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REPORT OF: THE DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOODS & HOUSING
MEETING: OUTER SOUTH AREA COMMITTEE
DATE : 6th NOVEMBER 2006
SUBJECT : CLEANER CITIES

Electoral Wards Affected :

Beeston and Holbeck
 Middleton Park
 City and Hunslet

Specific Implications For :

Ethnic Minorities
 Women
 Disabled People
 Narrowing the Gap

Council Function	<input type="checkbox"/>	Delegated Executive Function available For Call In	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Delegated Executive Function not available for Call In. Details set out in the report	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Executive Summary

Leeds City Council has an ambition described in the Council Plan to make Leeds Britain's Cleanest City. Earlier this year the Council entered the 2007 Clean Britain Awards as a means of promoting environmental standards and as a learning and development exercise. Much of the work required for this process focuses on the City Centre and South Leeds. The Council has subsequently been short-listed for the award. This report advises the Committee of the various aspects of the work undertaken to date.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 It is commonly recognised that the quality of the local environment affects people's quality of life. Research conducted by MORI and residents surveys tells us that people rate concerns about the quality of their local environment extremely high. National Government has reflected this concern by leading and co-ordinating the delivery of the cross-government "Cleaner, Safer, Greener Communities" programme.
- 1.2 The Clean Britain Award (CBA) is a biennial award and the next award will be made in 2007. The inspection process for the award covers issues such as street cleansing, buildings, graffiti and fly-posting, parks and open spaces, public conveniences, highways and tourist attractions. The awards will include categories for cities, towns and districts. The Clean Britain Awards for 2007 will use a range of

assessment process including objective measures such as BVPI 199 (cleanliness measure) as part of its methodology.

- 1.3 In entering the 2007 Award the Council had no expectation of being successful, rather the exercise was undertaken in order to establish the City's position and gain constructive feedback to inform service delivery improvements and increase learning, particularly around community involvement, participation and innovation. It is intended to submit a more ambitious application to achieve the status of Clean Britain Awards Cleanest City in 2009 and it is envisaged that Leeds will then apply every 2 years until 2020.
- 1.4 The application process is a three stage affair; an initial written submission was made in June 2007, a shortlist of Authorities were then invited to undertake a presentation to the CBA panel in September and local judging (from a visitor's perspective) will take place during the next few months.

2.0 ACHIEVING THE CLEANEST CITY STATUS

- 2.1 In order to focus the work required as part of this programme the Leeds Initiative has set up a Cleanest City Task Group with representatives from various Council departments along with partners from the voluntary sector and bodies such as ENCAMS, Groundwork and CABE as the project cuts across traditional service boundaries. The Group has clearly identified responsibilities in relation to the achievement of Britain's Cleanest City and ultimately, Europe's Cleanest and Greenest City.
- 2.2 Funding has been secured by the City Services Department from the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF), and the Neighbourhoods and Housing Department has secured funding from the Safer, Stronger Communities. Whilst both these funds require the targeting of particular geographical areas, combined with existing mainstream funding, they will enable the delivery of some of the local environmental improvements needed to improve cleanliness levels across the City.

- Extensive environmental auditing
- Environmental Pride teams
- Arterial routes project
- Specific environmental projects
- Community engagement strategy
- Communication plan
- Buildings, and business engagement.
- Gardening scheme

3.0 Implications for South Leeds

- 3.1 To gain the most benefit from entering the 2007 CBA, the Council has decided to promote the South wedge of the city as the focus of the submission. This Area includes the City Centre and a mixture of some of the Cities most deprived areas with more average (in deprivation and environmental terms) areas also. Feedback derived from this work will therefore be of benefit to the whole city. The judges will

be particularly encouraged to look at Beeston Hill and Holbeck, Morley and the City Centre.

