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## Report of the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods

To: Inner North West Area Committee

Date: 22 April 2010

Subject: Area Managers Report

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### 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

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## 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.

### 3.0 CULTURE

#### 3.1 Kirkstall Abbey Photography

Leeds Museums and Galleries recently started the iTransform project. Funded by NIACE, the project hopes to encourage the groups to use the museums and their collections for their own interests in order to develop long-term sustainable partnerships. The project is running across three sites, Temple Newsam, Lotherton Hall and Kirkstall Abbey involving 7 groups in total.

3.2 iTransform at Kirkstall Abbey is partnering with several photographic groups from Leeds, including Exposure Leeds and Cookridge Camera Club to create new and contemporary interpretations of the Abbey. Using the historic collection of Kirkstall

Abbey watercolours, the groups are working with artists to create images which will be displayed alongside the collection on a Microsoft Surface table. A celebration event will be held on Thursday 20th May.

## 4.0 TRANSPORT

### 4.1 New Generation Transport:

Following a report to December 2009 Area Committee, funding Approval has now been secured for the New Generation Transport (NGT)scheme, enabling the project to be granted 'Programme Entry Approval and to begin the next stages of planning the £235m trolleybus network. The NGT project team can now begin the formal process for obtaining the legal powers needed to operate a modern trolleybus network. The powers will be sought through a 'Transport and Works Act Order' this Autumn, followed by a Public Inquiry in 2011, and construction could then begin in 2013 with the UK's first new trolleybuses operating by 2016.

4.2 Progress on the development of the NGT scheme will be monitored by the Transport Sub-Group where further discussions on the programme will be discussed in detail. Colleagues

## 5.0 ENVIRONMENT

### 5.1 Waste and Recycling Research:

Following a report to Environment Sub-Group in January, research was commissioned by Area Management and Environmental Services in which waste and recycling practices of students and residents was considered in detail. The study area consists of the Headingley Ward and the adjoining neighbourhoods of Hyde Park, Woodhouse and Burley.

5.2 The **overall aims** of this research are to provide detailed in depth qualitative information regarding residents behaviour and attitudes to waste and recycling in order to:

- inform the development of a local action plan (developed by Area Management) for improving the management of waste and recycling in the waste management research target area
- provide key actions that will inform the Inner North West Area Delivery Plan
- provide university and student union staff with information that will help them to develop plans to increase the number of students recycling in the future
- provide Leeds City Council Environmental Services with detailed findings to enable them to improve local residents engagement with, and use of, waste and recycling services.

5.3 After a competitive tendering process undertaken via the Leeds City Council Community Engagement Supplier Framework, QA Research were appointed to conduct this research. During the months of February and March 2010 qualitative research was undertaken utilising focus groups and telephone interviews. QA Research conducted 8 focus group sessions with students and residents and 12

telephone interviews with a range of stakeholders including Streetscene, Area Management and HMO landlords.

