

**Report of the South East Area Manager**

**Outer East Area Committee**

**Date: 8<sup>th</sup> December 2009**

**Subject: Actions, Achievements and update report**

**Electoral Wards Affected:**  
 Garforth & Swillington  
 Kippax & Methley  
 Temple Newsam  
 Cross Gates & Whinmoor

Ward members consulted  
 (referred to in this 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 provides Members with details of actions and achievements of the Area Management Team relating to priorities and work of the Area Committee since the Area Committee meeting in October 2009. It also provides an update on issues relating to the work of the Area Management Team.

**Purpose of this report**

1. This report provides Members with an update on actions and achievements around the Area Delivery Plan priorities since the last Area Committee meeting in October, it also provides members with an overview of the current projects that the Area Management Team are working on.

**Background Information**

2. The ADP has been developed following the headings contained within the Leeds Strategic Plan and the Vision for Leeds. It is a local expression of the city's commitment to the Local Area Agreement and partnership working. The themes of the ADP are:

- Culture
- Harmonious Communities
- Enterprise and Economy
- Transport
- Environment
- Health and Wellbeing
- Thriving Places
- Learning.

3. The Area Delivery Plan for 2008-11 was approved by this Area Committee and a refreshed version of the plan was endorsed by the Area Committee on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2009.

## **Updates by Theme**

### **Culture**

#### **Providing new and improved leisure facilities in Outer East**

4. Work is now underway to renew the children's play areas at Glebelands in Garforth. This was funded from Grantscape, S106 funding and Area Committee capital.
5. Work has now completed to provide a new drainage system to sports pitches at Skelton Woods in Whinmoor. The poor drainage system has made the pitches unplayable for some time; they will now be available for local teams in Spring 2010.

### **Enterprise and Economy**

#### **Supporting community enterprise projects**

6. Outer East Area Committee funded the gardening scheme that was delivered by Swarcliffe Good Neighbours thereby creating jobs for two gardeners. As this project ended in October Swarcliffe Good Neighbours has started its decorating programme for pensioners at affordable prices. This too will create a number of jobs for local people. From April to October 351 gardens were completed and decorating work has now been completed to 3 properties.

#### **Addressing worklessness in priority neighbourhoods**

7. This is a one year project funded by Yorkshire Forward that provides an officer to help people get back into work in the Osmondthorpe estate. The Target for this project is to reduce the working age claim rate in the worst performing neighbourhoods by 2% which equates to a reduction of 50 in Halton Moor and Osmondthorpe. It is anticipated that this project will be funded for a further year from April 2010.

### **Learning**

#### **Jobs Employment & Training (JET) Partnership**

8. The JET partnership met on 2<sup>nd</sup> of November. The minutes are not yet available. This partnership, set up to improve employment and training opportunities, is represented from the Area Committee by Cllr Tom Murray.

### **Environment**

9. Environmental works funded from Swarcliffe PFI credits is reported under improvement works from Swarcliffe PFI credits in section 28 of this report.

10. A number of community clean ups have taken place in recent weeks:
- Community Clean up across Garforth involved approx 40 people
  - Community Clean up in Fairburn with the local in bloom group supported by probation service
  - Swarcliffe and Whinm Moor held clean ups at White Laithe School and on the Sherburn estate with approx 30 people helping
  - Youth Offending Service supported a clean up with Groundwork at the Community House in Halton Moor; a clean up at Bylaw Mensfield allotment was also carried out.

## **Health and Wellbeing**

### **Health and Well-Being Partnership**

11. The local area health and well-being partnership has been set up for the South East wedge of the city. The partnership met formally on the 16<sup>th</sup> of November. Members of the partnership will examine local profile health data to decide which health improvement priorities to focus on. The partnership will report to the Joint Strategic Commissioning Board. Their work will be led by 3 newly appointed Health Improvement Managers, employed by Leeds City Council Adult Social Care and NHS Leeds. Cllr Suzi Armitage will represent the Area Committee on this partnership. Minutes of the first meeting are not available at the time of print.

### **Supporting vulnerable people**

12. An Outer East priority under this theme is to increase the number of vulnerable people helped to live at home. Support has been provided to the various elderly network schemes to help with projects such as luncheon clubs, gardening schemes and the new decorating scheme. A Luncheon Club in Garforth was recently saved from closure by the assistance of Area Management staff.

## **Thriving Places**

### **Creating Safer Environments**

13. A 'Face the People' event was held at John Smeaton High School on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November. This event organised by the Safer Leeds Partnership attracted approx 60 local people. Presentations were given by the West Yorkshire Police Authority (WYPA) as well as the North East Police Divisional Commander. Feedback from those attending will be analysed to consider future work of WYPA.

### **Neighbourhood Wardens Restructure**

14. The following information is a précis of the e mail sent to all Members by the Acting Area Manager updating them on the latest position with Neighbourhood Wardens.

