



Report of the West North West Area Manager

Inner North West Area Committee

Date: 5th February 2009 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.

- **Budget for 2009/10**

In 2008/09, the joint SSCF and NRF budget reduced by 34% from the previous year's funding levels. In 2009/10, the INM budget will reduce by a further 48%, with a total budget of £86,356 (£54,210 SSCF and £34,146 NRF). Following consultation with services, and an assessment of current provision, a review of

programme spend has been undertaken which is covered under a separate report on this agenda

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 a proposal to establish a police/ partners base on the estate. The Area Management Team is working with the police and partners to progress this proposal. Funding has now been secured from the ALMO's Area Panel Fund and a number of options for locating the base on the estate are currently being investigated. 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 began on 1st December a copy of the proposed pricing policy has been sent to all centre users asking for feedback - a number of responses have been received to date. The findings of the consultation and revised policy will be presented to the Area Committee in April 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.

The last operation Champion took place in Hyde Park ward in October 2008 an evaluation of the event has been circulated to all ward Members for information. Another Champion for inner North West has been scheduled for February 2009 – details of this event will be made available closer to the time.

Royal Park School

16. As reported verbally at the November 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 be taken to the Councils Executive Board in February 2009 advising the board of Rushbond's withdrawal. There is 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. Members of the consortium have visited the former school and the caretaker's house.

Officers have advised the consortium that their proposals can 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.

St Ann's Mills

17. A letter was sent by the Chair to Jean Dent requesting information relating to St Ann's and Abbey Mills as agreed at the last meeting of the Area Committee on 13th November. A response has been received from the Development Directorates Chief Strategy and Policy Officer which has been circulated to all members.

Leeds Waste Strategy Update

18. Leeds City Council has agreed a very challenging strategy for the City to ensure major reductions in the environmental impact of dealing with its waste, in particular through minimising landfill. In addition to measures to reduce the levels of waste generated and to increase recycling significantly, the Council intends to enter into a contract with a private sector partner to develop and operate treatment facilities to recover value from waste that is not recycled by householders.

In line with Government requirements, the Council has had to identify 'reference sites' within its ownership on which these new facilities can be developed, and which can be made available to bidders. The former wholesale market site on the Cross Green Industrial Estate in the East of the city has been identified as the

'reference site' for a waste treatment facility. The existing Council waste transfer station on Evanston Avenue, Kirkstall, has been identified as the 'reference site' for a new transfer station where waste could be 'bulked up' for onward transfer to the main treatment facility.

These sites do not represent preferred options, and those bidding for the contract to construct and operate the waste facilities have been invited to propose alternative suitable sites. Similarly, the Council has not indicated any preference for the type of waste treatment technology to be used. Technology and site proposals will be assessed using the detailed evaluation model developed by the Council. This approach, including the evaluation model itself, has been approved by the Executive Board.

The Council started procurement in July 2008. It is anticipated that the current field of ten bidders will be reduced to four in April 2009 following the evaluation of their outline proposals. A preferred bidder is expected to be selected in early summer 2010, with the contract awarded and planning applications submitted in autumn 2010. Subject to gaining planning permission, the construction of the main treatment facility would commence in 2011, with full operations starting in 2014.

Although we have undertaken a great deal of communications activity surrounding the general waste strategy, we are entering a new stage in which specific proposals will soon become public. We therefore intend to undertake further communications activities, over the year ahead to educate and inform residents about the process and to understand any issues affecting them prior to the selection of the preferred waste treatment solution.

The nature of the project means that interest will be attracted from all Leeds residents, but there will be a particular interest in the main areas close to identified 'reference' sites or any alternative sites proposed. Any communications activity therefore needs to cover the entire Leeds area, but also to provide greater opportunity for those residents in these specific areas. The involvement of Elected Members is obviously key to the delivery of this communications activity. A more detailed communications plan is in production and will be brought for consultation to the next round of Area Committees in March and April.

A letter from the Council's Chief Environmental Services Officer to Kirkstall Ward members has been circulated to all Members for information.

ADP Review Consultation

19. As reported in December 2008 - there will be a programme of ward based consultative events to review the committees ADP for 2009/ 10 and 2010/ 11. It is planned to hold four community based drop-in sessions in Hyde Park, Headingley, Kirkstall and Weetwood during March and April with a view to presenting a revised draft ADP to the June 2009 meeting and final ADP to the July 2009 meeting. AMT officers are currently agreeing the dates for these sessions with ward members. In addition to other media the events will be advertised and promoted on the Council's internet consultation portal 'Talking-point'

20. **Talking Point**

Talking Point is Leeds City Council's consultation portal which is available through the Leeds City Council website. The aim of this is to enable the Council to coordinate and deliver community engagement activity more effectively. Consultations that are currently underway include:

- Early Years Funding Reform Consultation (ends 28th February)
- Forward plan of key council decisions
- Transport for Leeds
- Council Signs (ends 30th March)

Talking Point can be found on www.leeds.gov.uk follow the links on the left hand side to Council and Democracy and consultations.

Committee Partnership Groups

21. Partners and LCC officers are arranging dates for ADP thematic partnership meetings with the committees thematic members for Health and Wellbeing, Children Leeds, Worklessness and Community Safety (29th January and 30th April) partnership meetings during March and April.

PFI Round 6

22. The City Projects Team is about to enter Round 6 of Housing PFI. The scope of the project is as follows:
- Model of provision: Extra Care schemes and Lifetime Homes, c. 50:50 split.
 - City-wide, to ensure balanced provision, but with significant focus on regeneration areas.
 - 5 primary locations identified in regeneration areas (Armley, Harehills, Holt Park, Middleton & Seacroft) and 14 additional locations identified.
 - C. 1100 new homes (with an element of private for sale) with demolition of 600 & refurbishment of up to 200 units;
 - HRA scheme;
 - Services which could be included are design and build, repairs and maintenance, facilities management and housing management.
 - Scope for additional phases to be added on – some sites already identified;
 - Some will come about as a result of rationalisation of residential and day centre at later stages than can be firmed up now.
 - Scope to collaborate with other authorities in the Leeds City Region.

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