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Report of the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods

To: Inner West Area Committee

Date: 22nd June 2010

Subject: Area Managers Report

Electoral Wards Affected:	Specific Implications For:
Armley Bramley & Stanningley	Equality and Diversity
	Community Cohesion
Ward Members consulted (referred to in report)	Narrowing the Gap
Council Delegated Executive Function 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.

3. Main Issues

Culture

3.1 The 6th 'I Love West Leeds' festival will take place this summer from 3rd-25th July The festival is working with 11 local primary schools and with Swallow Hill Community College as well as five libraries across West Leeds. Partnership projects are taking place with the Town Centre Manager on projects in Armley town centre. Volunteers

are heavily involved in the project, with 35 volunteers making miniature festival hippos for children to decorate. The finished hippos will be on display in shop windows forming a hippo trail down Armley Town Street. Other attractions will include art and photographic exhibitions, live music, tea dance and picnics.

- 3.2 The Armley Fun Day will take place on 28th July. The Area Committee has supported Armley Common Rights with a small grant of £500 to enhance this event.
- 3.3 The Armley summer celebration event will take place on 26th June, including summer bands in the park, a dog show, inflatables and other family attractions.
- 3.4 The new Armley Leisure Centre opened in May, with an open day taking place on 22nd May. The centre includes two sports halls, both suitable for a range of sporting activities including badminton, 5-a-side football or children's parties. The 100-station gym is equipped with cardio-vascular and resistance equipment, a stretching area and free weights section. Football sessions, exercise classes and gymnastics are also available. The centre also includes a 25 metre 5-lane pool, teaching pool and hydrotherapy. The new centre is being promoted and it is hoped that this new facility will encourage local residents to get involved in healthy activities.
- 3.5 The Town Centre Manager is also planning an Armley Christmas lights switch-on event. The aim is to close Town Street and have market stalls along the centre of the road. There would also be a stage with various entertainment and an official switch-on.

Enterprise and Economy

Debt advice and Debt First Aid Training

- 3.6 Debt and financial advice services continue to be promoted in the area. The Burley Lodge Centre provides weekly debt advice outreach sessions in Armley, Fairfields and Bramley. General advice sessions are available to parents with children aged under five years in Armley Moor, Bramley, Holly Bush and New Wortley children's centres.
- 3.7 Following on from the Debt Advice Pilot which was undertaken in Seacroft and Armley, an evaluation was undertaken. The main aim of the project was to try to get multiple partner agencies to work more closely together in order to find a more effective way of delivering debt advice services within the same resource provision. One of the key successes was the Debt First Aid training which was provided by Leeds CAB to frontline staff. Within the Inner West, staff from the following services and organisations participated:
 - Illegal Money Lending Team
 - Leeds Benefits Services
 - Leeds City Credit Union
 - LCC Customer Services
 - LCC Community Safety Officers
 - LCC Children's Services
 - LCC Fuelsavers
 - West Yorkshire Police
 - Wildfire at Barnardos

The Debt Advice Pilot evaluation report will be taken back to the Council's Narrowing the Gap Group and following approval will be disseminated.

Affordable Credit

- 3.8 Promotion of Leeds City Credit Union services continues in the area. In addition to their branch in Armley One Stop Centre, Leeds City Credit Union has collection points in most primary schools and children's centres in the area.
- 3.9 By the end of March 2010 there were 2831 adult and 557 child credit union members in the Inner West area. In the three months from January to March 2010, a total of 103 adult members and 13 child members joined the credit union in the area.

