



## Report of the Director of Environments & Neighbourhoods Directorate

### South Leeds (Outer) Area Committee

Date: Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2010

### Subject: Acting Area Manager's Report

<b>Electoral Wards Affected:</b> Ardsley & Robin Hood Morley North Morley South Rothwell  <input type="checkbox"/> Ward Members consulted (referred to in report)	<b>Specific Implications For:</b> Equality and Diversity <input type="checkbox"/> Community Cohesion <input type="checkbox"/> Narrowing the Gap <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Council Function <input type="checkbox"/>	Delegated Executive Function available for Call In <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Delegated Executive Function not available for Call In Details set out in the report <input type="checkbox"/>

### Executive Summary

This report details a range of activities taking place within the Outer South Leeds Area, some of which are dealt with in greater detail elsewhere on the agenda.

This report provides Members with an update on actions and achievements of the Area Management Team relating to priorities and work of the Area Committee since the Area Committee meeting in November 2009. It also provides information on current ongoing projects.

#### 1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To bring to Members' attention in a succinct fashion, brief details of the range of activities with which the Area Management Team are engaged, and that are not addressed in greater detail elsewhere on this agenda. It provides opportunities for further questioning or the opportunity to request a more detailed report on a particular issue.
- 1.2 Members will recall that the refreshed Area Delivery Plan was approved at the June 2009 Area Committee with Ward Member Briefing meetings serving to focus on ward specific actions within the plan.
- 1.3 This report provides Members with an update on actions and achievements around the Area Delivery Plan since the last Area Committee meeting, it also provides members with an overview of the current projects that the Area Management Team are working on.

## **2.0 Background Information**

2.1 The ADP for 2008/9 – 2010/11 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.

2.2 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 June 2009.

2.3 In line with the Area Committee's community engagement framework, work is ongoing to engage with local stakeholders and residents linked to service improvement and area delivery plan priorities. A report will be presented to the next Area Committee meeting which will detail the outcomes of engagement activities, address the issues that have emerged and support proposals linked to area delivery plan priorities.

## **3.0 Updates by Theme: Culture**

### **3.1 Morley Literature Festival**

3.1.1 At the November Area Committee, £10,000 revenue Well being funding, was approved subject to Executive Board approval, to support the delivery of Morley Literature Festival 2010. The Festival Committee are pleased to announce the appointment of Jenny Harris as Festival Director for 2010. Jenny Harris has previously specialised in creation, commissioning and project management of events and festivals for literature and the performing arts. Jenny's skills include marketing, communications and fundraising and she has worked with Yorkshire Forward, Folk Arts England and Tower Hamlets Council among others. Jenny has also previously worked with Leeds City Council as a Senior Music Officer during which time she led on the Fuseleeds festival and staged events in Morley Town Hall.

3.1.2 The Festival Committee are holding their Annual General Meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> March and are working with the new Director to ensure a successful Festival for 2010 and marks its fifth anniversary.

### **3.2 Community Centres**

#### **3.2.1 Pricings and Lettings**

Further to a report presented to Area Committee in October highlighting the need for a review of Pricing & Lettings policy discount schedules, an exercise has been undertaken to re-look at the discount categories agreed by the Area Committee in 2007. Following the recent Outer South Community Centres Sub Committee, a revised discount schedule has been developed. The discount schedule is now more detailed and provides further examples for the Lettings Unit to assess applications for room hire to ensure that groups are apportioned the correct levels of discount and therefore being charged the correct lettings fees. The revised discount schedule is attached Appendix 1 for members to endorse, in order that the policy can be implemented from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010.

### 3.2.2 Churwell C.C. / Stanhope Memorial Hall

Further to previous update reports on this subject, the business case for the renovation of Stanhope and closure of Churwell has been endorsed by LCC Financial Development. The business case was developed in order to receive a short term 'loan' from the LCC capital programme to carry out the works on Stanhope whilst the disposal and eventual sale of Churwell C.C. was progressing. In order to receive the funding, it was indicated in the business plan that any shortfall of funding from the sale of the facility would be covered either through efficiency savings made on the Outer South Community Centres portfolio or via the Outer South Area Well being Budget capital allocation. At this stage it is uncertain if any or how much funding would be required but members need to be aware that this commitment has had to be made in order for this project to be able to progress further.

### 3.3.3 Community Centres Sub Committee

The Outer South Community Centres Sub Committee last met on 10<sup>th</sup> February and the minutes and action plan are attached at Appendix 2 & 3.

