



Report of the Director of Neighbourhoods & Housing

Outer South Leeds Area Committee

Date: 6th November 2006

Subject: Area Managers Report

Electoral Wards Affected:

Ardsley & Robin Hood
Morley North
Morley South
Rothwell

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

This report details a range of activities taking place within the Outer South Leeds Area, providing information to the committee to enable further information to be sought if required.

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To bring to Members' attention in a succinct fashion, brief details of the range of activities with which the Area Management Team are engaged, and that are not addressed in greater detail elsewhere on this agenda. It provides opportunities for further questioning or the opportunity to request a more detailed report on a particular issue.

2.0 Town Centre Manager

2.1 The Morley & Rothwell Town Centre Manger is now in post full time and has begun work on developing separate action plans for both Towns. In addition thought is being given as to how best to instigate an inclusive debate about the future strategy to promote the economic well being of both towns. One idea is to begin this dialogue with separate Morley and Rothwell summits based upon a TV style debate; a 'state of the nation' type discussion for each town. The summit should focus on the 'big picture' but set the foundations for the work of the Town Centre Manager and lead into further consultation aimed at developing deliverable strategies for both towns. If successful the summits could become annual events and in future be used to review the degree of progress achieved in driving the regeneration of both towns.

2.2 Work is progressing to identify suitable accessible office space in both Morley and Rothwell, and early indications suggest that partner agencies may be able to assist with this issue.

3.0 Services for Young People

3.1 Questions were raised at the last Area Committee concerning the Youth service budget, the response received from the Youth Service has been circulated to members prior to this committee.

3.2 A question was also asked about the element of the Youth Services Budget which is not delegated to Area Committees. Previously this committee has been advised that the area function schedule (presented in June) identified the delegated budget to all Area Committees as being £3.4 million (note: this figure was subsequently adjusted to £3.7 million to include commissioned services) in 2006/7. This figure relates to that part of the Youth Work budget which provides for:

- Centre based youth work
- Detached youth work
- Connexions project work with individuals and small group

3.3 The Youth Service in response to the question raised have advised this Committee that the extent of the Youth Work budget which is not attributable to Area based working equates to £5,678,000. The area function schedule previously identified that budgets which were not devolved related to:

- Central functions such as training, quality assurance, service planning and performance.
- City Wide projects, particularly those externally funded.
- Central senior management and administration.

3.4 The Youth Service has indicated that it is their intention to provide Area Committees with financial information on an area basis which breaks down the budget into its constituent parts. Details are still to be finalised, however this will allow Committees to have a clearer understanding of Youth Service financial issues and may enable greater influence to be exercised.

3.5 The Children's Services Scrutiny Board is presently considering the existing operation of the Youth Service. As part of this the Area Manager for South Leeds (Neighbourhoods and Housing) has written a detailed report from an Area Management perspective on the impact that Area Committees/ Area Management have had on the operation of the Youth Service. This report can be made available to any member on request.

4.0 Community Centre Update

4.1 At the last Area Committee members established a small working group to assist in the smooth transfer of responsibilities for some community centres to this Committee.

One of the issues that will need to be addressed will be an area wide review of the demand for centres. Officers are currently reviewing the lettings and pricing strategy before bringing to Members for consideration.

4.2 Stanhope Community Centre, Thorpe

This former Community and Library building is under the management of Leeds South Homes (LSH). Following the recent meeting (4th September) at the centre to consider the potential demand should this facility be retained for the benefit of the community, officers have been in discussions with community representatives and agreed to receive their proposals by Friday 27th October. Officers plan to review the community response before undertaking further discussions with Elected Members.

5.0 District Partnership

- 5.1 The District Partnership has not met since the last Area Committee, an away day is expected to take place towards the latter part of November to consider the form and function of the partnership. Members of the District Partnership have met with Cllr Harris to discuss progress in the area, as part of a city wide series of meetings.

6.0 Staffing update

- 6.1 A new member of staff has been appointed to the Outer South Area Management Team; Laura Kilfoyle will commence work in mid November to the Neighbourhood Worker position. The Area Project Officer position has been included in the ringfence within the division wide restructuring but should be resolved within the next 2 months.

7.0 Narrowing The Gap

- 7.1 Councillor Harris is currently meeting with District Partnerships and Area Committee Chairs to discuss Narrowing the Gap Issues in each of the 5 'wedges'. This has led Cllr Harris to write to each Area Committee chair raising the possibility of Area Committees having 'Narrowing the Gap Issues' as a specific, routine, item on their Agendas. This would ensure Officers had an item which would require them to produce papers on any issues that need to be brought to the committees attention. The Committee is asked to consider this suggestion and make an appropriate recommendation.

8.0 Recommendations

- 8.1 The Area Committee is asked to indicate if it would find it useful to receive a report at each committee on narrowing the gap issues.