Town Centre Manager (TCM) update

- 3.10 Since the launch of the Reward Card scheme, promotion by local traders has been limited and this has resulted in too few residents being aware of the scheme. The TCM has been urging businesses to publicise and promote the campaign and will continue and support it over the summer. However, at this point it will be reviewed and if still not generating sufficient interest and support, it will be terminated and alternative approaches examined. It should, however, be noted that the scheme is operating successfully in Pudsey with the number of participants increasing each month. Winners have been more than happy to be involved in publicising the scheme and this has generated further interest. A total of 66 businesses are signed up to the scheme in Pudsey town centre.
- 3.11 The Business Forum still operates but attendance and membership continues to be low. The TCM continues to pursue ways to improve this vital link with the business community and identify one or two businesses that could drive it forwards.
- 3.12 The TCM, in conjunction with the Area Management Team and 'I Love West Leeds', is currently examining the possibilities for empty shop units on Armley Town Street through the 'Art in Unusual Spaces' scheme. LCC Arts Team and I Love West Leeds have both been asked to develop proposals for innovative ideas for these spaces. It should be noted that this approach is only seen as a short term solution to the empty units to improve the appearance of Town Street and interest in the units. Longer term occupancy will still be encouraged and pursued.
- 3.13 A business event is planned for 15th September 2010. It will highlight what Armley has to offer and the recent and planned investment. High street retailers will be invited to the event to hear about achievements and further town centre proposals. Councillors, businesses leaders and business support agencies will be invited to support this event.
- 3.14 The TCM has met with Morbaine, the potential developer, for the Carr Crofts site opposite the new leisure centre. The TCM has stressed that it is vital that the development be integrated into Armley and Armley Town Street. Connectivity is important so that people can access the town centre easily from the site. The developers have stated that 2 hour parking will be available for people wishing to shop on Town Street. The TCM will push for whichever retailer occupies the site to become part of the local business community and hopefully play an active role in the business forum.

- 3.15 The TCM is also hoping to undertake a survey of shoppers and visitors to Armley asking them for opinions on various aspects of the town centre. This will inform further physical improvements and possible campaigns and events.
- 3.16 The TCM has continued to hold Armley Action Days on Town Street, the frequency of these days has changed, they are now held every week at different times/days as oppose to 6 weekly and last approximately 2 hours with partner agencies such as West Yorkshire Police and Environmental Action Team working together. These days have been designed to educate members of the public and businesses on various issues covering a wide range of topics such as fly-tipping, crime and grime, graffiti, anti-social behaviour, etc. These have proven to be a big success although it must be noted the Designated Public Places Order (DPPO) is being broken on a daily basis and is being tackled on the action days. The next action day is planned for the 23rd June.
- 3.17 The TCM has organized an Armley Heritage Christmas Event on 20th November 2010. This will be a large Christmas light switch on for Armley and will be held on Town Street. The event will see a number of acts and entertainment held on Town Street. The intention is to close off Town Street and place a number of market stalls up the centre of the street selling Christmas gifts and other arts and crafts. In conjunction with the events team there will be a stage, two special guest appearances, Santa's Grotto, fire works and much more. The road will be closed from 10.30 am and reopen at 8.30pm.

West Leeds Enterprise Centre (LEGI)

- 3.18 The West Leeds Enterprise Centre is based at Suite 2 at the Cubic Business Centre on Stanningley Road and has two full time staff. The centre is part of the Leeds LEGI programme 'Sharing the Success' and offers support and information to individuals who wish to start or have recently started their own business. Eligibility is based on postcode and the support available includes:
 - Business skills workshops
 - Business ideas generation workshops (MyBiz)
 - Use of facilities (telephone, computers, internet)
 - Intensive business advice (provided by Leeds Chamber of Commerce Business Advisor)
 - Specialist support e.g. Construction Leeds
- 3.19 Centre staff are actively involved in outreach activity and regularly attend community events and liaise with community based organisations. The centre is also represented on the Worklessness Group for West Leeds.
- 3.20 The centre was launched in January 2009 and has to date 111 registered members. Examples of businesses which have set up as a result of the centre are painting and decorating, health and beauty, computer repair, retail, catering, gardening, creative arts, construction, entertainment, marketing, web design, fitness, accounting, book keeping and social enterprises. Many of these success stories have featured in the Evening Post.

