



Report of the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods

To: North West (Inner) Area Committee

Date: 14th January 2010

Subject: Area Manager's Report

Electoral Wards Affected:

Hyde Park & Woodhouse
Headingley
Kirkstall
Weetwood

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 against Leeds Strategic Plan and the Inner West Area Delivery Plan.

1.0 Purpose of This Report

1.1 This report informs Members of the progress against Leeds Strategic Plan and the Inner West Area Delivery Plan.

2.0 Background Information

2.1 The Area Delivery Plan is the delivery of the Leeds Strategic Plan in the Inner West area. This report identifies progress against the themes of the Leeds Strategic Plan.

2.0 ENVIRONMENT

2.1 Festive Lights

A wellbeing allocation of £11,000 was granted towards festive lights in the inner north west this year. Previously there were only lights along Otley Road in the centre of Headingley and at the Kirkstall Gyratory. The Headingley lights are provided as part of the city wide Leeds Lights Christmas decorations and will continue to be so, but the ones at Kirkstall were provided by Area Committee at the request of local residents.

This years well being allocation has been used to further festive lights in local district centres, like those in Kirkstall, as the Leeds Lights city wide decorations are unable to be extended beyond their existing scope due to budgetary constraints.

In order to display festive lights the lampposts require a one off installation of the necessary electrics, and motifs need to be hired annually for the festive period. A motif is the festive design displayed on the lamppost, i.e. a star or holly etc. The one off cost of installing electrics to the lamp columns is £391.40 per lamp post and the yearly cost of motif hire is £152.43 per motif.

Area Committee has enabled festive lights to be displayed at Kirkstall Gyratory and Otley Road outside of the Three Horse Shoes pub, Weetwood ward. These will be switched on in the week preceding the city wide switch on.

It was also hoped to display lights on Woodsley Road, Hyde Park & Woodhouse and North Lane, Headingley but in these two areas the lamp columns have not been replaced as yet by SEC and are currently unsuitable for holding the electrical adaptations needed. They will be priorities next year if Area Committee chooses to fund festive lights again.

In the coming years the cost of displaying festive lights will reduce as all of the columns in the chosen areas will have had the necessary electrics installed and only motif hire will need to be paid annually at an approximate cost of £7,316.64 for all four areas.

There is also the option of purchasing the motifs at an approximate cost of £16,800.00 but the costs of storage, repair & maintenance and installation would then have to be met annually by Area Committee and the motifs would need to be replaced at a date in the future due to wear and tear.

3.0 THRIVING PLACES

3.1 Kirkstall Vision

Background and Purpose

The consultancy Urbanalysis was approached by local ward councilors and community representatives in 2008 to help them work towards the creation of a community based 'vision' for the future of the Kirkstall Ward. The overall aim is to promote sustainable change in Kirkstall by making the most of the area's assets both natural and built and to work with local people to help create a safer, more vibrant, accessible and cohesive place. The objective of the strategy is to provide a vision to guide the future development of Kirkstall Ward, its neighbourhoods, streets and spaces. The aspirations and priorities are those identified by the community themselves.

The model adopted for the process of generating a vision for Kirkstall was that used successfully in 2005 in Headingley, which resulted in the innovative publication 'Headingley Renaissance' (see: http://www.headingleydevelopmenttrust.org.uk/assets/Headingley_renaissance.pdf).

How the project has been managed

The consultants report to *The Kirkstall Vision Steering Group* (KVSG) who oversee the project and advise upon and support the community engagement process through their in-depth knowledge and experience of the Kirkstall Ward and its constituent areas. The Group has met, on average, once a month for the last 18 months and consists of local Ward Councilors, representatives from Residents Associations and officers from The Area Management Office and Leeds City Development Department.

The consultants, Urbanalysis, consist of Dr Lindsay Smales AMRTI and Tony Ray MRTPI, both of whom have extensive experience of working with a range of communities in Leeds on similar projects and visioning strategies.

Description of the public consultation process and key responses.

The ideas and plans outlined in the emerging Vision for Kirkstall Ward are the result of a detailed and extensive community consultation process.

This started with the dissemination of the Kirkstall Vision Questionnaire which asked local residents, amongst other things, to rate local facilities, gauge levels of safety, review the quality of local streets, three things they most disliked about where they live and one thing they would like to see changed. Nearly 500 completed survey forms were returned.

A display of the work of the Kirkstall Vision Steering Group was set up at the July 2008 Kirkstall Festival. As well as asking people to complete the questionnaire, visitors were also asked to record the things they 'liked about Kirkstall', what they 'disliked' about the Ward and to answer the question 'What would make Kirkstall a better place? Some 100 people took part in this event.