- 5.4 The steering group managing the research includes representatives from: LCC Environmental Services, LCC Inner North West Area Management, LCC Neighbourhood Services, the University of Leeds and Leeds Metropolitan University
- 5.5 Resident Associations in the area were sent a survey asking them about waste and recycling. Ten out of the 11 associations surveyed responded with their comments on what barriers there are for disposing of waste and how the service could be improved.
- 5.6 In March ward members from Headingley, Hyde Park and Woodhouse and Kirkstall wards were invited to briefings on the findings of the research and asked to provide any additional comment to be fed into research report.
- 5.7 The data collection process is now complete with a process of analysing the findings will begin shortly followed by a report due to be complete by the end of April 2010. A process of reviewing the conclusions and recommendations will begin soon thereafter after which a report will be presented to the Environmental Sub Group.
- 5.8 Hawksworth Clean Up:  
At the request of Kirkstall Ward members, a clean up was organised by Area Management to be undertaken on the Hawksworth Estate on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of March. 5 skips paid for by the Area Committee skips budget were delivered to the estate where they were used to collect flytipping and waste from gardens. Staff from WNWHL were on hand to supervise the use of the skips.
- 5.9 Streetscene offered a range of additional services to coincide with the cleanup that included:
- 1 Mechanical Path Sweeper
  - 1 Mechanical Road Sweeper
  - 2 Gully Tankers
  - 1 Cage team (3 staff) responsible for clearance of litter/rubbish etc...
  - 1 Bulk tem (2 staff) responsible to help clear fly tipping
  - 2 Litter Pickers
  - Side Loader (to clear all litter bins)
  - Graffiti removal team (they will address any Graffiti that is apparent)
- 5.10 Headingley Bin Yards:  
At its last meeting, the Area Committee approved £9,018 to improve two bin yards in the Granbys area of Headingley. Ward Members were seeking to allocate Ward Based Initiative funding to improve a number of other bin yards, but the scheme didn't fit the funding criteria. In order to progress the project, Ward Members agreed to use Ward Based Initiative funding instead of Well-being capital to pay for improvements to Headingley district centre (new bollards, bins and street signs), and use the capital funding to create a budget for future bin yard improvements. A priority list of bin yards has been provided to the Area Management Team, who will work with the Environmental Action Team to secure permission from property owners to undertake

the work. The aims of the scheme is to stop bins being left on the street between collections and deter fly tipping in bin yards.

## **6.0 HEALTH AND WELLBEING**

### **6.1 Health and Wellbeing Improvement Manager**

Tim Taylor has been appointed as a Health and Well-being Improvement Manager for West North West Leeds. This is a joint post between the Council and NHS Leeds. Tim started in February 2010 and is based with the area management team in Pudsey Town Hall. He will work closely with local partners to promote health and well-being partnerships and activities across the outer north west area.

6.2 The Health and Wellbeing Improvement Manager in the West/North West of Leeds is a jointly funded post that works to Leeds City Council and NHS Leeds. The post aims to address health inequalities and improve community wellbeing. It will improve efficiency and reduce costs by integrating partnership working and through problem solving. It will ensure that local issues are heard by central commissioning structures.

## **7.0 THRIVING PLACES**

### **7.1 Little London PFI**

Demolition of Carlton Towers and selected maisonettes at Carlton Gate started on 15 February. This work has been carried out an advance of the PFI contract being issued by the Council in an effort to reduce anti social behaviour associated with the buildings remaining empty. The start of demolition was marked with a photo opportunity for the first crunch into the building using specialist machinery. Cllr Carter attended as LCC spokesperson and we gained press coverage in YP, YEP, BBC Look North and ITV Calendar as well as throughout the day on BBC radio Leeds.

7.2 In advance of the start of demolition all tenants and residents of Little London received a newsletter to give information on the demolition process, safety issues and possible temporary disturbances. Health and safety procedures have been put in place for the protection of workers and the community. There has been a positive response to the demolition.

7.3 Dobby Row BMX Track: This is a scheme led by a group of BMX enthusiasts who would like the Council to develop a BMX trail on disused land known as Dobby Row, off Kirkstall Road. In order to ascertain if the site is suitable for this use, a feasibility study must be completed. Funding for this is available through Section 106, however, if the scheme does not proceed to completion, the Section 106 money must be repaid. In order for the feasibility study funding to be released, the Area Committee is requested to commit in principle £5,000 from its Well-being revenue budget to cover the costs of the feasibility study, should the scheme not be completed.

## **8.0 HARMONIOUS COMMUNITIES**

### **8.1 Community Engagement Programme**

West North West Area Management Team developed a new Community Engagement Strategy and presented it to the 14<sup>th</sup> January Area Committee. The strategy included a series of pilot initiatives for the West North West wedge that include: the setting up of an Area Management website, a West North West Area Citizen Panel, producing a leaflet for each Area Committee and engaging partners in the development of the new Area Delivery Plan (ADP).

8.2 This new approach to community engagement represents a significant step forward in how consultation linked to the Area Delivery Plans is undertaken and should generate some useful findings to aid in driving forward improvements to service delivery. A report on the outcome of these pilots will be provided to Regeneration Management Team where a recommendation may be considered to roll the West North West approach out to the rest of the city.