Armley Town & District Centre (T&DC) scheme

3.21 Phase 2 of the Armley T&DC scheme has been completed and maintenance work has taken place to rectify damaged areas of York stone and kerbing. A launch will take place on 19th July, combined with a vist from the Lottery Commission to undertake an audit of the THI scheme.

Armley Mills

3.22 The museums audit work is completed but further work is required to understand space requirements. Feedback has been received from Rushbond Igloo and Urban Splash on 'soft market testing' of the scheme. Options for delivery and procurement are currently being prepared and public and private funding streams being explored.

2 Branch Road

- 3.23 The Council has agreed a preferred approach to encouraging the comprehensive restoration of the building. This involves:
 - The Council pursuing the enforcement work with the property owner
 - The Council acquiring the property through negotiations with the property owner
 - The Council entering into a 'Restoration Agreement' with the property owner. This will involve a comprehensive project, which will include work items to a conservation specification rather than to meet the minimum enforcement work specification, as part of a THI grant scheme.

Target Properties

3.24 Legal Services has endorsed the grant scheme documents and grant information packs have been sent to all Target property owners. This is to encourage property owners to express an interest in participating in a grant scheme.

Complimentary Initiatives

3.25 The Armley THI scheme has a training element. Ideally this will be aimed at giving local unemployed people an opportunity to develop construction skills with an emphasis on the use of traditional materials and techniques. This initiative will be considered once an assessment of a similar initiative has been carried out based on the Chapeltown THI scheme.

<u>'Island site' – Golden Lion / Nelson public house / Living World area</u>

3.26 The owner of the Golden Lion is keen to promote a development scheme and has undertaken considerable work to investigate the surrounding land ownerships. The former Nelson public house is being converted for use as a restaurant. Confirmation of land ownerships and potential future uses are proving complicated.

Mistress Lane

3.27 The preferred developer continues to have an interest in the site which is also included within the Capital Receipts Programme. However due to market conditions a scheme is not currently being pursued. The estimated land receipt is likely to have dropped significantly, further impacting on the viability of the preferred scheme.

New Wortley

3.28 Demolition of 36 dwellings commenced in March 2010 and is anticipated to complete in mid June. Plans have been produced for a temporary community garden and work is ongoing with NWRA and NWRAG who will take a lead role in this project. A LEDA report has been approved a license agreement is being prepared to formally set out to the community their obligations. Unfortunately demolition has taken longer than expected and the area has been subject to anti-social behaviour. A CPO is being progressed to bring Holdsforth Place back into Council ownership. Provided that no objections are received, it is anticipated that the land could be in Council ownership within six months of promoting the CPO.

Environment

Armley Moor

- 3.29 Designs for the Moor have been developed in partnership with the Council and the Armley Common Rights Trust (ACRT) and are due to go to the Armley Forum in June. Planning have agreed to transfer some section 106 monies from capital to revenue accounts to cover the 10 year maintenance costs and Parks & Countryside have agreed to undertake the maintenance of Armley Moor for the 10 year period. Applications have been submitted to Grantscape and Green Leeds and will be considered in June.
- 3.30 ACRT have commissioned a solicitor to support them through the legal process to confirm their ownership. This work was anticipated to be complete by the end of April 2010 but this will now be summer 2010. The section 106 monies cannot be released by planning until the ownership of the moor is determined.

Armley Town Street

- 3.31 The TCM has contacted a number of schools in relation to participating in the Keep Armley Tidy Campaign. One school so far has expressed an interest.
- 3.32 Streetscene Services have been implementing a regular clean with a vacuum machine to collect cigarette ends and small rubbish items that cannot be collected by hand. This has significantly improved the appearance of Town Street.
- 3.33 The Environmental Action Team has now taken a lead on the town centre action days. The scheme has moved away from the 6 weekly action days and now takes the format of a once a week 2 hour patrol with a member of the EAT and either Police or PCSO. The idea is to surprise people with which day of the week the patrols are, thereby increasing impact.

