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Report of the West Leeds Area Manager

To: Inner West Area Committee

Date: 7 December 2006

Subject: Area Managers Report

Electoral Wards Affected:
Armley
Bramley

Specific Implications For:

Ethnic minorities

Women

Disabled people

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 a short update for the Area Committee on the activities of Area Management in Inner West Leeds over the last three months to December 2006. This current report updates members about recent progress on delivering the Inner West Area Delivery Plan for 2006/7. The report also informs the Area Committee of the plans and activities of the West Leeds District Partnership and other partnerships within West Leeds.

1.0 Purpose of this report

1.1 This report updates the progress made in implementing the Area Delivery plan during the third quarter of the financial year 2006/7 and linking these to the corporate priorities of the City Council. The report also identifies progress being made through the support of our partner organisations on the West Leeds District Partnership.

2.0 Main Issues

CORPORATE PRIORITY THEME: ALL NEIGHBOURHOODS ARE SAFE, CLEAN, GREEN AND WELL MAINTAINED

West Leeds Country Park

- 2.1 Good progress has been made over the past three months in implementing the West Leeds Country Park. To date £1,493,000 has been secured from various funding sources for improvements in the Park. The following plans have been approved:
- 5300 way markings for footpaths, bridleways and cycle routes.
 - 46 interpretation boards
 - 74 directional signs
 - 10,000 general leaflets
 - 30,000 specific leaflets
- 2.2 Amongst the park improvement that have been approved is Armley Park - signage and interpretation boards installed, essential footpath improvements and landscaping completed along with refurbishment of tennis courts.
- 2.3 £40,000 of Greenspace Capital has been awarded to establish a skate park in Armley Park. Works will start shortly.
- 2.4 The Parks & Countryside Disability Officer in partnership with the Involvement Worker from the West Leeds Locality Development Scheme is auditing the trail for usage by the disabled. The audit is being done by the disabled participants on the scheme and the findings will be used to develop walk leaflets that will show the levels of accessibility on sections of the trail and what facilities can be utilised. A West Leeds Inner Area Committee well-being project grant of £500 has been obtained to fund travelling costs for the disabled group. Large sections of the Leeds Liverpool Canal towpath along with access routes leading to the towpath have been assessed.

Community Safety

- 2.5 Over the past three months the mobile youth bus scheme funded by Inner West Area Committee has commenced operation. The number of youth work sessions in the Inner area has hence increased by 12 per week, helping the youth service to achieve its “reach” targets.
- 2.6 In Leeds West Homes properties there have been successful tenancy sweep on Raynville's Multi Storey Flats. A successful Project Apollo sweep was held in September in the Armley Lodges area of Armley ward. Bramley is the current police hotspot in west for burglary, criminal damage and anti social behaviour and the target for the November Apollo operation will be Moorside.
- 2.7 The joint partnership work is continuing on the Broadleas. Interim ASBO orders have been issued against youths on Broadlea Grove. The new Youth Centre has now opened at the former Sandford Community Centre.
- 2.8 The restructure of the Neighbourhood Wardens service has now been finalised and approved. West Leeds currently has six wardens, two in Armley ward, two in Bramley and two in Farnley and Wortley ward. Three have permanent funding, the other three are funded from a variety of sources. A senior warden, Lynne Barnes has recently been appointed for the Fairfield and Rossfield area.

Streetscene

- 2.9 A community caretaking team has been recruited and is now working in the Fairfield area, based from the new Fairfield Community Centre. The Community Caretaking Team for Armley has yet to be appointed and consequently the previous CAST team are still operating in that ward at present.

- 2.10 Current funding under the Cleaner Cities programme has been allocated to treat 18 binyards in Inner West Leeds (Armley and the Aviaries). Work is also underway to establish a Fairfield Recycling Centre and a scheme at Wyther Park Road by Groundwork.

CORPORATE PRIORITY THEME: ALL COMMUNITIES ARE THRIVING AND HARMONIOUS PLACES WHERE PEOPLE ARE HAPPY TO LIVE

Community Cohesion

- 2.11 On Saturday 28th October 'Know your Community Day' was held to help bring the communities of West Leeds together – and provide information and entertainment for all, part of the District Partnership Community Cohesion work. It was well attended by all members of the community and everyone who attended gave positive feedback.
- 2.12 Entertainment was provided by Sikh drummers, morris dancers, martial arts experts and musicians. There were also ongoing craft and stall activities with food being provided by the Sikh temple and New Wortley Community Centre.
- 2.13 The day was organised jointly between Leeds West Homes and West Leeds Area Management and held at St Bartholomews Primary School, Armley.
- 2.14 A working group has been set up to take forward the work around BME and faith communities in West Leeds and it is planned that a similar event will take place next year.

