



Report of the West North West Area Manager

Inner North West Area Committee

Date: 18th December 2008

Subject: Area Manager's Report

Electoral Wards Affected:

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 informs members of progress on a number of projects and issues in Inner North West Leeds not addressed elsewhere on the agenda. It also provides a summary of recent actions and achievements of the Area Management Team since the last Area Committee meeting as determined by the Area Delivery Plan (ADP) and linked to key actions for delegated services.

In addition this report advises Members of work underway to align the ADP to service plans and outlines approaches to measure performance to assess how well outcomes are being achieved.

The Area Committee is requested to note and comment on the contents of this report.

Purpose of the report

1. This report provides the Area Committee with information on issues not addressed elsewhere on the agenda. In addition it enables Members to track progress on a number of actions as determined by the Area Delivery Plan.
2. As part of the Council's new corporate planning framework, Area Delivery Plans are the key focus for the achievement of strategic outcomes at a locality level. The ADP identifies key actions for delegated services. Enhanced responsibilities for the Area Committee are grouped under the following six themes linked in turn to the key themes in the LSP.
 - Community engagement and facilities
 - Community safety
 - Environment
 - Children and young people
 - Adult social care and healthier communities
 - Regeneration and development
3. Corporate discussions are underway regarding aligning Area Delivery Plans and Service Plans. This will ensure that services highlight specific local issues and implications for each area rather than a general overview from a city-wide perspective. An example of this could be proposed changes to streetscene arrangements which would affect particular localities. Service plans will also be produced to provide greater clarity about the services provided and the responsibilities of the Area Committee in relation to them.
4. In relation to progress and monitoring of the ADP, performance management information is currently being collated and it is anticipated that a progress report will be presented to the meeting in February 2009. Following this, quarterly, detailed progress reports will be submitted to the Area Committee. The Area Manager's Report will continue to provide the Area Committee with progress on actions as determined by the ADP and issues not addressed elsewhere on the agenda.

Main Issues

5. **Neighbourhood Management Coordination**

This covers the identification of priority neighbourhoods across the area that requires more intensive resources to drive service improvements and better local outcomes. This includes improving the co-ordination of key services across the Council, and local partners.
6. **Little London**

The Little London Intensive Neighbourhood Management Project is delivered through three multi-agency partnerships tasked with improving services in the area and developing new projects and ways of working to address local needs.

The key achievements of these partnerships during the last six months are as follows:

- **Crime & Grime**

The Crime and Grime partnership created a sub group to tackle the increase in drug dealing in the area. Partners looked at all aspects of the problem, including controlling access to high rise blocks, pursuing injunctions against users, environmental works where drugs are being hidden or used, and increasing reporting by local residents. The Drugs Action Group ran from June to September, and has proved very successful. Twelve injunctions were served against persistent users coming into the area to buy drugs. The number of calls to the police relating to drugs fell from 142 (January to July) to 18 (July to October). The Crime and Grime partnership provided £3,000 funding towards additional police patrols, and this was matched by West North West Homes. A total of 16 arrests were made during the overtime patrols and one cannabis farm was detected. Residents are very satisfied with the reduction in drug related activity, and partners now have a blueprint for action should the problem return in the future.

- **Health & Wellbeing**

The Health and Wellbeing group has developed a number of new initiatives bringing together the statutory and voluntary sectors. A directory of community services and activities will be made available to GP practices, and a local voluntary organisation is co-ordinating an innovative 'Headspace' project to help people isolated by mental health problems.

The group has also encouraged youth service providers to work together to start a new youth club for young people aged 9-13. The club started in September, supported by youth workers from five different organisations, and has over twenty young people regularly attending.

- **Employment and Skills**

The priority for the group was to increase the use of the Space@ community centre and make it more sustainable. Jobs and Skills took on the day to day management of the centre, and are now running a job shop four days a week, and there are plans to increase the number of activities available to local residents.

The Intensive Neighbourhood Management Project is planning a number of initiatives for the next six months includes improving recycling facilities, holding an enterprise day for people interested in starting their own business, and supporting the newly formed Oatlands Residents' Association.

7. **Hawksworth Wood**

The Area Manager is currently in discussions with partners to determine the level of intervention required to drive service improvements in this area. An example of current partnership activity is proposals to establish a police base and customer service point for West North West Homes tenants. The Area Management Team is working with the police and partners to progress these proposals. A number of options are currently being investigated including use of a shop unit and the

YMCA building. Although the main aim of the facility is a police base, it is intended that it will be used by neighbourhood wardens and the ALMO. Options for targeted health initiatives are also being progressed with the PCT.

8. Harolds and Thornvilles

Headingley Ward Members allocated £14,000 from their Ward Based Initiative Fund towards a bin yard improvement scheme in the Harold & Thornville Neighbourhood Improvement Area. In addition a further £2,000 was approved from the Inner Area Committee Well-being fund making a total of £16,000 available to spend on the scheme.

The Environmental Action Team are leading on the project. The scheme commenced late September and is expected to take 6 months. One binyard has been completed, this has been inspected and the quality of work approved. Consent has been granted on a further 10 binyards and the contractor will be working on these over the next few months.

9. Community Centres

The responsibilities for the management of the following community centres have been delegated to the Area Committee.