Thriving Places

Armley DPPO

3.34 The TCM and Community Safety Co-ordinator have identified the street lighting columns for the new signage and are awaiting delivery and installation. It was noted whilst on site, that there are already 9 signs in place around the top end of Town Street.

Speeding

3.35 There is still concern about cars speeding along Town Street. TCM and the Police are hoping to meet with Highways shortly to consider the possibility of adding traffic calming measures.

Alert Boxes

3.36 The introduction of the 2nd phase of the Alertbox network has been very successful. The evaluation of the whole scheme has just been completed and response from traders has been very positive, with all traders stating they feel more secure and empowered.

Leeds-Bradford Corridor (LBC)

- 3.37 The Leeds-Bradford Corridor Board met on 2nd March 2010 and presentations were made on Housing and Transport. The Board are keen to see additional work regarding the connectivity and transport initiatives in the LBC. This will involve looking at the new LCR transport strategy and seeing where it fits in relation to existing and new housing schemes. The LBC has submitted funding bids to the Homes and Communities Agency for new affordable homes and private sector renewal proposals.
- 3.38 In Outer West Leeds, proposals will continue to be developed around West Leeds Country Park. This work will involve carrying out feasibility proposals linking housing development to access the Park (likely to be from Bradford). It will also involve making links into other networks such as the Airedale Greenway project at Apperley Bridge and into the Leeds-Liverpool canal. Housing sites in West Leeds continue to be developed at Waterloo Road and Chaucer Gardens.
- 3.39 The next Board meeting will take place on 8th July 2010. There are likely to be changes to the political membership of the Board arising from the local elections, affecting both Bradford and Leeds.

Extended Services

3.40 In the Bramley cluster, courses in English and Maths are continuing to be offered at Raynville Primary School and these are planned for September as well, there will also be STEPS parenting courses in September, each school has various after school clubs and holiday activities planned for part of the summer holiday period, the schools in Bramley are participating in the Bramley Carnival and continue to participate in intergenerational singing events. 3.41 In the Armley cluster, there continues to be a vast array of courses/activities for school children and parents, examples include, drop in sessions for parents/carers, credit union collection point, courses on cooking with parents, gardening clubs, ESOL, Jobs Shops and much more.

Harmonious Communities

Local Area Management Plans (LAMPs)

- 3.42 New Wortley LAMP Inter-generational work is ongoing with Armley Helping Hands and Swinnow Hill working together, as well as work to support the community centre and promote social enterprise. NHS Leeds will present to partners, health issues in New Wortley and collectively come up with a schedule of health activities and courses. NHS Leeds will commission Healthy Living Network to implement the schedule. Following ASB from local youths, there has been closer working relations with the Police, making sure that they are present on evenings when youth activities are running.
- 3.43 Fairfield At the last Fairfield LAMP meeting, the proposal from Aramark, an American catering company, was discussed and representatives from Aramark were present. They have expressed an interest in working to develop Fairfield Community Centre. A list of priorities was drawn up to hold a Building Communities Volunteering Day on 9th July with 50 volunteers from the community centre. The aim would be to build on this and hold a larger scale event next year. Activities will focus on making improvements to the facilities, such as painting murals and landscaping playgrounds next to the children's centre.
- 3.44 Wythers Improvement Group Team Wythers have carried out a door knocking exercise to engage with residents and involve them in organising a Family Fun Day in July. Response has been positive and a meeting will be held in June with a group of young people and older people who have expressed an interest in getting involved. BARCA Leeds are in the process of drawing up a Health & Wellbeing programme for the Wythers. The Environmental Action Team are developing and action plan for the Wythers to tackle environmental issues.