Community Centres

- 2.15 (New) Moorside Tenants Association have taken over running the Moorside Community Centre, and the enthusiastic management committee have re-named themselves Moorside Community Association. They had their Open Day on Saturday 11th November and the centre was officially opened by the Lord Mayor. Over 600 local people attended the event together with service providers and money was raised towards the up keep of the centre.
- 2.16 (New) Moorside Tenants Association have had no previous experience in running a community centre. However, to support them in this endeavour the Dept of Neighbourhoods and Housing have leased the community centre to the group for 12 months on a reduced rent and the Inner West Area Committee have approved start-up funding of £2,000 revenue and £2000 capital. The lease will be reviewed after 12 months depending on the success achieved during the first year. They will also receive funds from Leeds West Homes. West Leeds Area Management team and Leeds West Homes continue to support with advice and with this assistance they have written a 'business plan' which details what they want to deliver and how they will raise revenue.
- 2.17 The association is working with West Leeds Healthy Living Network (WLHLN) as they have a guide to running community centres for groups called 'The Scrapbook' , which has examples of good practice and 'how to' guides. WLHLN could also provide community development work for the committee to assist them acquire skills in running a centre, similar to the work they have provided to Swinnow and Fairfield Community Centre Association and some members of the association have now attended courses on financial management etc., .
- 2.18 (New) Moorside Tenants Association are enthusiastic about running the centre and have approached some organisations who have agreed tentatively to run events or courses at the centre.
- 2.19 The centre is expected to be open Monday to Friday for regular programmes – a time table will be developed in the near future. Weekend access will be on a booking basis particularly for children's parties.

Housing

- 2.20 Leeds West Homes have now demolished the Highfield Gardens blocks and landscaped the site. Fencing has been completed on Wortley Heights and Towers and commenced on Clyde Court & Grange. There has been a demolition of empty flats on Fairfields. Phase 1 kitchens and bathrooms completed on Broadleas Estate.
- 2.21 Section 27 approval was obtained from the Department of Communities and Local Government to create three new ALMO companies. The appointment of Chief Officers, new Board Members, and creation of new senior management teams will be completed by Christmas 2006.
- 2.22 Leeds West Homes have undertaken an exercise to refocus spend to ensure decency targets are achieved by 2010.

Regeneration: West Leeds Gateway

- 2.23 A successful business event was held as part of the West Leeds Gateway Options Consultation at Farnell in One on Wednesday 8th November. Over 30 businesses from Armley and Farnley/Wortley attended. The Area Manager and Stephanie Burras from Leeds ahead did presentations. There was general support for the approach to revitalise the area and to improve Armley Town Centre. Specific comments were made on the need for the police and community safety to support businesses against crime and criminal damage, the concern about lack of affordable business sites in West Leeds due to the lack of new land for manufacturing and warehousing, and the need for decent car parking provision for Armley Town Street.
- 2.24 Other elements of the options consultation took place at New Wortley Community Centre, Armley One Stop Centre, Armley Moor Health Centre and West Leeds High School over the last six weeks. Planning Aid have been involved in the consultation at New Wortley.
- 2.25 The first appointments to the West Leeds Regeneration Team were made. Adrian Millward will lead the team from February 2007 and Nick Clarkson has now transferred from East Leeds as project assistant. The team will lead on the work both on West Leeds Gateway and the Leeds-Bradford corridor
- 2.26 Work has started to look at the future of Armley Mills. This three month study commenced in December 2006.

Local Area Management: New Wortley

- 2.27 Local Area management for New Wortley has gone from strength to strength this year designed to improve service delivery in this neighbourhood. The plan is championed by a senior police officer from the Pudsey/Weetwood Division who has kept everyone focused on the job in hand. The group comprises officers from a wide range of agencies including street scene, education welfare, youth service, environmental health, neighbourhood wardens, community safety, the headteachers from St.Bartholomew's and Castleton Primary Schools, Yorkshire Housing Association, West Leeds Family Learning Centre, West Yorkshire Fire Service, Leeds West Homes, and West Leeds Area Management team. Representation of local people is from New Wortley Residents Association and New Wortley Community Association.

