



Report of the Chief Planning Officer and Chief Regeneration Officer

Member Management Committee

Date: 29th June 2010

Subject: Investment Partnership for South Leeds; Progress Report and Changes to Board Structure

Electoral Wards Affected:

Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Eligible for Call In

Not Eligible for Call In
(Details contained in the report)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Further to the report considered by Executive Board on 17th June 2009, the Investment Partnership for South Leeds has been established. The steering group has met on two occasions and the Partnership Engagement Group (PEG) met for the first time on 23rd February. A workshop took place on 10th October attended by approximately 100 people from the area to gauge strengths, weaknesses and opportunities facing South Leeds.

Work is ongoing to consider the detailed comments which emerged at the workshop which will inform the Investment Strategy. As the strategy develops, individual proposals will be tested through the PEG, prior to undertaking a further public consultation exercise once the draft strategy is produced. Once finalised the strategy will be presented to Executive Board for support and agreement. It will not form part of the statutory planning process, but will be consistent with the Council's approach.

This report outlines the increase in size of the steering group with 1 additional representative from both the public and private sectors and seeks substitutes to be nominated should members be unable to attend. The report also outlines the extension to the study area to include Hunslet, directly reflecting representations made at the October 2009 consultation event.

1.0 Purpose Of This Report

- 1.1 This report provides Member Management Committee with the latest position in relation to the work of the Investment Partnership for South Leeds (IPSL), and seeks approval for additional steering group members and substitutes should members be unable to attend meetings. It also outlines the extension of the study area to include Hunslet, reflecting representations made at the consultation event held in October 2009.

2.0 Background Information

- 2.1 Following approval granted by Executive Board on 17th June 2009, the governance arrangements have been established for the Investment Partnership for South Leeds. Regular Management Group meetings have been taking place to coordinate the necessary work packages and the steering group met for the first time on the 17th September and subsequently on the 13th November 2009.
- 2.2 The purpose of the IPSL is to produce an Investment Strategy for South Leeds, which will provide a vision for the area and will identify key proposals which will help to realise the vision, making the area a more attractive place to live work and visit. One of the key requirements has been to ensure that the local community and stakeholders are involved in shaping the vision which will underpin the Investment Strategy. A workshop took place on 10th October at Elland Road Banqueting Suite which was attended by over 100 people including local members; stakeholders; and representatives from community, voluntary, and commercial organisations with an interest in the South Leeds area and the Rt. Hon. Hilary Benn MP. The day was led by David Lock Associates with attendees being asked to explore the issues facing the area today and how they would like to see the area change in the future.
- 2.3 The discussions and material produced on the day are currently being considered by the Management Group and further work is being undertaken to explore key issues and proposals to inform the preparation of the Investment Strategy. There was consensus that South Leeds had a lot of strengths, in particular strong communities; accessibility from major highways; range of employers; visitor attractions and destinations in the form of White Rose Shopping Centre, John Charles Sports Centre, and Elland Road football ground; and the potential for change. That said there was concern expressed about low educational achievement; poor connectivity and isolated neighbourhoods; the quality and accessibility of greenspace; unemployment; the condition of housing stock; and the impression the area creates. The way in which the weaknesses could be overcome was considered and proposals included new leisure provision including access to quality greenspace; and new transport and connectivity solutions.
- 2.4 The Partnership Engagement Group (PEG) met for the first time on 23rd February 2010. The membership of this group stands at over 70 members and consists of a wide range of stakeholders from across the area and will meet on a further 2 or 3 occasions during the preparation of the Investment Strategy. The principles of the Investment Strategy will be tested through this group to ensure that the ideas raised at the October workshop are considered appropriate and ultimately deliverable. Steve Williamson (Renew) has agreed to chair this group.
- 2.5 Over the coming months the draft version of the Investment Strategy will be prepared prior to further public consultation in the autumn. It is anticipated that the Investment Strategy will be finalised and presented to Executive Board later in the year.

3.0 Main Issues

- 3.1 At the outset, it was intended that the steering group would consist of 7 public and 7 private sector members, to reflect the nature of the partnership between the City Council and private sector interests in South Leeds, being championed through Millshaw Property Co, a 50/50 joint venture between Land Security plc and Evans Property Group. The steering group is Council led and is chaired by Leeds City Council's Executive Member for Development and Regeneration. The 14 member steering group, including the specific political members were agreed by Executive Board in June 2009.
- 3.2 Steve Williamson (Chief Executive, Re'new) has recently accepted the role of Chair of the PEG. In order for the discussions of the PEG to be considered fully, it is important that the Chair of the PEG should also be a member of the steering group.
- 3.3 It is considered that by adding an additional public sector member, the steering group will be unbalanced with proportionately fewer private sector members, contrary to the originally approved principles. In order to address this imbalance it is proposed to invite Bob Murray from Sterling Capitol, providers of major employment space in the area onto the group. This will ensure that the overall balance is maintained. Table 1 provides a list of proposed members and their substitutes.
- 3.4 Following the election, the current membership of the steering group does not reflect the current composition of the Council. To ensure that the group does not become unmanageable in terms of size, it is not considered appropriate to expand the group beyond 16 members, including 5 political representatives. Cllr Robert Finnigan and Cllr Stewart Golton are already members of the group who represent the opposition parties. Cllr Lewis, Cllr Blake and Cllr Gabriel represent the current administration.
- 3.5 There are occasions when members of the steering group are unable to attend due to other commitments. It is proposed to establish a list of substitute members to ensure that the meetings are attended by as many people as possible. The list below identifies the members of the steering group and the substitute members where required. The addition of substitute members does not increase the size of the steering group.