## 4.0 **Updates by Theme: Enterprise and Economy**

### 4.1 Town Centre Management Morley Town Centre Business Awards

The Town Centre Business Awards developed by the Morley Chamber are a new addition to the Morley calendar of events. Since late January people have been voting for their favourite business or member of staff and a large number of votes have been cast.

The awards evening on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March will be a glamorous event providing a positive image for the town centre and its business community. Complimentary tickets are provided to sponsors with the remainder being sold.

### 4.2 Morley Summit:

First launched in 2007 this years Morley Summit will provide the opportunity for fresh ideas and for Morley Town Centre Management Board to give a resume of the way forward and answer any questions. The summit event will take place just before the Town Awards evening at Morley Town Hall.

### 4.3 Morley Town Centre Management Board

The board continues to meet and coordinate the work of the Town Centre Manager. Minutes of recent meetings are attached at Appendix 4.

### 4.4 Rothwell & Leeds Ahead:

Town Centre Management in Rothwell still does not have a public / private sector management committee. Work on Phase 3 of the Morrisons Scheme is progressing and the reopening of Commercial Street is scheduled to start in early March. Morrisons have still to confirm if building small shops on their vacant site will be implemented.

Leeds Ahead aims to forge links between the public private and voluntary sectors. Town Centre Management is working with Leeds Ahead to develop opportunities to use to develop partnerships across the whole of the Rothwell Ward. Following a series of meetings, it is proposed the first such event will be in April and concentrate on business networking.

#### 4.5 Investment Partnership South Leeds

Following the cancellation of the first Partnership Engagement Group (PEG) because of the snow, the rearranged meeting went ahead on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February Chaired by Steve Williamson of Renew. More than 30 people attended and contributed to workshop sessions to develop work that had been scoped at the 10<sup>th</sup> October 2009 event at Elland Road. The next PEG is due to take place in May.

#### 4.5 Town & District Centre Regeneration Scheme

##### 4.5.1 Empty Shops

The LSI application forms have been sent to all empty premises in the agreed area of Morley Bottoms. 16 premises were identified. The closing date for applications is Friday 5 March. Currently two applications have been received and two other businesses have verbally said they are planning to submit applications within the deadline. One other premise has also confirmed they will work with the TCM to independently undertake improvements.

##### 4.5.2 Pedestrian Trail

The painting and replacement of street furniture along Queen Street in the town centre is progressing and orders have been raised enabling Highways Section to commence work as a matter of priority.

#### 4.6 Town & District Centre Regeneration Scheme: Morley Bottoms

The new Project Team continues to meet to coordinate this scheme. The scheme position is as follows.

Morley Bottoms has 4 components:

##### 1. Affordable Housing

- Heads of Terms agreed with YHA. Deadline for transfer 15/3.
- Ownership by 1<sup>st</sup> April
- Final cost evaluation, T&DC to fund gap.
- **Lettings Plan.** To be developed in conjunction with Members and key stakeholders. Consultation will include local businesses.

##### 2. Enforcement

- Queen Street not sold. 1-3 Brunswick Street requires follow up.

##### 3. Adoption of new lay-by progressing, street registry aware.

- Upgrading of signals and pedestrian crossing. Report on design being approved and provisionally programmed into Highways 2010/11 programme of work. However, DDA scheme on hold. Whole scheme could slip to 3 – 4 years hence.

##### 4. Planning

- Planning permission achieved.

## **5.0 Updates by Theme: Learning**

### **5.1 Children Leeds South Leadership Team**

To further strengthen links between the Children Leeds South Leadership Team and the Outer South Area Committee, the most recent minutes available are attached at Appendix 5.

## **6.0 Updates by Theme: Environment**

### **6.1 Cleaner Neighbourhoods Sub Group**

The Cleaner Neighbourhoods Sub Group met on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January to discuss Environmental issues and actions highlighted in the Area Delivery Plan (ADP). The Minutes (Appendix 6) and Action Plan (Appendix 7) are presented for Members information.

#### **6.1.1 Ginnel Mapping**

Area Management (AMT) have co-ordinated a third meeting with all relevant partners to actively assist and partake in a ginnel mapping exercise in Outer South. This meeting was held in February and saw limited partner support, with Public Rights of Way, Highways, and Aire Valley Homes in attendance. The meeting agreed that the final map will be circulated to Members and partners to assist in the quick identification of ownership of ginnels in Rothwell to enable a quick referral and solution of environmental issues.

