



Report of the Director of City Services

Inner North West Area Committee

Date: 21st September 2006

Subject: Graffiti Issues – Inner North West

Electoral Wards Affected:

ALL

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:

An additional Graffiti Removal Team has been operating in Inner North West since March 2006. Hotspot areas are regularly monitored and cleared. Streetscene are working closely with the Police to try to apprehend graffiti vandals and prosecutions of known offenders are currently being pursued.

A graffiti blitz took place week commencing 14th August, details of which are provided in this report. Full details of all graffiti cleared during Quarter 1 2006, broken down into wards, has been circulated to Members via email.

Details of other initiatives across the area are also covered within this report.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members with information on the work of the City Services graffiti removal team, current hotspot areas and amount of graffiti that has been cleared across Inner North West in Quarter 1 2006-07.
- 1.2 The report includes an update on the Area Committee funded graffiti project.
- 1.3 The report also includes information on what work is already underway to tackle graffiti prevention and removal, and prosecution of offenders, and further partnership work which is being developed to address these issues.

2.0 Graffiti Removal Team

- 2.1 Since the 13th March 2006 an additional Graffiti Removal Team has been operating in the Inner North West, starting work in the “Headingley Pilot Area” following the same visit pattern as the “Ashore Bulk” Monday to Friday. As this area became clearer of graffiti their activities have spread out to other areas in Kirkstall, Weetwood, Hyde & Woodhouse where there was a particular problem of graffiti build up – Vicarages – Queenswood Drive - Kirkstall Lane – Cottage Road – Monkbridge Road – Hartleys – Delphs etc.
- 2.2 The traditional hot spot areas have continued to be monitored and cleaned. These are the Arndale Centre, Welton, Thornville Road and the immediate area by 1 Chapel Lane. These sites are visited and cleaned every other day which has had a marked effect on Thornville Road, Welton Road and Chapel Lane areas where the graffiti tag count has gone down to single figures for repeat attacks. However, Headingley Arndale Centre does still suffer from tagging ranging from 5 to double figure repeat tagging. The Police have been informed and are looking into the possible use of existing camera systems that the shops have to catch these offenders.
- 2.3 To coincide with the quiet period when the majority of students have left the area a blitz took place week starting 14th August. The background to this and the rest of inner north west will be available in the next quarter statistics 2nd half of September.
- 2.4 The areas blitzed were :
1. Headingley - area surrounded by and including, Bainbridge Road - Cardigan Road - Victoria Road - Buckingham Road and Headingley Lane.
 2. Headingley - route along St. Michael's Road and Cardigan Road ending on Burley Road.
 3. Weetwood - area surrounded by and including, Shaw Lane - Monkbridge Road - Stainbeck Avenue - Stainbeck Road and Grove Lane.
 4. Weetwood - area surrounded by and including, Glen Road - Weetwood Avenue - Hollin Drive - Monkbridge Road - Shaw Lane and Otley Road.
 5. Kirkstall - area both sides of Morris Lane from Kirkstall Lane to Vesper Road between Abbey Road and Railway.
 6. Kirkstall - area surrounded and including Kirkstall Road - Willow Road - Burley Road - Argie Avenue and Woodside View.
 7. Hyde Park & Woodhouse - route along Hyde Park Road - Woodsley Road - Moorland Road - Clarendon Road.
 8. Hyde Park & Woodhouse - area surrounded by and including Hartley Avenue- Johnston Street - Woodhouse Street - Delph Lane - Cliff Terrace/Mount.
- 2.5 The chart below shows the spread of graffiti removed in each inner area in Quarter 1 of this year. The high number of removals in Headingley is a reflection of the Headingley Pilot Area work. The chart also shows the average number of days it takes to remove graffiti in each ward, from it first being reported/identified.
- 2.6 The total jobs that were cleared in the Inner North West during the first quarter were 1260 with each job taking 0.80 days on average from report to removal.
- 2.7 Of these, 877 jobs were proactive:-
- Headingley Pilot = 527
 - Operation Manager Direction = 251
 - Hotspot = 99

2.8 The above equates to 70% of the 1260 jobs cleared, the remaining 383 jobs were reactive:-

- Siebel/call centre = 315
- e-mails from City Services area managers = 15
- Other jobs (Councillors, Neighbourhood Wardens and Police) = 53

2.9 Full details of all graffiti cleared during Quarter 1 2006, broken down into wards, has been provided by City Services to Ward Members. Copies can be requested from Area Management, if required.

3.0 Youth Point Graffiti Project

3.1 The Area Committee allocated £10,575 Well-being funding in 2005/06 to Youth Point, in partnership with the Inner North West Youth Network, for a graffiti project to develop strategies to tackle graffiti vandalism through engaging young people in positive alternatives.

3.2 The project ran a series of workshops with young people across the area and included sessions at The Cardigan Centre, Little London Community Centre, Woodhouse Community Centre and Woodsley Road Community Centre. A finale event was held at Hyde Park Unity Day on 5th August.

3.3 The project worked with over 30 young people to promote the 'against illegal graffiti' message and discussed with young people the impact illegal graffiti can have in the community. It provided opportunities for legal display and exhibition.

3.4 The project also looked at some wider issues and challenged the negative aspects of 'hip hop' culture such as inappropriate language, violence and attitudes towards the Police. The aim was to promote a positive image of 'hip hop' culture and urban arts that is not associated with crime or vandalism.

4.0 Prosecution of Offenders

4.1 The City Services' graffiti removal team are working closely with the Police in the hope of apprehending repeat graffiti vandals. Photographic evidence and a number of statements have been provided, which have resulted in some arrests. Currently there are 27 individuals known to the Police and City Services, who are being actively pursued with a view to prosecution.

4.2 The Police have advised that, to date, they have arrested 15 people for graffiti vandalism and they are all currently on bail pending further investigation. The Police anticipate that they will obtain prosecutions for at least 5 of these individuals.

4.3 The Police have deployed a specific graffiti officer for the area. This equates to almost £40,000 of Police investment into tackling the issue. The role of the graffiti officer is to investigate all the reported crimes, research and analyse information, liaise with other partners and arrest offenders.

4.4 City Services' Enforcement section have undertaken a three month CCTV pilot study using covert cameras. A system has been identified that will suit the extreme conditions the cameras need to operate in and a procurement process has started. The cost of the system is £25,000 which will provide 2 cameras and the ancillary operation equipment. This will provide the necessary night vision for producing clear images of the graffiti vandals to assist in producing evidence packages that the

Police can use. To assist in the management of this new system City Services are going through a recruitment process to appoint a Project Officer. Part of their duties will include networking with the various agencies as a statutory undertaker. It is hoped that this full time post will improve the flow of intelligence between all agencies.

5.0 Future initiatives

- 5.1 The Graffiti Multi Agency Group for the area has brought together key partners including the Police, Area Management, City Services Graffiti Team, Leeds North West Homes and Youth Point, to look at various ways of tackling the graffiti issue in the area.
- 5.2 The Community Safety Co-ordinator for the area is now looking to bring these partners together to deliver a multi agency project. Full details of this project are to be worked up, together with a future bid for funding to the Area Committee. The project will consider implementing the following: use of anti-graffiti paint in repeat areas and on difficult to clean surfaces, increased removal of graffiti and technical support for covert operations (e.g. cameras).

6.0 Recommendations

- 6.1 The Area Committee is asked to note the contents of this report.

Graffiti in North West Inner - Quarter 1 2006/07

