



Why is this a Priority

Improving the quality of Leeds' built environment ensures new and changed developments create inspiring environments bringing residents together. As two thirds of the city is green-belt, the management of the natural environment and green spaces is key to aspects of improved wellbeing including accessibility of leisure and relaxation activities and these create sustainable communities and improve the quality of neighbourhoods.

Overall Progress and Outcomes Achieved – 1st April 2009- 30th September 2009

Overall Summary:

There is good progress on a number of sustainability initiatives including energy efficiency, work on Combined Heat and Power and the promotion of the urban eco-settlement. There is also good progress on the Arena planning application and feasibility work on the City Centre Park. Progress on this performance indicator has been impeded by the recession. There are fewer new buildings under construction and planning applications have fallen by 30%.

Achievements Since the Last Report:

- Trinity Quarter Planning Application approved.
- Back-to-Back Housing Strategy published.
- Delivery of Affordable Housing across a range of sectors contributing to the place shaping agenda and supporting private sector schemes to attract funding through national programmes such as Homes and Community Agency (HCA).
- £1.8 million spent on priority regeneration schemes including Group Repair Beeston
 - Phase 5 completed July 2009
 - Phase 6 started August 2009 includes enveloping and energy efficiency works.
- Leeds green infrastructure maps completed.
- Automated notification service improving planning consultation for residents, community groups, members, etc.
- 7 parks have Green Flags; special award at Chevin Forest Park for adaptations for severely disabled visitors.
- £40,000 of Highways maintenance budget allocated to the retread process (recycling road materials).
- Feasibility work for City Centre Park in conjunction with the landowners.
- Consultation and adoption of Sustainable Design and Construction Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).
- Environment Programme Board established.
- Launch of various energy efficiency and affordable warmth initiatives including Community Energy Saving Program (CESP); 'Thermo', energy-saving superhero launched; and Energy Performance Certificates for ALMOs.
- Funding secured for the Aire Action Leeds Partnership (AALP).

Improvement Priority – ENV-1a. Improve the Quality and Sustainability of the Built and Natural Environment

Accountable Officer – Phil Crabtree.

Accountable Director – Jean Dent

Challenges/Risks:

- Lack of government and financial institutions' investment in housing and competing demands for new housing.
- Securing private schemes funding, stagnation of regeneration areas, impacts on city economy/housing market.
- Revenue/capital budget reductions and reduction of planning applications and building regulations fee income.
- Reduced investment in community parks, heritage sites, pitches, etc. and failure to retain Green Flag Awards.
- No guarantees of future funding for the city centre pedestrianisation scheme.
- Leeds Arena application is progressed with no substantive objections.
- Management of community expectations over status of Village and Neighbourhood Design Statements.

Approved by (<i>Accountable Officer</i>)	Phil Crabtree	Date	21/10/09
Approved by (<i>Accountable Director</i>)	Jean Dent	Date	21/10/09

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Key Actions for the Next 6 Months				
	Action (Desired Achievements)	Contributory Officer	Milestone / Actions	Timescale
1	LCRHRS finalisation; promotion of investment in existing housing; promoting BRE testing of energy efficiency products and protecting funding for private sector stock renewal; support for Community Energy Saving (CES) programme; support for neighbourhood renewal and regeneration strategy in Middleton and preparation of Housing Market Assessment.	Re'new	Ensure private sector housing is a key part of LCRHRS; support to Environment and Neighbourhoods Directorate existing funding and attract new.	December 2009 On-going
2	Develop single conversation with HCA as part of the City Region forerunner.	Paul Langford	Units delivered, no of HCA approved schemes	31 st March 2010 Ongoing
3	Progress Private Sector Stock Renewal including e.g. Enforcement action, promotion of improvements in private rented sector, introduction of selected licensing in East Leeds. Strategy for long term empty properties to be reported to Executive Board.	Andy Beattie	Licensing in place Strategy adopted and being applied	March 2010
4	Complete outstanding Parks Renaissance (PR) schemes e.g. The Hollies; Wharfemeadows Park, etc. Progress schemes e.g. Kings Field, Beeston; Oulton, etc.	Sean Flesher	Works completed	March 2010
5	Successful completion of City Centre public realm refurbishment of city centre core including Lands Lane, Bond Street and Kirkgate.	Cath Follin	Completion on time and to budget	March 2010
6	Formal submission of Leeds Arena application by the end of October 2009 with reserve matters concluded by the end of the summer 2010. Preparation for formal consultation of Planning Framework for City Centre Park by December 2009	Martin Farrington Martin Farrington/Jane Cash	Outline planning permission approved Reserve matters concluded Formal consultation	March 2010 End of Summer 2010 Early 2010
7	Supplementary Planning Documents Tall Buildings and Sustainable Design and Construction	Tom Knowland	SPD's adopted	March 2010
8	Conservation Area Appraisals (CAA) Carry out city centre and area committee CAA's and review projects	Richard Taylor	10 city centre CAA 7 area committee CAAs	March 2010
10	Environment City Projects – Develop/implement environmental improvement plan. Combined Heat and Power – detailed feasibility study SEA Working Group – develop revised procedure, retest on New Generation Transport	Jon Andrews George Munson Tom Knowland	New policy to be adopted Study complete Revised procedure in place	December 2009 March 2010 March 2010
12	Progress the implementation of the Holbeck Urban Village	Paul Stephens		Ongoing
13	Aire Action Leeds Partnership - Represent LCC on the partnership, contribute to Flood Alleviation Scheme (FAS) and promote Waterfront.	Tom Knowland	Continue FAS and Waterfront work.	Ongoing
14	Private Sector Warm Front mailing to 11,000 households; Thermal overflight and GIS Integration of results – appoint contractor ABI - 10 wards for private sector insulation company and heating grant referral Heatseekers (Roadside thermal imaging, insulation company, image to 1 ward)	Ivor Trueman Sajda Khaliq Sajda Khaliq Sajda Khaliq	Mail out complete Appoint Contractor Procure contractor Procure contractor	Q3 2009-10 Q4 2009-10 Q3 ongoing Q3 ongoing
15	Publish proposals for Urban Eco-Settlement as part of City Region.	Phil Crabtree	Submit and develop strategy	November 2009 April 2010

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Performance Indicators - Performance indicators aligned to the Improvement Priority										
Reference	Title	Owner	Frequency & Measure	Rise or Fall	Baseline	2008/09 Result	2009/10 Target	2009/10 Qtr 2	Current Predicted Full Year Result	Data Quality
NI 157 - Not published in LSP	Processing of major planning applications within 13 weeks	Planning Services	Quarterly %	Rise	63.49% (2007/08)	65.33%	70.00%	63.77%	60%	No concerns
	Processing of minor planning applications within 8 weeks	Planning Services	Quarterly %	Rise	69.94% (2006/07)	76.17%	65.00%	79.41%	75%	No concerns
	Processing of other planning applications within 8 week	Planning Services	Quarterly %	Rise	83.63% (2006/07)	86.41%	80.00%	86.73%	85%	No concerns
	Processing of planning applications as measured against targets for County Matter application types	Planning Services	Quarterly %	Rise	64.71% (2008/09)	64.71%	TBC	50.00%	50%	No concerns
LSP-ENV2b	Percentage of parks and countryside sites assessed internally that meet the Green Flag criteria	Parks and Countryside	Annually %	Rise	10.8% (2004/05)	19.6%	21%	-	21%	No concerns