
Report of the West North West Area Manager

North East (Inner) Area Committee

Date: 16th December 2010

Subject: Area Manager's Report

Electoral Wards Affected:

Headingley
Hyde Park & Woodhouse
Kirkstall
Weetwood

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

Executive Summary

This report provides members of the Area Committee with an update of progress on the 2008-11 Inner North West Area Delivery Plan (ADP). It outlines key achievements under the eight ADP themes and reports on activities planned for the final quarter of this year. The Area Committee is asked to note the contents of the report, and approve the Inner North West Area Charter, developed as part of a citywide project.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 This report provides Members with an overview of activity in the Inner North West Area relating to the Area Delivery Plan and updates Members on the plans to change the way the Area Delivery Plan will be developed in the future. A new Area Charter has been produced for the Inner North West Area Committee and is presented for approval at Appendix 1.

2 Background Information

- 2.1 The ADP for 2008-11 was developed following the headings contained within 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
- Enterprise and Economy
- Learning
- Transport
- Environment
- Health and Wellbeing
- Thriving Neighbourhoods
- Harmonious Communities

2.2. The Area Delivery Plan for 2008-11 was approved by the Area Committee on 31st July 2008. The plan has subsequently been refreshed, with the latest version endorsed by the Area Committee at the April 2010 Area Committee meeting.

3 Key Achievements

3.1 Culture

3.1.1 The Area Committee supports two of the city's most successful community festivals; Hyde Park Unity Day and Kirkstall Festival. Both attracted thousands of visitors and provided local groups with a platform to showcase their talents.

3.1.2 The Committee also supported a number of grassroots arts activities including the first Woodhouse Cultural Festival, arts classes in Little London and a high school film project. The small grants scheme is widely promoted by the Area Management Team as means of supporting smaller organisations deliver activities within local communities.

3.1.3 Larger scale initiatives outlined in the ADP have not been progressed this year, including developing a cultural alliance or a wider marketing project to promote the area's cultural offer. It is suggested that these may be better progressed by the cultural sector itself and supported rather than led by the Area Committee.

3.1.4 2011/12 will see two important cultural organisations establish themselves in the area, the HEART Centre in Headingley and Left Bank Leeds in Hyde Park. Both will provide more opportunities for local residents to participate in the arts.

3.2 Enterprise and Economy

3.2.1 Little London is the priority area for worklessness overseen at a strategic level by the West North West Employment, Economy and Training Partnership and on locally through the Little London Health and Wellbeing Partnership.

3.1.2 The Area Committee funded a re-launch of the Little London job shop. All benefits claimants in the area were invited to an event at the community café to introduce them to a range of training and job search support. Thirty five people attended the event and the job shop has moved to a more central venue at the community centre, publicised with a banner funded by the Area Committee. The job shop will continue to provide information on local

opportunities within large scale projects including the PFI regeneration scheme and Leeds Arena.

3.2.3 The Woodsley Road district centre improvement scheme was delayed this year due to the street lighting replacement programme and highways resurfacing. The scheme is expected to start over the winter and will create an attractive public feature at the junction with Hyde Park Road. Other shopping area improvement schemes completed this year include those at Silk Mill Drive and Raynel Approach in Weetwood Ward.

3.2.4 There remains a gap in employment support provision in two other priority areas, Hawksworth Wood and Hyde Park. Work will continue to encourage providers to deliver more in these neighbourhoods.

3.3 Learning

3.3.1 Local partnership structures around service provision for young people are strong. These include the extended services clusters, a practitioner led youth work partnership and a NEET steering group co-ordinating services for young people not in employment, education or training.

3.3.2 The Area Committee has continued to fund a mobile youth base that attracts over 100 users a week. This service and other youth service providers regularly deploy resources to anti-social behavior hotspots as advised by the Inner North West Tasking Group, to which the Youth Mobile is deployed.

3.3.4 The ADP contains measures around the local Safeguarding Board and Corporate Parent role of elected members. The Area Committee receives regular updates from Children's Services on these and other indicators, however it is proposed that these be removed from future ADPs as the Committee has little influence over direct service provision in these areas.

3.4 Transport

3.4.1 Two major transport schemes are underway in the area, the Kirkstall Road Quality Bus Initiative, and the Leeds Core Cycle Network Lane 5 linking West Park, Headingley and Hyde Park to the City Centre.

3.4.2 The New Generation Transport scheme is still on hold pending decisions on funding by central government.

3.4.3 A number of new resident only parking zones have been introduced including Woodhouse and Woodsley Road. The impact on neighbouring streets is being closely monitored.

3.4.4 A parking strategy for Headingley is being prepared and will be presented to the Transport Sub Group in the coming months.

3.5 Environment

- 3.5.1 A research project was carried out on attitudes to waste and recycling in student areas. A number of recommendations came out of the research, and these are being considered by Environmental Services.
- 3.5.2 Student Changeover was co-ordinated through a steering group of officers, university and student representatives, the police and local residents. The Area Committee contributed Well-being funding towards the cost of the Green Streets / Leave Leeds Tidy recycling project, out of hours patrols to combat bag slashing, and three weeks of additional refuse collections. Feedback on the council's response to changeover was generally positive, and recommendations for further improvements have been presented to the Environment Sub Group.
- 3.5.3 The Area Committee funds an Environmental Action Team Technical Officer who has dealt with over 140 service requests since April this year. Over the coming months, the Environmental Action Team will carry out enforcement over bins left on streets, and the first area to be tackled will be the Haddons in Kirkstall Ward.
- 3.5.4 Two new playgrounds have been completed since April at Tinshill Garth and Craggside Rec. The proposed new playground at the West Park Centre is now on hold due and the Sandford Road playground scheme will be delivered in stages, pending a decision on Playbuilders Funding.
- 3.5.5 The Weetwood Conservation Area Review and Headingley and Hyde Park Neighbourhood Design Statement were completed this year and approved by Planning Board. The Little Woodhouse Neighbourhood Design Statement is due to be considered by Planning Board early in the new year, with the North Hyde Park Neighbourhood Design Statement still to be completed.

