

Report of the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods

To: Outer North West Area Committee

Date: 14 December 2009

Subject: Area Managers Report

Electoral Wards Affected:

Adel & Wharfedale
Guiseley & Rawdon
Horsforth
Otley & Yeadon

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

The purpose of this report is to inform members of progress on a number of projects in Outer North West Leeds as determined by the Area Delivery Plan 2009-12. The Area Delivery Plan is the key strategic document produced by the Area Committee and the local expression of the Leeds Strategic Plan.

1.0 Purpose of This Report

1.1 This report informs Members of the progress against Area Committee functions and roles as agreed by Executive Board in July 2008. The report is formatted under the themes of the Leeds Strategic Plan.

2.0 Background Information

2.1 The Area Delivery Plan for this Area Committee was agreed by Executive Board in July together with the Area Committee functions and enhanced roles.

3.0 Main Issues

Environment

3.1 Groundwork Leeds in partnership with WNWLH have developed a masterplan for the Holt Park area. WNWLH through their Area Panel have allocated resources to the development of 8 informal play spaces around the estate. Discussions are now

underway with ward members, area management, Groundwork and the ALMO to look at how best to take this project forward.

Thriving Communities

- 3.2 Town and District Centre Regeneration – In 2006, funding was allocated to two schemes in Outer North West – Otley Market Place and Yeadon High Street. A further three projects – the restoration of the Brook Crompton clock in Guiseley, the refurbishment of the former Horsforth library and the refurbishment of Otley Civic Centre were then added. Work on all schemes has been progressed in consultation with local ward members.
- 3.3 The scheme to enhance the market place in Otley is now complete.
- 3.4 The scheme to improve and enhance the High Street in Yeadon commenced work on April 27th. The contractors for the work are North Midland. Good progress has been made with the scheme but due to delays caused by necessary action required to relocate the Virgin media cabling and bad weather conditions, the programme is now behind schedule. The contractors have worked on Sundays to try and catch up, but they have been mindful of events that have taken place at the Town Hall and have tried not to cause too much disruption to both traders and shoppers. The new road surfacing and footways are nearly complete and final works include the landscaping to the traffic island and the installation of the street furniture.
- 3.5 The Strategic Design Alliance (SDA) were appointed earlier in the year to provide a brief for the plinth design, refurbishment and relocation of the former Brook Crompton Parkinson Building Clock Tower to the new Netherfield Road car park in Guiseley. Tender documents were prepared and four tender returns were submitted. The successful tenderer appointed to undertake the tower work were local firm Strategic Team Group. (STG) The clock mechanism refurbishment will be carried out by Smith of Derby, whose parent company were the original makers of the clock.
- 3.6 The clock mechanism has now been removed from the tower and been taken to a workshop in Nottingham for repair and refurbishment. The tower structure will be removed this week for repair and refurbishment. Work on site at Netherfield Road will then commence at the end of January. The contract is expected to take seven weeks to complete.
- 3.7 Work on the design for a new youth centre for Horsforth and new Area Management offices in the old Horsforth library building, has now completed. A planning application was submitted to Planning Services for a change of use to the building and was approved in the summer. The contractor will be appointed this month with a start on site expected early in the New Year.
- 3.8 Asset Management Board have given the go ahead for the Strategic Design Alliance to progress to RIBA Stage C for the development of Otley Civic Centre. Progressing to Stage C will enable the design and costs of the scheme to be updated and re-assessed and also allow for clarification of the Otley Town Council funding position. This work will include the submission of a planning application.

- 3.9 Following changes to staffing within markets management and at the request of Councillor Andrew Carter, a working group chaired by Councillor Anderson has been set up to pursue options for the future management of the Otley and Yeadon markets by either area management or Otley Town Council. An action plan summarising immediate tasks to be undertaken including marketing and publicity strategies, as well as a longer term strategy, is being developed and will be reported on at a future meeting.

Health and Wellbeing

- 3.10 Two further meetings of the North West Health and Wellbeing Partnership have taken place since September. The Partnership provides a forum for agencies to work together to improve the health and wellbeing of local communities, ensure that high quality health and social care services are available when and where they are needed, and that inequalities in health are tackled.

Transport

- 3.11 The Business and Transport sub group oversees the work of the Local Accessibility Planning Pilot for Outer North West Leeds. The questionnaire that was developed has been circulated to known groups and individuals in the area in an attempt to determine local public transport needs. Metro have indicated that they have a good response and it is hoped that the outcomes of the pilot will help target future funding and investment to where it is needed, in order to help improve the public transport infrastructure in the area.

4.0 Implications for Council Policy and Governance

- 4.1 The Area Delivery Plan for Outer North West is administered through the West North West Leeds area management team.
- 4.2 Well being projects develop from Outer North West's Leeds Area Delivery Plan and through consultation with Area Committee members. The plan helps to fulfill the Council's Corporate Plan objectives by aiming to create better neighbourhoods and confident communities.

5.0 Legal and Resource Implications

- 5.1 In order to meet the Area Committee's functions, funding is supplied via Well Being budgets and the Community Centres Budget.
- 5.2 In order to meet the Area Committee's roles, funding is in the main supplied by other Leeds City Council Departments mainstream budgets, and external partner agencies e.g. the Police and Primary Care Trust, which is in turn reflected by the fact that the Area Committee's role here is to influence, develop and consult. However, wellbeing funding has resourced some projects here e.g. area based regeneration schemes and conservation area reviews.

6.0 Conclusions

- 6.1 The functions and roles of the Area Committee aim to:

- Improve the quality and value for money of Council service delivery
- Improve the quality of democracy and find new ways to facilitate citizen participation in local government through the development of links between ward members and their communities.
- To co-ordinate policy and service delivery between the local service providers.

7.0 Recommendations

7.1 Outer North West Area Committee members are invited to:

- note the contents of the report and comment on any aspect of the matters raised
- suggest items for inclusion on future agendas

Documents referred to in this report:

Executive Board Report July 2008.