The posts proposed within the Neighbourhood Warden restructure have now progressed through the Job Evaluation process. Job Evaluation has determined that it is not possible to create a single job description to encompass the range of duties

required at the range of grades as previously suggested. An alternative approach has been taken to create two distinct posts, which includes 10 Community Environment Officer and 13 Community Environment Support Officers across the city.

The job description for the Community Environment Support Officer posts is not substantially different to the current Neighbourhood Warden positions.

Deployment of the proposed CEO and CESO posts will continue to be agreed with Area Committees with initial deployment reflecting the reduced number of posts and identifying, in association with Area Committees those deprived neighbourhoods and service priorities.

The restructure report will be submitted to the Director Of Environment and Neighbourhoods at the end of November. The recruitment process is planned to commence in January 2010.

#### 15. **Neighbourhood Warden Activity**

Neighbourhood Wardens have been working in partnership with the Cross Gates & Temple Newsam Neighbourhood Policing Team during November to deliver a series of awareness raising events to tackle domestic burglary including at local One Stop Centre, Halton and Colton shopping areas, Cross Gates Shopping Centre and Temple Newsam. Work will continue throughout December.

The Neighbourhood Warden team took part in the recent Community Safety 'Face the People Event' providing community safety advice and crime reduction devices for older people.

Neighbourhood Wardens have been involved in a range of engagement activity with local residents and young people with regards the installation of an A Frame to prevent illegal motor bikes in Kippax, improvements to a local skate park in Garforth, environmental improvements to reduce community safety concerns, lighting improvements in Whinmoor and the installation of litter bins. The Wardens have also supported a number of Probation projects across the area including clearing of footpaths.

The local Neighbourhood Warden for Swarcliffe has delivered a number of training sessions with partners including West Yorkshire Police and ASBU to ensure the effective use of locally installed CCTV systems.

#### **Tasking Teams**

16. The following are examples of projects and actions that have been delivered over recent months by the 3 Tasking Teams in Outer East Leeds:

- A Designated Public Place Order is now in place in Kippax from 5<sup>th</sup> of November 2009. The costs were funded by Area Committee through the 'tasking' budget allocation for that ward.
- Road safety issues caused by poorly maintained verges have been resolved in Garforth from its 'tasking budget'. Hedges have been removed, levelled and grass seeded in Richmond Way and Holman Avenue.

- A target hardening project on properties in Cross Gates was carried out with support from CASAC providing additional security to vulnerable residents.
- Youth Offending Team and Groundwork have undertaken a series of environmental improvements at Halton Moor Community House. Discussions are taking place with the local Residents Association to become involved in the running of the community house.
- Temple Newsam Tasking group has funded improvements to planters in partnership with East North East Homes Leeds to tackle ASB and environmental eye sore on Halton Moor estate
- Since the last report there have been two Operation Champions in the Outer East area. The focus of the Halton Moor & East Osmondthorpe operation was burglary reduction and the tackling of ASB including target hardening to a number of properties in Osmondthorpe, anonymous surveys focussing gathering intelligence relating to ASB on Halton Moor estate and a range of enforcement activity. Operation Champion took place in Swillington in October focussing on vehicle crime including stop checks and ASB visits with housing and Neighbourhood Wardens.

### **Regeneration**

17. The final phases of Town & District Centre regeneration programmes in Garforth, Cross Gates and Halton started on the 28<sup>th</sup> of September. As previously reported to Area Committee the bulk of the work is to install new street furniture. The three schemes completed in late November and are now in the defects period.
18. The 'Phoenix' artwork feature was erected and unveiled in front Peckfield Business Park on the 6<sup>th</sup> of November. This project has been a priority for the Regeneration Partnership and has been welcomed by local businesses and residents..
19. The Intensive Neighbourhood Management Programme delivered by Re'new in Halton Moor and Osmondthorpe will end when Safer Stronger Communities Funding (SSCF) ends in April 2010. In its final year the focus has been on supporting and building the capacity of community organisations in the area.

### **Improvements from Swarcliffe PFI credits**

20. This budget has been delegated to Area Committee and future proposals and approvals will be reported to Area Committee. A number of projects have been funded and a number of projects are in developmental stage. These are detailed below:
  - Installation of football goal posts on land adjacent to St Gregory's Youth & Adult Centre, Sledmere Lane and Farndale View at a cost of £3,800 including necessary grass cutting and required top soil. This item is for confirmation only.
  - Internal improvements to St Gregory's Youth & Adult Centre including installation of dishwasher. Total cost of scheme is £2,137.50. This item is for information only.