- Extensive environmental auditing

City Service and Encams staff (formerly the Tidy Britain Group) have undertaken a great deal of work documenting the environmental conditions of parts of the area utilising district local environmental quality survey techniques. This information which will overtime cover the whole of the area and is designed to enable comparisons to be drawn between the quality of the environment across the city, over different time periods and against national benchmarks. Members may wish to see the information that this has produced for the target SOAs in Beeston Hill and Holbeck, Middleton Park and Belle Isle. The data will help to direct the work programmes of the teams operating in the surveyed areas.

- Environmental Pride teams

Two Environmental Pride Teams are now operating in Inner South Leeds. These teams are funded from the Safer Stronger Communities fund which according to Central Government requirements focuses on the most deprived Super Output Areas In the City. The teams will undertake a wide range of environmental improvement works and can offer a higher level of service than mainstream resources allow for. The rest of South Leeds is covered by the mainstream Streetscene Services, who operate a response service devised under the CAST arrangements.

- Arterial routes project

A dedicated team is focussing on cleaning arterial routes particularly areas such as traffic islands and kerbs where detritus tends to collect. In addition from a highways perspective several areas will receive minor works to remedy particular problems such as carriageways or kerb issues, these areas are located at: the Ring Road Beeston, Dewsbury Rd, Thorpe lane, Belle isle rd, Middleton park circus Throstle Rd, Middleton park avenue. Much of this work is being funded from a specific one off Neighbourhood Renewal grant.

- Specific Environmental projects

Members of the Inner south Area Committee have previously been sent details of specific environmental schemes affecting their area which are being progressed in partnership with Groundwork and a range of other agencies. These schemes are located at the following locations: Czar St, St Mathews, Willoughby Terrace, Domestic Street Gateway, Tillbury rd, Beeston Hill Binyards, Belle Isle Shops, Winrose Drive, Belle Isle rd, Cottingley Triangle These schemes are funded from the Safer, Stronger, Communities fund and therefore largely focus on the inner area. In the future it is hoped to work with groundwork to progress specific schemes in Outer South Leeds.

- Community engagement strategy

Groundwork are undertaking specific elements of community engagement, for example consulting with local residents on the Area committee funded bin yards schemes and SSCF funded environmental improvements. They are also helping with school based education awareness programmes.

- Communication plan

Work is progressing to highlight to residents of Leeds the importance of this issue and to seek their cooperation in keeping the city clean. Some of this work will be educational in focus other aspects will concentrate on taking a stronger enforcement approach. A high profile marketing strategy is being developed following the theme of 'How clean is your....'. This will allow for different types of issues and different areas to be addressed.

- Specific work focussing on business issues

An additional Enforcement officer has been recruited to work with businesses using the Tidy business standards as a means to drive up standards of environmental awareness within private industry. They are also developing a 'food on the go' scheme designed to reduce the littering and waste produced by fast food outlets and their customers.

- Gardening scheme

City Service in conjunction with Groundwork are recruiting in the first instance two teams of staff who will operate in South and East Leeds to reduce problems associated with unkempt gardens. This work will particularly assist the elderly and disabled and is planned to be rolled out city wide in the New Year.

4.0 Sustainability

- 4.1 Many of the services mentioned above are new and innovative from a Streetscene perspective, taking the service beyond that which it has been able to do previously. In large parts the services rely on additional finance provided from various funding streams. These services can continue to be delivered so long as the funding streams exist. The Safer Stronger Communities fund is a planned four years programme, whilst the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund is available at this point only for one further year. It is hoped that these funding streams will enable a number of remedial actions to take place, allow for experimentation with different ways of working, and raise people's awareness of the littering and waste problems that they cause. In the longer term it is anticipated that should no new funding streams come on line and standards have been raised the strategy of the city will be far more enforcement focussed.

5.0 Recommendations

- 5.1 The Area Committee is asked to note this report, and to consider retaining a focus on cleaner neighbourhoods as a key feature in the Committees 2007/8 Area Delivery Plan.