- 2.28 Initially the LAMP was established in response to environmental problems and anti-social behaviour locally. 12 ASBOs were served. As of 25th October 2006 6 of these have been breached and the offenders are in prison. 2 recipients have been re-habilitated, 4 ASBOs appear to be being complied with and there is no information on one recipient. This initial response and continual monitoring has resulted in the neighbourhood becoming a quieter and safer place for the majority. Current issues are illegal motor-bike riding and the setting of fires which are both the focus for the neighbourhood policing team. Leaflets on responsible bike riding have recently been delivered. Combined police and warden surgeries held at the community centre are proving popular and useful. Further leaflets on those with ASBOs are being prepared for circulation within the neighbourhood.
- 2.29 Due to the LAMP strong working relationships have been established with the result that officers are working closer with the community. Fortnightly walkabouts of the neighbourhood take place with officers from Street Scene, the Wardens, Leeds West Homes Estate Management Officers and local residents. Again this has had significant impact with the major problems of litter being tackled with teams regularly working in the area.
- 2.30 Staffing problems continue to affect the amount of work undertaken with young people in New Wortley. However, Castleton Primary School has allowed football games to be take place using their facilities. A Youth Development worker has been appointed for Inner West who is able to work with 9-13 yrs old and hopefully this will benefit the neighbourhood. Funding has been secured to transform a room at the community centre into an ICT suite which it is hoped (staffing allowed) to function as a Cyber café in the evenings and which will be of interest to young people locally.
- 2.31 New Wortley Community Centre has staged various events which have been popular with all ages especially the Halloween Disco to which over 200 children and parents attended, and Children in Need day which raised over £300. Leeds PCT – west is leading with the Connexions Service and West Leeds Family Learning Centre to deliver ‘educational’ programmes to young adults not wishing to do traditional educational courses.
- 2.32 Leeds PCT west are delivering a number of health initiatives locally and in Armley which address issues such as Smoking Cessation, Contraception and Sexual Health Advice and Clinics, and are working to deliver government targets on under age pregnancies. (to reduce the number to 55% by 2010 – 10% per year). Baby Clinic takes place on Thursday afternoons and health visitors will soon be undertaking Food Hygiene courses so they can deliver weaning classes to young mums, this is also designed to impact on immunisation uptake which is low.
- 2.33 Much has been achieved over the past year and the neighbourhood has improved although there is the need to continue to re-inforce action especially concerning the environment and to develop better programmes of activities for young people. Next steps will be to focus actions and service plans down to the local neighbourhood of New Wortley and to address key government targets so that when the indices of deprivation are measured by the government in 2008 New Wortley neighbourhood will have moved from 1063 upwards towards 3,248 and therefore out of the bottom 10% of deprived neighbourhoods nationally.

Local Area Management: Wyther Improvement Group

- 2.34 A number of training and courses that have been offered recently, one parent has since gone on to an accountancy course; one to a fork lifting course; one into a clerical position and two have continued on to a counselling course. A money management course is also being arranged.
- 2.35 Work is under way on Community House. Leeds West Homes (LWH) have also agreed a package with the Tenants and Residents Association to provide basic flooring, fire safety equipment etc. The Tenants and Residents Association also need furniture, but offers of furniture have been made from various organizations, so this shouldn't be a problem.

- 2.36 WIG were successful in winning a Community and City Pride Award - Partnership of the Year. The aim of the project which was presented at a dinner at the Civic Hall which 8 people from WIG attended.
- 2.37 Groundwork have now carried out the consultation exercise for the environmental works on Wyther Park Road. A good response was received from residents and the plans are being prepared.
- 2.38 A local implementation plan is being drawn up around the issue of obesity and it was presented at the Children's Partnership Open Forum. Most of the actions emphasise prevention rather than cure.
- 2.39 A skipping workshop held in Raynville proved really popular and had led to daily skipping sessions in school. Raynville are even about to embark on a skipping tour to other schools.
- 2.40 Benefits training for frontline workers about how to promote benefits within the community and raise awareness of benefits had been successful and was well attended. Further sessions will take place in the New Year.
- 2.41 There are now four PCSO's on the Wythers instead of two. In the near future there will also be an extra police officer in the Bramley area who will be available to cover for the Armley police on their days off.
- 2.42 There are 8 youth workers about to be employed in the Armley area and hopefully once the Community House is completed, activities can be held there for young people.
- 2.43 Activities at half term included ice skating and a girls football day.