Broadleas Neighbourhood Improvement Plan (NIP)

3.45 To address the crime and Anti Social Behaviour in the Broadleas area, an application for Well-Being funding to install CCTV been put forward by the Inner West Community Safety co-ordinator. WNW homes advised that Good neighbourhood agreements are now being signed by all new tenants. A business plan is being worked by the residents to apply for the lease of the premises, 4 Broadleas Gardens (a community building which has been given up by the TARA) the proposal is to set up Bramleys 1st Help Centre and to bring more services to the community. A Well-being funding application is received to for Dispersal Orders in Edinburgh's.

Community Centres Consortium

3.46 A Community Centres Consortium Executive Group has been set up to establish a decision making panel for the WB Fund elements (the Business Facility and Social

Enterprise Manager's post and the pot of remaining funding). The group consists of BARCA Leeds, Area Management, West North West Homes Leeds and Management Committee Members from each community centre. Terms of reference and final allocation figures have now been agreed, the Service Level Agreements will be agreed shortly. This group will meet monthly and be chaired by BARCA Leeds. The larger consortium group will continue to meet quarterly and continue to be chaired by Rachel Reeves, MP for West Leeds.

- 3.47 The Business Facilities and Social Enterprise Manager's post has been advertised, the closing date was midday 28th May and interviews will take place on the 10th June.
- 3.48 The admin worker from the Fairfields Community Centre has been given a six week trial, employed by BARCA Leeds, to work across the three community centres, I will update you on the outcome of this. The admin worker is spending two days working at New Wortley Community Centre, two at Fairfields Community Centre and one at Wyther Community House.

Community Cohesion

3.49 The Community Cohesion Pilot on the Wythers has been progressed. The Openspace event which focused on how frontline workers could promote community cohesion took place on 9th March. A full report has now been provided by Together for Peace who were commissioned to run the event. This is attached at Appendix 1.

Community Engagement

- 3.50 Building on the quality of population sample that the Citizens Panel provides, the team have developed the use of two qualitative and complementary research methods by which panel members have been consulted.
 - Online Surveys

A programme of quarterly surveys distributed to citizens panel members though Talking Point has been developed. The first of which is the "Community Safety and Environment Survey" which was undertaken in March 2010 and received 71% response rate. A further 3 surveys on a range of themes are planned for the 2010-11 financial year all of which will be written, distributed and analysed by Area Management Staff.

• Focus Group Sessions

To complement the surveys, a series of focus groups sessions with the Citizens Panel members have been commissioned to the external research agency, Enventure. A contract figure of £2,050 has been agreed with Enventure for them to undertake one focus group session in each of the four Areas. Area Management have undertaken the recruitment to focus group sessions while Enventure will facilitate the sessions and provide a report setting out the findings.

Year of the Volunteer

3.51 As part of Leeds Year of Volunteering, Area Teams have been asked to participate in a programme to increase the number of volunteers and improve access to a wide

range of volunteering opportunities.

3.52 The four West North West Area Committees have agreed to host a volunteer celebration event to recognise the contribution of volunteers to improving their local area. Nominations are currently being invited with a closing date of 30th June. Volunteers will then be short listed and awards presented at a celebration event in November 2010. Nominations will also be put forward for Leeds city-wide 'Owls' awards.

Health & Well Being

- 3.53 The Health & Wellbeing Partnership is in its early stages and has outlined their short term priorities. They are alcohol, cardio vascular health checks and looking at older peoples issues in preparation for the winter.
- 3.54 In the longer term, the partnership is looking at central commissioners in Leeds and how it can influence their decisions at a local level. They will also be looking at community engagement.

