and inform them of the THI award.
13. Proposals to set up local heritage action groups in each area are well advanced and will be in place to endorse the Conservation Area Management Plans prior to submission to the Heritage Lottery Fund.
14. The official opening date for the THI website has been retimed to coincide with the forthcoming launch of the scheme in each area which, combined with a programme of events to ensure maximum publicity for the THI. Provisionally the Armley and Chapeltown schemes will start in October and November 2008 respectively to address emerging demand, with a formal launch within the New Year once the THI Officers are in place.

Community Centres

15. The Mandela Centre and Palace Youth Centre were transferred to Environment and Neighbourhoods Department on 1st February 2008. The responsibilities for the management of the centres have been delegated to the Area Committee and this will be formally covered by the Area Function Schedule which is due to go to the next meeting of Executive Board.
16. In relation to the draft lettings and pricing policy, widespread consultation took place for a period of three months from 25 February. The findings of the consultation and revised policy are presented in a separate report to the Area Committee.
17. Work is continuing at the Mandela Centre to develop an expanded programme of educational, vocational, career and social activities to meet the needs of young people in the area. A steering group of representatives of users of the centre meet regularly as does the young people's steering group. The Behavioural Educational Support Team will be delivering a pilot project from the centre commencing in September for one year. This is targeted at young people not in education, employment and training (NEET). Attendance at the centre by young Asian people continues to grow. This in turn builds the promotion of community cohesion into our service delivery by developing cross- cultural contact at all levels.

18. Following a review of the Palace Youth Project considerable work has been undertaken to promote its use by the local community. Negotiations are underway to establish a permanent letting with Shantona. This organisation provides integrated multi-agency services to Bangladeshi families and currently work from the caretaker's house adjoining the Bangladeshi Centre. They have received substantial funding to expand their programme of activities beyond their original catchment area and are looking to expand to this area of Chapeltown

Open Door

19. Proposals to redevelop The Open Door as a community centre with a customer service point for ENEH tenants continue to be developed. The Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods has approved the extension of peppercorn rent for a further year.

Community Engagement Events

20. Events have taken place in all three wards during July. An evaluation of these events and proposals for future events are presented in a separate report to the Area Committee

Priority Neighbourhoods update

21. The Area Committee will be aware that three neighbourhoods in the north east have been identified as priority areas for multi-agency action to narrow the gap between these areas and the rest of the city. This is based on deprivation indicators. All three neighbourhoods are in the inner area – Chapeltown (IMPACT partnership), Beckhill (Beckhill Implementation Group) and Moor Allerton (MAP). Area Management staff are responsible for driving forward action in these areas through partnership arrangements. The following are progress updates from the partnership groups.

Beckhill Implementation Group

22. Since agreeing that resident representation would be welcomed on the BIG partnership, members of the Tenants & Residents Association have been attending and contributing to the meetings. As a result, it was agreed at the last meeting to relaunch the estate newsletter with support from all partner agencies who will contribute articles. This will be published and circulated on the estate in August.
23. In an attempt to regain confidence in public services by the local community, BIG have embarked on a series of "quick-wins" over the summer. These include the re-opening of the multi-use games area on the site of the former Miles Hill School for the benefit of local young people during the summer holidays. The neighbourhood wardens will engage young people to maintain the area. In addition, BIG have been successful in a bid for a £4,000 healthy living grant from the PCT. Funding will be used to deliver a series of healthy living sessions by a range of partners. Other actions include the production of a newsletter, attendance of partners at the Moortown Community Fayre to promote the work of the partnership, work to strengthen the Beckhill Tenants and Residents Group and investigating options with Metro to reinstate a regular bus service in to the estate.

24. The findings of the feasibility study into a proposed joint service centre for Beckhill are presented in a separate report to the Area Committee.
25. At its next meeting the partnership will consider a review of the current action plan with a view to updating the priorities and actions along the lines of the Leeds Strategic Plan.

IMPACT

26. The IMPACT partnership has begun considering a succession plan for the ending of Safer, Stronger Communities Fund in March 2010. A one-off meeting was held on 23rd June to explore the key issues and a summary paper was produced for the 11th July IMPACT meeting.
27. A tender document was produced to invite organisations to bid for Safer, Stronger, Communities Fund to deliver activities for young people. In total, 13 bids were received with a combined request of £137,119. An appraisal panel drawn from the IMPACT partnership including ward members met on Friday 8th August to consider the bids. A number of organisations were given conditional awards. The panel is meeting again in September to review revised proposals.
28. IMPACT has agreed the use of underspend from 2007/08 in consultation with ward members as follows:

10 Festive Light Motifs	2,500
13 replacement trees and decorative guards for Sholebroke Area	6,500
Replacement 30 Wooden Bollards on Spencer Place	1,500
Buslingthorpe Walk Phase 2	3,700
Total	14,200

29. A series of clean ups have been organised for Autumn through Chapel Allerton Tasking. The first two are being lead by East North East Homes (ENEH) and the IMPACT residents network and will be larger events with more partners involved.

Granges/Hamilton Av and Nassau Place	14 th & 15 th Aug
Reginalds/Sholebrokes and Button Hills	4 th & 5 th Sept
Scott Hall Avenue & Scott Hall Drive	10th Sept.
Spencer Place & Shepherds Lane	9th Oct
Louis Street/Francis Street/Hamilton Gardens	13th Nov

30. Targeted outreach work is being planned for late September focussing on Scotthall Avenue and Scotthall Drive. This IMPACT outreach group works along similar lines to the crime and grime tasking but it aims to link residents into jobs/enterprise support and training opportunities.
31. The IMPACT intensive Family Support project has finished – the families engaged are now being supported with mainstream support services. A final project report will be considered by the project steering group in terms of sharing good practise.
32. IMPACT has contributed some funding towards publicity for the Birthday Celebration for Nelson Mandela organised by the Chapeltown 10-2 club. This event took place on 19th July and was attended by 250 residents.

33. Joint Service Centre Consultation – two public consultation events were organised over the summer in advance of the planning permission being submitted for the Chapelton Joint Service Centre. A stakeholder workshop was also held – so that partners could find out more about the Centre and its design.

Moor Allerton Partnership (MAP)

34. The next MAP meeting was scheduled for 21st August, which was after the dispatch deadline for this report. A full update will therefore be provided at October Area Committee.

Recommendations

35. The Area Committee is requested to note the contents of this report.

Background Papers

There are no background papers to this report.