

Appendix 8

**Area Committee Well Being Fund**  
**Commissioning of Service**

**Project Name: Community Caretaking Service**

**Lead Organisation: City Services – Streetscene**

**Project Summary :**

The **Community Caretaking Service** will offer a streetscene maintenance service across the priority areas of Armley and Bramley wards. The proposal is that this enhanced service will replace that offered through the CAST (Community Action Service) team

The type of work the two teams will be able to address will be much wider than the existing CAST teams. The approach will be to tackle one specific neighbourhood at a time and deal with

- litter clearance
- flytipping
- tackling waste in derelict properties
- basic joinery and painting,
- basic construction tasks such as repairing walls or fencing, tidying of gardens,
- removal of weeds on the streets,
- basic footpath maintenance

and other tasks identified through an action plan which will be generated from the Environmental Surveys that will have been undertaken. The team will have the support of a vehicle and will consist of at least a driver and three workers. The benefits of working closely with existing resources such as core service teams and the ALMO's estate caretaker service are already being explored. Ensuring that all parties are working towards same environmental agenda will also be an important part of the project.

The surveys have incorporated assessments made by Groundwork on the improvement of open spaces. A total of 18 bin yards in the Armley area have been identified as being in poor condition and having a detrimental impact on the local environment.

The project will direct resources via Construction Learning Skills Centre to improve each bin yard to an acceptable standard. Including, repairs to brick work, joinery and removal of over grown vegetation. It is intended the project will be supported by residents and local community groups. When complete the work will be maintained by the residents and the community caretaking teams.

Enforcement will be key to ensure that those who are reluctant are encouraged

through education to take their responsibilities seriously. Where education fails to deliver this compliance then enforcement will be used.

The project will undertake partnership working to facilitate duty bodies and statutory undertakers to ensure that their land is kept clear of litter etc. within the project areas. This will include developing a zoning process to ensure that response times to issues are uniform so that residents have some certainty with regard to service standards. Enforcement will also focus on household fly-tipping, litter clearance notices and tackling waste in gardens/derelict properties that is repetitive. A new provision in the Cleaner Neighbourhoods Act enables enforcement to issue litter clearance notices on land owners where litter accumulates.

The team will be set up using a Job Guarantee programme, in conjunction with West Leeds Family Learning Centre which has already been established, which will be able to target recruitment to the posts from West Leeds residents. A seven week training programme will be undertaken by successful applicants with the team then being ready to undertake induction work and begin in late summer. The proposal is that the team is managed through the Streetscene division of the City Services Department thereby enabling significant support to be levered from existing core resources both in terms of management, systems and local knowledge. The team will address a variety of issues linked to a detailed assessment of the wards which will utilise a unique methodology - the District Local Environmental Quality Survey (DLEQS) - developed by ENCAMs (Keep Britain Tidy Group) in partnership with City Services.

Within this approach exists the role of an Area Champion. In West this is Meryl Paige whose role is to:

- Agree an area improvement plan
- Determine service provision to area
- Agree service standards
- Coordinate relationships with key partners

**Outcomes (please summarise the main outcome / output / benefit the project will achieve):**

Increased community satisfaction in the local area as a result of the activities of the delivery plan targeting street improvements through an agreed programme.

Improved joint working between key agencies and the community to tackle local environmental problem areas / streets.

Better targeting of areas most affected by efficient surveying / mapping

Raised local street standards enabling an Encams assessment of "A" against the street cleansing code of practice.

Contributing towards a Council application for an award for Clean Cities by June 2008

Better understanding of rights and responsibilities through enforcement activities / education programmes.

The scheme will be supported in its delivery by the usual core services which will remain available but the CAST team for Inner will cease to exist.

**Identify which geographic areas will benefit and which Area Committee you are applying to:**

This submission relates to the two newly established Community Caretaking scheme for Inner West Leeds covering the Armley and Bramley wards.

**Project Cost. Please indicate how much the project will cost (please list all partners and their contributions)**

Revenue costs for this project are funded through the Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund. However in order to effectively tackle problem areas identified a capital contribution is sought to meet environmental costs. The Inner West Area Committee are thus asked to contribute £10,000 (capital) in the year 2006/7 and agree in principle the sum of a further £10,000 (capital) for 2007/8. This contribution will assist in making the scheme sustainable in any move towards mainstreaming.