In November and December 2008 four 'Community Consultation Days' took place throughout the Ward. Billed as 'Your Chance to Have a Say on the Future Development of Kirkstall', these drop-in workshops were held on a Saturday and took place in St. Andrews Church Hall, Butcher Hill (1st November), Paxton Hall, Kirkstall Lane (15th November), Burley St Mathias School, Burley Road (22nd November) and St Marys Church Hall, Hawkswood Avenue (6th December). Around 80 people took part in these workshops and their views on the problems facing their part of Kirkstall were recorded, as were their ideas, aspirations and priorities for the future.

In the Spring of 2009 a further series of workshops were held with school children from Hawksworth Wood Primary, young people attending the YMCA Youth Group in Hawksworth and Active Older People at The Cardigan Centre.

In all instances the views of workshop participants were recorded verbatim and used as the basis for the 'themed' and 'area specific' Action Plans outlined in the draft Kirkstall Vision document.

The July 2009 Kirkstall Festival saw a further display from the Steering Group, this time featuring the four key issues or themes that local people had identified as being important: Transport, Better Places, Green Spaces and Facilities.

The findings from all of these workshop and consultation events were reported back to the Kirkstall Vision Steering Group who have reviewed, commented on and help revise drafts of the document 'A Vision for Kirkstall Ward: The Community's Plan for a Sustainable Future'.

Description of the stakeholder consultation process and initial feedback received.

The draft Vision was circulated to some 130 Key Stakeholders and agencies in the area in September 2009 for their consideration and comment. 8 replies were received, representing 14 organisations, including Leeds City Council departments, by the initial deadline of late October. 17 organisations were then chased up for a response with an extended deadline of mid November.

A detailed analysis of all the responses is now being undertaken and will be considered by the next meeting of the Steering Group. Comments have been generally welcoming with the general caveat of the need to distinguish between actions to address specific issues and longer term community aspirations.

Summary of forward plan

Following the consultation with stakeholders, the Vision document will be updated to take on board comments received and the revised version presented to the Area Committee in February.

The final printed version will then be subject to wider publicity, including in Kirkstall Matters, and a public launch event, perhaps at Abbey House, in January.

Description of how the action plan will be implemented and monitored in the future

It is not intended that the Kirkstall Vision document be 'adopted' as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) by the local authority, though the Steering Group are seeking their 'endorsement' of the overall aims of the publication. The general and 'place-specific' action plans are put forward as a clear indication of local people's ambitions and priorities, as identified by them through the consultation process.

Each action plan includes a list of 'Delivery Partners' and reference to relevant local and national planning policies. It is expected that the Delivery Partners will use the 'actions' to help guide and inform their own future management and investment priorities so as to become even more responsive to the needs and aspirations of the Kirkstall community. The action plans are related to the themes of the Leeds Strategic Plan and the Area Delivery Plan.

Based on the positive experience of Headingley, it is envisaged that the KVSG might evolve into some form of local Development Trust who could take forward and oversee the implementation of key action plans and priorities, including liaising with identified Delivery Partners. Any future version of the current Steering Group would also collectively monitor progress in implementing the action plans.

Members are asked to note the progress of the Kirkstall Vision and endorse its content.

3.2 Woodhouse Masterplan

Groundwork Leeds has been commissioned by Leeds Federated Housing Association and West North West Homes to develop a 'Masterplan' for Woodhouse, recommending a number of environmental improvements across the area. Partners have agreed phase one of implementing the Masterplan, and seven areas will be improved, including Ganton Park, Pennington Street and Ganton Close.

Area Management co-ordinates the delivery of the Masterplan and regular meetings take place to progress phase one. Local residents now attend the steering group, and the project is a successful example of partnership working. Following local consultation on the environmental improvement projects, a number of residents have expressed interest in forming a residents association. This is being progressed by Groundwork Leeds and the first meeting is expected to be held early in the new year.

4.0 Implications for Council Policy and Governance

4.1 The Area Delivery Plan for Inner North West is administered through the West North West Leeds Area Management Team.

4.2 Well-Being projects develop from Inner 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 Inner West Area Committee members are invited to:

- note the contents of the report and comment on any aspect of the matters raised
 - note the contents of the Kirkstall Vision report and provide a statement of support for inclusion in the final draft.
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- suggest items for inclusion on future agendas

Background Papers

Executive Board Report July 2008.