#### **6.1.2 Grit Bins**

At the Cleaner Neighbourhoods Sub Group in January, Area Management were requested to contact Highways Maintenance to request information regarding the development of a Well being Project to purchase additional grit bins in the Outer South. Highways Maintenance confirmed that there are three types of grit bins, green, yellow and blue. Green are fitted and maintained by Highways, yellow (Sale of Salt) are installed and maintained by Highways but are funded by an organisation who has successfully made a request for a grit bin. Blue bins are similar to the yellow sale of salt but are funded through Councillors budgets. Highways confirmed that there is currently an embargo on installation of new bins and filling all grit bins due to a grit shortage. Area Management are exploring with Highways Maintenance the process for grit bin installation and will provide an update to Members through the Cleaner Neighbourhoods Sub Group.

### **6.2 Smithy Lane Recreational Ground**

6.2.1 The Area Committee has supported the Smithy Lane Recreational Ground project with two capital allocations (£35,000 and £8,000) from their Ardsley Robin Hood Ward capital allocation.

6.2.2 Severe weather conditions resulted in delays on site however, work is well underway with a number of items in situ. If the weather conditions remain favourable, work on the toddler play area fencing will be completed within the next two weeks. Work on the teen area is scheduled to on 22<sup>nd</sup> February and it is envisaged that work will be completed before the end of March with only minor snagging needed in April.

### 6.3 Thorpe Recreational Ground

- 6.3.1 The Area Committee funded a consultation study with residents for spending Section 106 funding on improvements at Thorpe Recreational Ground. A full project proposal was developed based on the consultation results and a tender was circulated. However, the original tender was over budget and Parks and Countryside are now in the process of tendering, aiming for evaluation in March and work to start on site early spring.

### 6.4 Oulton & Woodlesford Design Statement

- 6.4.1 The Oulton & Woodlesford Design Statement funded by the Area Committee has made good progress since it's inception in early 2009. The project was initially driven by questionnaires being circulated to every household in the locality, with an invitation to residents to give their views on local facilities, leisure, transport, housing and community issues. The response from returns has formed part of baseline data, used to steer the project.

A well attended public meeting, in March 2009 officially launched the project. Two full day workshops were held in April 2009 to analyse the character of the area. Local volunteers took photographs, highlighted common design features and discussed areas of concern as well as the positive elements of their locality. Further workshops and meetings were held in the autumn. Local in Bloom Groups passed comment about their work. Interested groups and individuals were then asked to research the following topics:

- The history of Oulton and Woodlesford
- Listed and important buildings in the area
- Oulton Conservation Area, Oulton Hall, gardens/ parkland/ golf course
- Pedestrian/road/traffic issues in Oulton and Woodlesford
- Access throughout the two communities
- Designated footpaths/ local walks /canal walks/ cycle routes
- Local canals/Fleet Lane marina and Woodlesford lock
- Flora, fauna, birds and wildlife in the area
- The rural hinterland surrounding the two communities
- Issues with telecommunication masts
- Fleet Lane Protected Area of Search

The information has now been collated and a draft document is being prepared. The draft will be available to view and make comment on at a public exhibition at All Saints Parish Hall, Woodlesford between 1 and 2 May 2010. Any amendments will then be considered before being presented to Council for formal adoption during summer 2010. The process should ensure an adopted Design Statement before the end of the calendar year.

## 7.0 **Updates by Theme: Transport**

The 'New Generation Transport (NGT) Scheme: Current Position and Public Consultation Results' report has been circulated directly to Outer South Councillors by the new generation transport team.

## **8.0 Updates by Theme: Health and Well Being**

### **8.1 Health and Well being Partnership**

8.1.1 The South East Health and Wellbeing partnership met on the 14<sup>th</sup> January. The most recent minutes available are attached at Appendix 8.

### **8.2 Garden Maintenance**

8.2.1 Following approval by the Area Committee, Area Management has been working with Morley Elderly Action on mapping clients of the 2009/10 garden maintenance schemes operating in Outer South. This work highlighted Drighlington, Thorpe, East Ardsley and Winthorpes as areas with limited numbers of clients and to be targeted with publicity for 10/11 scheme.

## **9.0 Updates by Theme: Thriving**

### **9.1 Divisional Community Safety Partnership (DCSP)**

9.1.1 The DCSP are keen to maintain a strong link between the partnership and the Area Committee. Councillor Robert Finnigan attends the DCSP as the Outer South Area Committee representative. An executive summary of the January meeting is available at Appendix 9.

9.1.2 The Area Management Team and Area Community Safety Co-ordinator are exploring ways of strengthening the links between the Outer South Area Committee and the South Leeds DCSP. This includes looking at how Members can be more involved in multi-agency Tasking. Information is being gathered about models in other areas and the Community Safety Champion Councillor Finnigan has been invited to the next Morley Tasking to observe. Further information about the approach will be shared with Members in due course.