- Woodsley Road
- Headingley
- Meanwood
- Little London
- Woodhouse

10. Consultation on the draft pricing and lettings policy will began on 1st December. The findings of the consultation and revised policy will be presented to the Area Committee in February 2009.
11. The Area Management Team support and coordinate the work of a user group at Woodhouse community centre. This group looks at ways of developing expanded programmes of activities to meet the needs of the local community. In addition they ensure the smooth day-to-day running of the centre and have been instrumental in identifying essential maintenance work including a new roof and disabled access. Funding of £110,000 has been allocated to undertake this work.
12. The Funding Officer continues to support local community groups and organisations both in terms of capacity building and support to initiate new activities for local people.

Community Safety

13. Neighbourhood Wardens

There are 3 full-time neighbourhood wardens working in Little London, Hyde Park and Little Woodhouse area and Hawksworth Wood. Wardens provide a local

patrolling function and their duties include working with partners to tackle anti-social behaviour, crime and grime work, support to local residents with environmental and community safety issues on a day-to day basis, and support with community action days and Operation Champion.

14. The wardens have recently been involved in the following:

- An off-street bin pilot in the Norwoods area of Hyde Park. This has involved working with the Environmental Action Team and Streetscene to get bins off the street and stored within the confines of properties.
- Work with Environmental Services to audit graffiti on Virgin Media Utility boxes with a view to encourage the company to clean them.
- Property marking with Police Community Support Officers
- Working with Parking Services to ensure that parking permits are not mis-used in targeted areas.
- Supporting action days and Operation Champions, this includes pre and post-environmental audits, working with partners to deliver publicity material and engaging with local residents.

15. **Operation Champion**

This is a planned, intelligence led multi-agency operation. Its main aims are to

- Reduce crime and anti-social behaviour
- Tackle environmental issues such as litter, fly-tipping and graffiti removal
- Provide public reassurance and support.

An evaluation of recent Operation Champions will be presented to the Area Committee in February.

CCTV

17. There are nine cameras deployed in the inner north west in the following locations

- Hyde Park corner 1
- Headingley 4
- Hyde Park 3
- Hawksworth Wood 1

18. The cameras are monitored by LeedsWatch on a full time basis. The control room has access to the Police Airwave radio system to ensure a prompt response to incidents. LeedsWatch also monitor on behalf of West Yorkshire Police the City Wide Automatic Number Plate Recognition system (ANPR). Images from the CCTV control rooms are viewed live at the Police Control Room at Killingbeck and all the Local Police Divisions. LeedsWatch are able to play back incidents immediately to the Police Control Room, Police Divisions and Leeds Bridewell if required. All CCTV operators are Licensed by the Security Industry Authority (SIA) to monitor Public Space CCTV. The overall strategy for CCTV ensures that the CCTV network provides reassurance to the public.

19. Most community safety action is carried out via tasking, with the police co-chairing the teams. Multi Agency Tasking this group examines the key tactical priorities for the inner north west area and agrees actions to tackle these priorities. Work undertaken through this group includes organising multi agency action days, case conferences about specific families and/or individuals and commitment to deliver or contribute to specific projects (eg. promoting target hardening by door knocking a neighbourhood, crime prevention articles in newsletters, etc). Membership of this group includes Area Management, West Yorkshire Police, West North West Homes, Leeds University, Leeds Met University, Environmental Action Team, Youth Service and the ASB Unit.

Environment

20. Work is underway to develop Neighbourhood Design Statements in Little Woodhouse and Headingley. In addition the Area Management Team has supported a series of consultation events on the Kirkstall Vision to encourage members of the community to participate in the process.

Royal Park

21. As reported verbally at the last Area Committee meeting, Rushbond's have withdrawn their proposal to develop the Royal park School site due to their inability to secure a development partner for the elderly care residential aspects of their scheme. Officers from Asset Management and Area Management have met with members of the Royal Park Community Consortium since the last Area Committee meeting to update them and discuss the next steps in relation to the site.

Officers have advised the consortium that a report will need to be taken to the Councils Executive Board early in 2009 advising the board of Rushbond's withdrawal. There is also concern about the safety and security of the building which despite security patrols has been extensively vandalised internally. These risks do expose the Council to important health and safety concerns where it has liability for harm that is caused even to trespassers in the building. So far, this vandalism does not appear to have affected the main structure of the building.

Members of the consortium indicated that they would like an opportunity to develop their proposals for the property, which would involve the ownership of the property being transferred to a local community organisation and submit these for consideration by the Executive Board. Arrangements are being made for an early visit by members of the consortium to the former school and the caretaker's house.

Officers have advised the consortium that these proposals could be reported to Executive Board along with comments on their viability and sustainability from officers.

There is no reserve development scheme for the site although there was some initial expression of interest, since withdrawn, in the refurbishment of the property as a girls' school.

Kirkstall Mills

22. A letter has been sent to the Chief Asset Management Officer requesting information relating to St Ann's and Abbey Mills as agreed at the last meeting of

the Area Committee agreed on 13th November. Progress on these issues will be reported to a future meeting of the Area Committee.

Implications For Council Policy and Governance

23. There are no additional implications for Council policy or governance.

Legal and Resource Implications

24. There are no additional legal or resource implications.

Recommendations

25. The Area Committee are requested to note the report and comment on the contents of this report.

Background reports

- Inner North West Leeds ADP
- Divisional Community Safety Partnership Highlight Report
- Report to Executive Board November 2007, Area Management Review
- Executive Board report July 2008