Leeds-Bradford corridor study

- 2.44 The study of regeneration opportunities in the Leeds Bradford Corridor has now commenced. Leeds City Council and Bradford Metropolitan District Council are jointly funding the study. The proposal will use as its basis the unique proximity of Leeds and Bradford (the 3rd and 6th largest cities in the UK) and their potential as an economic powerhouse and will seek to build a powerful 'cross border' initiative building on the recent positive officer links and co-operation and the strong political representation in the two areas at a senior level.
- 2.45 Tenders have been sought from five consultants to undertake a Regeneration Framework study for the area 2006-2016 to "spread the benefits of the growth of Leeds and Bradford City Centre to the communities of the Leeds Bradford Corridor". White Young Green has been appointed and has commenced work on the six month study. The issues cover the four key themes of:
- Development Economic Prosperity
 - Enhancing Transportation and Connectivity
 - Achieving Sustainable Improvements to Housing
 - Improving the image and appearance of the Leeds/Bradford Corridor
- 2.46 The baseline assessment will look at how the area is currently used and what economic activity is currently happening. It will look at the policy background and proposals in the area (for example Leeds/Bradford airport, West Leeds Country Park). The options stage will identify what land is available and possible uses, and what realistic options are there for the area, taking into account different levels of intervention and investment. Implementation will be of three or four deliverable projects for both cities to undertake, with a clear guidance on the governance arrangements and how to foster better working between the two cities to benefit from our proximity. A parallel and concurrent transport study is to be undertaken by Metro. The work will inform the Local Development Framework as supplementary documentation.

- 2.47 Key issues of the study include
- What action will enhance the character and attractiveness of the existing corridor?
 - How can we enhance the corridors potential to accommodate respective city growth needs?
 - How can we best improve inter-city transport capacity / reducing inter-connection barriers?
 - What are the specific housing problems/opportunities which are common to both cities?
 - Should Leeds and Bradford be allowed to merge physically?

Leeds Bradford Northern Challenge Fund bid

- 2.48 As part of the cooperative work between the two cities a £28 million housing bid has been submitted. This is a pioneering proposal to provide affordable housing, create jobs and raise aspirations for employment, particularly in the construction industry. The bid is led by Firebird JVC in partnership with Bradford Community Housing Trust and Leeds West Homes and has the full and active support of the City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council and Leeds City Council. There will be a strong commercial element incorporating retail, offices and social/community enterprise that will, in the first instance, seek to link into the Local Enterprise Growth Initiative recently awarded to Bradford and that Leeds is seeking to obtain in the current bidding round. The intention is to diversify tenure by providing modern, low cost, state of the art, high eco-efficiency homes that will plug a market gap, with additional potential to change the use of some land from residential to employment.
- 2.49 If successful the challenge fund bid will create 1000 new homes for rent or sale and renovate a further 2,800. The programme would create 50 new jobs, 750 temporary jobs and 50 training places by 2012/13.

Town and District Centres

- 2.50 The final version of the Armley Town Centre regeneration Business Case was approved by Asset Management Group in October for progression to detailed design stage. Total cost of the scheme is over £700,000 Key aspects of the scheme are:
- Tree planting
 - Painting CCTV mast
 - Information signage
 - Lighting columns to be upgraded to heritage style
 - Hall Road Public realm work: new pavement and street furniture
 - Street furniture for rest of the centre
 - Gelder Road: one way system
 - Pavement resurfacing
- 2.51 Also in October the Heritage Lottery announced £1,090,000 grant plus £25,000 development funding for Armley Town Street. The money will be used to repair key listed buildings and to restore Upper Town Street especially to its former glory.
- 2.52 In Bramley Town Centre, planning permission was finally awarded in September to Halladale Investments for the improvements to the centre. The investment includes three new shops, a new covered walkway, improvements to the rear entrance and two new outlets next to the rear car park. The whole scheme value will be in excess of £1.5 million.

CORPORATE PRIORITY THEME: TRANSFORMING OUR SERVICES

Children Services and ALMOs

- 2.53 An update on the progress of the implementation of the Every Child Matters project and on the future of ALMOs are presented elsewhere on this agenda.