LCC Youth Services

- 3.55 The Youth Service are concerned that there is a lack of support at New Wortley since the wardens, caretaker and manager left. The Tuesday evening group is difficult to run but it is vital that the group continues to run. The Youth Service have requested extra support from the Police and ASBU and would appreciate further support such as caretaker and manager.
- 3.56 A successful partnership has been set up with the local pharmacy at New Wortley and the Youth Service is now running a sexual health drop-in which is much needed in the area. The service has also recently run a programme with a small group of young people at Meanwood Valley Farm to educate them about farm life, looking after small animals and generally learning about agriculture. The group were at major risk of offending and this has helped towards improving their behaviour.
- 3.57 A joint programme has been set up with Swallow Hill the team have been working with a group of young people to develop a youth provision attracting local young people. The programme is multi activity and the young people have been fully involved in the planning and implementation. A coaching programme will be run shortly for 12 young people who will achieve their level 1 football coaching award.
- 3.58 Young people from Inner West have recently been attending the city wide Participation group which has involved the full governance of the Youth Service. Their views and opinions are informing the way the Youth Service operates.
- 3.59 The Urban Arts project at the LAZER centre is attracting good numbers of young people. The Youth Service is receiving referrals from agencies around graffiti and ASB. The project is working with a younger age group which is enabling poor behaviour to be tackled early on before it escalates. Young people are making full use of the new shelter at the LAZER centre.
- 3.60 BARCA-Leeds was unsuccessful in the Connexions tender process, however negotiated a subcontracting arrangement with Igen. The transition period has run

fairly smoothly, however has meant reduced funding and the loss of $\frac{1}{2}$ a Connexions PA.

- 3.61 3 young people attend a 'Northern Regional' residential in Lancaster and participated in a range of activities including the training in and evaluation of Youth Bank Uk's new 'assessment toolkit'; training with regard to community, youth leadership and ECM delivered by young people from 'Youth of today'. They all received a Certificate of Achievement as a result. Young people came together from Youth Banks from the North East, North West, Yorks & Humber, and Wales. They finished of the 2 day with a fun activity decorating their hoodies.
- 3.62 The multi agency project delivered 5 sessions at Fairfield Community Centre which offered issue based content and fun arts and sports activities. Young people also undertook a project around knife crime. In total the project reached 74 young people, with the highest single attendance of 48 on one evening. 7 of the 9 young people involved had agreed to early local intervention through ASBU attended the project. Partners included BARCA-Leeds youth work, Connexions & YIP teams, PCSO's, the police and the out of school activities team. Young people attending were aged from 9 17 years. This is going to be followed up with a new Breeze initiative called Back Yard Breeze, which is a 12 week diversionary programme
- 3.63 Young people took part in a baby reality project which consisted of an accredited 10 week programme, covering sexual health, drugs, alcohol and budgeting.
- 3.64 Young people have continued to look at issues affecting young people and are beginning to look at drugs as a subject area. They also planned a residential to which took place during the Easter holidays having been successful in securing a LSCASH grant. 10 young people travelled to Cornwall for 5 days to experience surfing, sea canoeing, abseiling, and cliff traversing amongst other activities.
- 3.65 Members are asked to note that The Scrutiny Board (Children's Services) agreed the attached report on youth service surveys at its meeting on 22 April. The Scrutiny Board resolved to send the report to all Area Committees to make them aware of the work that the Scrutiny Board has undertaken. In particular the Scrutiny Board was keen that all Area Committees should be aware of recommendation 3 in the report, regarding Area Committees being routinely informed of the findings of surveys. Members are asked to note the attached statement from the Scrutiny Board and provide any comments. Councillor Lancaster chaired the working group which undertook this piece of work. Other Members of the Scrutiny Board (Children's Services) were Councillors Cleasby, Coupar, Driver, Ronnie Feldman, Gettings, Bill Hyde, Kirkland, Renshaw, Selby, E Taylor. A formal response to the Scrutiny Board's recommendations is due to be reported to the Executive Board in June or July.

4.0 Implications for Council Policy and Governance

- 4.1 The Area Delivery Plan for Inner West is administered through the West North West Leeds Area Management Team.
- 4.2 Well-Being projects develop from Inner 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
 - suggest items for inclusion on future Area Manager's reports

Background Papers

none