### **9.2 Manor Road Shops**

Area Management have been working with Commercial Asset Management, Aire Valley Homes, Rothwell Neighbourhood Policing Team and the Rothwell Tenants and Residents Association to develop a proposal to upgrade the current CCTV scheme installed at Manor Road shops on the Wood Lane Estate, Rothwell. As a result of the CCTV scheme being subject to a review by Leeds Watch to ensure that the protocols recently agreed are fit for purpose and that all parties are legally protected. Area Management will continue to develop an upgrade scheme and present a proposal at the first Area Committee meeting in 2010/11.

## **10.0 Updates by Theme: Harmonious Communities**

### **10.1 Wood Lane NIP:**

The Wood Lane Steering group, Chaired by Councillor Don Wilson, has met monthly since October 2009 and are focusing on training and skills development in Wood Lane. They have undertaken a consultation with local residents on the estate to identify interest. A questionnaire was designed and surveys carried out at the

Children's Centre Christmas Party and outside the Manor Road shops. 37 questionnaires were completed.

Results from this consultation have now been collated and highlights the need for sessions on health and well being, cookery and IT as well as an interest in basic skills for accessing employment. As part of the Steering Group, partners from Joseph Priestley and Libraries are working with the Priority Neighbourhood Worker to arrange IT sessions to address this.

As a result of the Wood Lane questionnaire, the NIP Steering group has been able to link potential local volunteers who have expressed an interest in a particular area with relevant Wood Lane 'You Choose' projects.

Aire Valley Homes have arranged to provide the mobile office on three consecutive Wednesdays from the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> April 2010 as part of a jobseekers and training initiative in partnership with jobcentre plus. The Steering Group are currently exploring into the possibility of running training and learning market in the local community. The focus of this event will be to support economically excluded members of the community and to raise their awareness of education, training and employment opportunities.

#### 10.2 Thorpe and Harrops & Bridge Street:

The Priority Neighbourhood Worker has been laying the foundations for the next two Area Committee NIP's; in Thorpe and Harrops and Bridge Street. It is envisaged that the Thorpe NIP will start in April and an area profile and a list of partners to form a Steering Group are being collated. Outer South Area Management Team and the Community Safety Coordinator have been working with a student social work placement who will assist in developing the Harrops & Bridge Street NIP

#### 10.3 Oakwells and Fairfax:

The Oakwell and Fairfax Tenants and Residents Association currently has a full committee who are enthusiastic and committed to their roles. Due to adverse weather conditions the meeting arranged January 2010 was cancelled and the committee rearranged a new meeting for 24<sup>th</sup> February 2010. Previous meetings have been low in attendance by local residents so the group is planning to hold a community type event to gather interest from the local community and increase membership and involvement of residents from the estate.

#### 10.4 Coalfields Regeneration Trust Funding

10.4.1 Health For All are pleased to announce the appointment of Emily Godfrey as the Families Support Coordinator for the Rothwell Families Project. The Steering Group for Rothwell Families Project continues to meet quarterly to support the delivery of a range of projects, to target health and well being and training and skills development of residents. The next meeting is planned for 11<sup>th</sup> March and updates will be given on support to the Mother's Pride Teatime Club at John O'Gaunts and Wood Lane, the IT suite at Rose Lund and arrangements for training courses on both estates.

## 10.5 Year of Volunteering

10.5.1 Area Management continues to support the South East Area Management link with Leeds Year of Volunteering and to deliver the Outer South Area Committee programmed for Year of Volunteering. Including; linking the Siegen Circle with key contacts at Voluntary Action Leeds to support their Year of Volunteering event in September, attending the monthly Theme Leads Meeting at Enterprise House and exploring linking promotional activities across Area Management.

10.5.2 As part of the Outer South Area Committee programmed of activities to support the Year of Volunteering, a Volunteer Support Fair is arranged for Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> March 10-3pm at Tingley Youth and Community Centre. The event will showcase the varied voluntary organisations working in the Outer South and provide information for them on training and funding available and also provide information to local residents on how to become a volunteer.

## 11.0 **Recommendations**

11.1 The Area Committee is asked to:

- a) note the above information and make comment as appropriate.
- b) endorse the revised South East Pricings & Lettings Policy

## **Background Papers**

- Area Manager's Report, 1<sup>st</sup> February 2010
- Well Being Report, 1<sup>st</sup> February 2010
- 'Department of Communities and Local Government: Extra Support for Town Centres', Regeneration Management Team Meeting, 14<sup>th</sup> October 2009
- Priority Neighbourhood Worker and Neighbourhood Improvement Plans, September 1<sup>st</sup> 2008
- Conservation Area Reviews, 10<sup>th</sup> September 2007