3.6 Health and Wellbeing

- 3.6.1 Local Ward Members supported residents to keep the voluntary organisation Community Action Little London and Servias going when it almost folded. The Area Committee is funding the Health Activities Worker one day a week to deliver a range of community activities including a family teatime club and pilates classes.
- 3.6.2 Older People's Networks have been supported through Well-being funding, including a shopping service and chair based exercise class.
- 3.6.3 The Area Delivery Plan included a number of actions around Safeguarding and Looked After Children. These areas of work do not lend themselves to Area Based interventions, and the Area Committee will be updated regularly on performance, as the Area Delivery Plan has been superseded by the citywide service improvement plan.

3.7 Thriving Places

- 3.7.1 Burglary rates are high in the inner North West area, and a range of initiatives have been carried out over the past year to combat this rise. These

include setting up the first student neighbourhood watch scheme in the country and a door knocking exercise to raise awareness of sneak in burglaries. The Area Committee funded capture house has led to five arrests this year.

- 3.7.2 Over the summer, a successful consultation was held with residents of the Harolds and Thornevilles on a proposal to establish a 'Homezone' in the area. Support for the proposal was overwhelming, and the findings have been passed to Highways for comment.
- 3.7.3 Despite some intensive crime prevention work, burglary rates remain high, and the Divisional Community Safety Partnership will continue with a range of operations and initiatives to target this crime.

3.8 Harmonious Communities

- 3.8.1 Additional government funding for Little London ended in April 2010. Despite this, a range of projects established during the neighbourhood management project have continued. These include Friday night youth provision, a youth club for 9-12 year olds and the CALLS Health Activities worker. The impact of the withdrawal of the Streetscene Pride Team is being closely monitored as there has been a rise in litter and fly tipping.
- 3.8.2 The Area Committee funded Community Planning Officer has had a busy year. As well as providing advice to Ward Members and the local community on planning issues, he has updated the Committee on complex changes to legislation around houses of multiple occupation.
- 3.8.3 The Area Management Team embarked on a new community engagement project which included the launch of a West North West webpage, online surveys and an area charter. A focus group of inner North West residents is planned for the new year.

4 2011/12 Area Delivery Plan Development

- 4.1 The Area Delivery Plan has provided an important focus for the Area Committee's work and highlighted a range of local priorities. However, the document itself is very long, with 91 individual actions for this year alone.
- 4.2 Work is underway to review the purpose and content of Area Delivery Plans, and it is expected that in the future, ADPs will focus on priority services that Area Committees have delegated responsibility for.

5 Inner North West Area Charter

- 5.1 In order to make the ADPs and the work of the Area Committees more accessible, a community charter has been developed to highlight some of the key projects the Committees are supporting, and encourage residents to become more active in their local communities.

- 5.2 A copy of the draft Inner North West Area Charter is attached at Appendix 1. Members are asked to approve the design and content of the document that will be distributed through the Area Management Team's mailing lists and community facilities.

6 The Spending Challenge

- 6.1 Members are being asked to note that an exercise is taking place 'The Spending Challenge' to gather the views of local residents and groups on the spending challenges the Council will need to deal with over the next 4 years. Leeds City Council will have to find savings of £150 million over the next four years. It is currently undertaking a number of restructures within various departments of the council as well as offering voluntary severance and early retirement to eligible staff. The Council will now be carrying out 'The Spending Challenge' exercise to collate the views of community groups across the city on spending priorities. Residents can also undertake this exercise online and this opportunity will be advertised on the Council website.
- 6.2 A copy of the spending challenge form that community groups and residents will be asked to complete is attached at Appendix 1. This exercise has the support and endorsement of both the executive board and the corporate leadership team.

7.0 Implications for Council Policy and Governance

- 7.1 The priorities for the Area Delivery Plan mirror the priorities of the Leeds Strategic Plan. These improvement priorities are agreed between all the partner agencies and with government office as the local area agreement (LAA). Local interpretations of the priority outcomes for the area have been developed. Within each priority outcome actions are delivered in consultation with key stakeholders in the local area.

8.0 Legal and Resource Implications

- 8.1 The Wellbeing Fund is used to finance projects which meet the objectives of the Area Delivery Plan. Area Management work with Council services, partner agencies and local communities to take a strategic approach to using the Wellbeing Fund which ensures best use of the funding.

9.0 Conclusions

- 9.1 The Area Delivery Plan sets out the key actions for 2008 - 2011 for Inner North West Leeds. Projects meeting the objectives of the Plan are funded through the Well-being Fund. This report provides. Members with an update on progress in implementing the actions contained within the ADP.
- 9.2 Area Delivery Plans are being reviewed centrally and a new template will be produced in the new year.
- 9.3 An Inner North West Area Charter has been developed as part of a citywide project. Members are asked to approve the draft charter for immediate publication.

10. Recommendations

10.1 The Area Committee is asked to:

- i) Note the contents of the report,
- ii) Approve the draft Area Charter and
- iii) Support local participation in the spending challenge exercise.

Background Papers

Appendix 1 – Inner North West Area Charter

Appendix 2 -