- Installation of CCTV system at Stanks Parade to tackle ongoing community crime and anti social behaviour concerns. The cost of the scheme including associated electrical works to the building is £7,415. This item is for information only.
- Installation of two community information notice boards to supplement those being installed on the estate. Total cost of project is £2,579. This item is for information only.
- Target hardening to older people's properties on the Dennil estate. The work will include fitting of door chains and spy holes. Total cost of project is £300. This item is for information only.
- Award £2,000 funding to both Whinmoor B and Swarcliffe In Bloom groups to support them in making environmental improvements across the estate. Total cost of project is £4,000. **Area Committee are requested to support this proposal**
- The installation of additional 6 litter bins across the estate at a cost of £400 per bin including installation. Total cost of project is £2,400. **Area Committee are requested to support this proposal**
- Development of a climbing wall for young people and associated works. The maximum cost for this work will be £30,000. **Area Committee are requested to support this proposal**
- Installation of a graffiti wall at a cost of up to maximum of £4,000. **Area Committee are requested to support this proposal**
- Development of an additional Welcome Stone to compliment the stones planned for across the estate to be located at the entrance to the Dennil estate. The stone will be at a maximum cost of £3750. **Area Committee are requested to support this proposal**
- Install key pad to St Gregory's Youth & Adult Centre at a cost of £170. **Area Committee are requested to support this proposal**
- Ward based discussions are ongoing with regards the recruitment of a Neighbourhood Warden for the estate. Due to the timescales of the restructure recruitment process we would be unable to wait to seek approval at the next Area Committee scheduled for February. In anticipation of local agreements and discussion with the Cross Gates and Whinmoor elected members, Area Management would like to seek approval in principle to the funding of the Neighbourhood Warden type post at a cost of £82,914 over 3 years. **Area Committee are requested to support this proposal**

The total of approved and proposed projects to date is £143,295.50. The total overall budget for the PPF1 credits is £350,000.

### **Thorpe Park**

21. A meeting was held on the 19<sup>th</sup> of November with Ward Members and the Chief Planning Officer and his staff at the Civic Hall. The main issues discussed included:

**Sports pitches.** The developers are challenging occupancy levels. Once 600,000 sq ft is occupied the developer must start work on phase 1 of the sports pitches and within 12 months of Phase 1 starting work must commence on the pavilion and car park. Planning Officers are in the process of calculating the area occupied.

It was agreed that LCC Parks & Countryside will work with Ward Members to determine the most suitable location for the pitches so that this can progress immediately the area occupied issue is resolved.

**Manston Road Link.** The issue regarding the re-homing of Great Crested Newts is still to be resolved before this can progress. This is linked to large holes that have been dug on the site which the developer says is to home to Great Crested Newts. Chief Planning Officer to pursue the developer regarding having these holes filled in.

It was agreed to have a 3 way meeting between LCC, Vallad and Threadneedle concerning the link road and various other issues relating to the site. A report will also be brought to Area Committee in February to update with progress.

## **Harmonious Communities**

### **Community Forums**

22. The following forums have met over recent months :

- Halton – 10 September 2009
- Halton Moor/East Osmondthorpe – 15 September 2009
- Whinmoor – 21 September 2009
- Swarcliffe – 7 October 2009
- Cross Gates – 14 October 2009
- Garforth & Swillington – 10 November 2009

The minutes of Halton, Halton Moor, Whinmoor, Swarcliffe and Garforth & Swillington Forums are attached at the end of this report. At the time of despatch the minutes of the Cross Gates Forum were not available. These will be included in the pack for the February meeting.

### **Year of the Volunteer**

23. At the Area Committee meeting held on the 27<sup>th</sup> of October Members agreed to support the year of the volunteer in Outer East by way of a 'thank you' awards events for volunteers in the fields of support for the elderly, environmental groups such as 'in blooms' and sports teams.

As well as acknowledging the contribution from volunteers another objective of the Year of the Volunteer is to help groups recruit new volunteers.

A proposal to support this objective has been suggested by the Chair of the Committee. It is to hold an April event to celebrate older people that is similar to the annual September event but to also use this as a tool for elderly support groups to

recruit new volunteers. It will also connect up with April being the month of the intergenerational festival and hopefully this festival can tie into the older person's week. This proposal is still very much at embryonic stage but has been raised at the Older Persons sub group and is supported by partners.

It is recommended that Area Committee support this proposal as its second event in 2010 to support the year of the volunteer.

### **Implications for Council Policy and Governance**

24. No specific issues are identified.

### **Legal and Resource Implications**

25. No specific issues are identified

### **Recommendations**

26. The Committee is asked to note the contents of this report and raise any questions.
27. The Committee is asked to support the Year of the Volunteer proposal (Event 2) detailed in section 23.
28. The Committee is asked to support the following projects to be funded from Swarcliffe PFI Credits:
- Award £2,000 each to Swarcliffe 'in bloom' and Whinmoor B 'in bloom'
  - Award £2,400 for additional litter bins
  - Award £30,000 for a young persons climbing wall and associated works
  - Award £4,000 for a graffiti wall
  - Award £3,750 for an additional 'Welcome Stone' in the Dennils
  - Award £170 for a keypad at St Gregory's Youth & Adult Centre
  - Agree to officers investigating having a Neighbourhood Warden appointed to Swarcliffe for a minimum 3 year period – this is costed at £82,914

### **Background reports:**

Outer East Area Committee, Area Delivery Plan 7<sup>th</sup> July 2009

Area Managers Report October 2008

Year of the volunteer report to Area Committee – October 2009