Health Service

- 2.54 The new Leeds PCT has been established with Chris Outram as the Chief Executive. Other appointments are as follows:
- Dr Ian Cameron – Director of Public Health
Ms Philomena Corrigan – Executive Director of Care Services
Matt Walsh – Executive Director of Commissioning
Lynton Tremayne – Chief Information Officer
- 2.55 The need for the PCT to retain the ability to work at a local as well as city-wide level was a clear theme during the consultation on the proposal for a single Leeds PCT and was reflected in the general conditions which the Department of Health has applied to the new PCTs:
- that all PCTs must retain and build on current partnership arrangements
 - that a strong locality identity must be retained, and where necessary locality structures should be put in place.
- 2.56 Key issues requiring a local focus include:
- Provision of community services
 - Partnership working, particularly involvement in District Partnerships and links with Area Committees, including a strong focus on public health
- 2.56 The identification of five Interim Lead Directors will ensure that, from the outset, the benefits of local working are retained within the context of a single Primary Care Trust. In West Leeds the Interim Lead Director is Chris Reid, the Partnership Lead is Jon Fear and the provision lead is Paul Morrin.
- 2.57 Kuldip Bharj, the former chair of West Leeds PCT is now a new board member of Leeds PCT. Kuldip will therefore be relinquishing her role as chair of West Leeds District Partnerships. Brian Marsden will be the new Leeds PCT link on the West Leeds District Partnership.

Area Management Review

- 2.58 The Area Management review is underway. KPMG have completed an Area Management Audit. Two sessions held with Senior Area Management Staff to look at KPMG audit and feed into review. An issues and options paper is to be completed by December 2006.

Inner West Area Delivery Plan

- 2.59 The Inner West Area Delivery Plan 2007/8 is being prepared with a draft to be presented to Area Committee in February 2007. The plan will take account of likely continuation of revenue wellbeing funding rolled forward at current levels and a new three year tranche of capital funding. As well as sections on streetscene, regeneration, community safety, and youth service this new plan will also include area plans for environmental health.

CORPORATE PRIORITY THEME : BETTER PARTNERSHIP WORKING

West Leeds District Partnership

- 2.60 West Leeds District Partnership Executive met on Friday 15th Sept at St John the Evangelist Church Hall, Wortley. The Executive received a report from Mariana Pexton on progress to implement the Every Child Matters pilot in West Leeds. This work aims to better integrate services and improve outcomes and opportunities for children in West area. The Partnership agreed to support the work and to allocate the partner resources required to undertake this work.

- 2.61 Dinah Clark from Leeds Initiative was welcomed to the Executive as the new link between the West Leeds District Partnership and the Leeds Initiative. Tom Maynard was welcomed as the second Leeds VOICE representative for Community & Voluntary groups.
- 2.62 The Partnership Executive supported a proposal to establish a Catalyst Centre- an Enterprise Centre for the area - based at West Leeds Family Learning Centre as part of the Leeds Enterprise Growth Initiative (LEGI). The decision on LEGI funding was expected by December but in the meantime a business case was to be drawn up.
- 2.63 Building Schools for the Future: the Partnership Executive received an update from Claire Hellewell (Education Leeds) on the Building Schools for the Future programme in West. This is a £200m investment programme that will lead to the renewing or rebuilding of all the high schools in West Leeds over the next 5 years.
- 2.64 Respect Action Plan the Partnership Executive received a report by Gill Hunter, West Area Community Safety Co-ordinator on the proposed implementation of the “Respect” plan in Leeds. This included the development of intensive family support programmes dispersed tenancies and additional youth work provision.

Celebrating Success in West

- 2.65 This year for the first time the West Leeds District Partnership offered awards given to local people and organisations that had performed outstandingly in implementing the objectives of “Strategy for Success”. The awards were given at the “Celebrating Success in West Leeds” event on 29th September at Stanningley Rugby Club. The winners in the various categories were as follows: Thriving Places: Michelle McGill (New Wortley Residents Association); Health & Wellbeing: Dawn Bailey (West Leeds PCT); Environment: Hazel & David Boutle (Armley Common Rights Trust) Transport: Martyn Smith (Bramley Elderly Action); Enterprise & Economy: Farnell In One Culture: Jane Earnshaw (Interplay) Children & Learning: Pauline Gavin (St Bartholomew's Primary school) Harmonious Communities: Howard Bradley (Farsley Youth Development Project).
- 2.66 Next meeting of the West Leeds District Partnership is 15th December at Armley One Stop. The main topics for consideration are Transport and Economic Development.

3.0 Implications for Council Policy and Governance

- 3.1 The work of the West Leeds Area Management Team in delivering the Area Delivery Plan for Inner West Leeds is part of the Council’s corporate agenda in achieving closer working and better services.

4.0 Legal and Resource Implications

- 4.1 The Area Delivery Plan and the Strategy Success are administered through West Leeds Area Management team. This report had indicated that new resources that have been brought into the West wedge to tackle the problems identified in plans.

5.0 Recommendation

- 5.1 Inner West Area Committee members are invited to note the contents of the report and to comment on any aspect of the Area Team’s activities.