Table 1 – Proposed Steering Group Membership

Member	Organisation	Substitute	Public/ Private Sector
Cllr Richard Lewis (Chair) – Executive Member for Development and Regeneration	Leeds City Council		Public
*Cllr Robert Finnigan – Leader Morley Borough Independent Group	Leeds City Council		Public
*Cllr Judith Blake – Deputy Leader and Lead Executive Member Children's Services	Leeds City Council		Public
*Cllr Angela Gabriel – Beeston and Holbeck	Leeds City Council		Public
*Cllr Stewart Golton – Leader Liberal Democrat Group	Leeds City Council		Public

*Jean Dent – Director City Development	Leeds City Council		Public
*Neil Evans – Director Environment and Neighbourhoods	Leeds City Council		Public
Steve Williamson – Chief Executive	Re’new		Public
*David Heliwell – Estates Director	Millshaw Property Co. Limited		Private
*James Pitt – Development Director	Evans Property Group		Private
*Bert Martin – Development Director	Land Securities Plc.	Gerald Jennings – Portfolio/Regional Director	Private
*Shaun Harvey – Chief Executive Officer	Leeds United		Private
*Ian Williams – Director of Business Representation and Policy.	Chamber of Commerce		Private
*Nigel Foster – Chair Leeds Property Forum	Leeds Property Forum		Private
*David Aspin – Chief Executive	Munroe K Limited	Guy Lintott – Finance Director	Private
Bob Murray - Chairman	Sterling Capitol	Martin Croxen – Managing Director	Private

* Previously approved by Executive Board on 17th June 2009

3.5 During the course of the Elland Road Workshop, it was proposed that the Hunslet area be added to the initiative. The additional area is shown on the attached map (see Appendix 1). It should be noted that this area may also form part of the proposed Urban Eco Settlement and provide a location for retro-fitting existing properties, especially dwelling houses. Approval will be sought from Executive Board in due course for the inclusion of this additional area within the study.

4.0 Implications For Council Policy And Governance

4.1 The Council’s Partnership Significance Scorecard was completed when the partnership first emerged and continues to be reviewed. While the partnership is considered to be of limited significance, the partnership does comply with the Council’s partnership governance requirements

4.2 The preparation of the Investment Strategy will consider strategic policies at a local, city region, regional and national level. The strategy will be recommended to Executive Board once drafted, and subject to the Council’s statutory planning process, this document will guide development proposals, regeneration plans and initiatives across South Leeds.

5.0 Legal And Resource Implications

5.1 It has been agreed that the Council will contribute 50% of the costs associated with the workshop and consultation surrounding the production of the strategy. The costs to the Council are anticipated to be in the region of £10k in total split between the 2009/10 and 2010/11 financial years.

6.0 Conclusions

- 6.1 A stakeholder workshop took place in October 2009 which began to capture views about the issues in South Leeds and how people would like to see the area change. Stakeholder involvement will continue to be captured through the Partnership Engagement Group which will meet for the first time in February 2010.
- 6.2 The Investment Strategy is currently being prepared and will consider the discussions that emerged at the workshop. Once drafted further public consultation will take place to seek comments on the strategy before the final version is produced. It is anticipated that the Investment Strategy will be completed during summer 2010.
- 6.3 The steering group has met twice and its membership is proposed to be increased to 16 members, which equates to one additional private sector member and the chair of the Partnership Engagement Group.

7.0 Recommendations

- 7.1 That Member Management Committee note the contents of this report.
- 7.2 That Member Management Committee notes the increase in size of the Investment Partnership for South Leeds steering group through adding 1 public and 1 private sector representative.
- 7.3 That Member Management Committee support the appointment of the 2 new members to the steering group:
- Steve Williams, Chief Executive – Re’new (Chair of the PEG)
 - Bob Murray, Chairman – Sterling Capitol
- 7.4 That Member Management Committee nominates appropriate substitutes onto the steering group and approves those substitutes already proposed.

Appendix 1 – Investment Partnership for South Leeds Study Area