8.3 The new website is now operational and information is being uploaded. An online survey is being developed and will be put into operation during April via the Council's Talking Point when completes.

8.4 The recruitment to the West North West Citizen's Panel (from the four WNW Area Committee areas) has now been completed with 135 members willing to respond to a West North West survey (of which 39 are from Outer North West). 83 have agreed to fill in online surveys of which 28 are from INW and 78 have agreed to attend focus group meetings of which 18 from INW. A process of recruiting further members to the panel is planned for the coming financial year.

8.5 Relevant members of the West North West Citizen Panel have been invited to a focus group discussion. The discussion will be facilitated by an independent body on a theme that has yet to be confirmed. Issues raised from the discussion will be forwarded to the relevant service partner for action and they will also be used to inform the development of the Inner North West Area Delivery Plan.

### **8.6 Year of Volunteer:**

In order to prepare for the Year of the Volunteer 2010, West North West Area Management developed and presented a proposal to the January Area Committee. It was agreed that West North West Area Management would hold a market place style event to promote volunteering work throughout West North West Leeds in March 2010, supported by Voluntary Action Leeds (VAL). Additionally, each Area Committee will host a volunteer celebration event in September to recognise the contribution of volunteers to improving their local areas and lessons learned from this exercise will help to inform the celebration event in September.

8.7 The West North West volunteering promotion event was organised on Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> March in Pudsey Civic Hall. More than 150 organisations were invited to the event. From January until March, the event was widely promoted across the west north west area through printed communications and at community forums. The event was attended by more than 30 organisations, all of whom had a stall to showcase their works. Approximately 30 participants attended, all of whom thought the event was useful and almost all of them put their names down for volunteering opportunities. A full evaluation is currently being undertaken.

## 8.8 Operation Titan:

This multi agency operation focusing on Woodhouse, aims is to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour in the target area. The work of this initiative will be driven by a 12 month multi agency action plan. The initiative was kick started with a week of intense agency action during the week of 22nd February 2010. Further work will include: target hardening of properties in the area, working with landlords to identify and correct vulnerabilities in properties, improvement to Woodhouse Ridge, property marking of high value easily removable items (laptops, mobile phones, ipods, etc) home visits undertaken by Police Crime Reduction Officers from across the force and working with residents to establish a residents group and neighbourhood watches.

## 8.9 Cumberland Road Quiet Zone:

Residents living on and near Cumberland Road have been working with Councillors and agencies to reduce anti-social behaviour in the area, particularly noise nuisance from parties and revellers coming into or leaving the area. Intense work has been undertaken by the University of Leeds to address any problems relating to students including extra patrols on student residences, improvements to the security system in halls of residences, encouraging residents to use the Neighbourhood Helpline and referring students for disciplinary action, where appropriate.

8.10 This efforts have resulted in a reduction in levels of anti-social behaviour in the area since December 2009. However, there is a concern that this problem will return to the previous levels. Residents agreed to work with Officers and Councillors to develop proposals for a “quiet zone” to be created in Cumberland Road and surrounding streets. The scheme would be voluntary but signage would help people coming into the area to be aware that they should keep noise down whilst coming into or leaving the area. These proposals will be developed over the coming months.

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

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

9.2 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.

## **10.0 Legal and Resource Implications**

10.1 In order to meet the Area Committee’s functions, funding is supplied via Well Being budgets and the Community Centres Budget.

10.2 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.

## **11.0 Conclusions**

11.1 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.

## **12.0 Recommendations**

12.1 Inner West Area Committee members are invited to:

- note the contents of the report and comment on any aspect of the matters raised;
- approve £5,000 Well-being revenue funding in principle to cover the costs of the Dobby Row BMX trail feasibility study, as described at 6.6, should the scheme not progress to completion; and
- suggest items for inclusion on future agendas

### **Background Papers**

Executive Board Report July 2008.

Executive Board Report 14 October 2009