
Report of the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods

To: Inner West Area Committee

Date: 5th April 2011

Subject: Area Leader's report

Electoral Wards Affected:

Armley
Bramley & Stanningley

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

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 Main Issues

Culture

- 3.1 I Love West Leeds is running The Fun Family Film Club on the last Sunday of every month from March until August at the 26-seat cinema at Armley Mills. Tickets cost £3 and up to two children can enjoy a free film with each adult ticket.
- 3.2 The I Love West Leeds Festival Shop on Armley Town Street has now closed. Over 1000 people visited the shop to look at the displays and get involved in the workshops and activities. Over 50 artists were involved in developing the shop.
- 3.3 The Regeneration Service are working with City Development and the Museums Service to consider ways of revitalising Armley Mills. Work is continuing to prepare and seek support for a development prospectus for the site which will identify opportunities for new investment to support and sustain the delivery of a reinvigorated museum. Once prepared and the approach is agreed with the Museum Service, further consultation will take place prior to approval being sought to invite investor interest. Two smaller-scale investment projects are currently being progressed to improve the sustainability credentials of the complex. The 'Re:fit' project will see small scale investments in measures which will reduce the energy demands of the existing buildings, while work is also ongoing to explore the opportunities for the installation of hydropower generation equipment in the form of an Archimedes screw located at the weir.
- 3.4 The Townscape Heritage Programme has a £10,000 budget for raising heritage awareness amongst property owners and the local community. The proposal is to hold a series of seminars to highlight the use of appropriate traditional materials and techniques for preserving historic buildings. The seminars will also explain the long term damage that the use of inappropriate repairs will cause to historic buildings. It is expected that the seminars will commence in May 2011.
- 3.5 There is also a proposal to hold a heritage crafts fair on Armley Moor as part of the popular Armley Fun Day event. This will provide an opportunity for the local community to find out more about the techniques used by crafts people working on historic buildings.

Enterprise and Economy

- 3.6 Jobcentre Plus are currently in discussions with partners regarding the establishment of 'Work Clubs' in West Leeds. The Partnership Manager at Jobcentreplus gave a presentation at the March Armley forum and it is expected that a similar presentation will be given at the next Bramley and Stanningley forum. It is hoped that promoting Work Clubs in this way will encourage more to be established and unemployment reduced.

Town Centre Manager update

- 3.7 The Armley Business Forum in February saw increased attendance compared with previous meetings. Councillor Harper and Inspector Bownass also attended to support the forum and traders started to develop some positive ideas to promote the sustainability of Town Street. The forum will continue to meet monthly.

- 3.8 The TCM has now developed a calendar of events for the year ahead. These include several Teddy Bear's Picnics and Easter Event which Armley Common Rights Trust are assisting with. In addition, the Armley Summer Celebration, Armley Fun Day and Armley Christmas Lights Switch On have been confirmed. The TCM intends to build on the success of these events last year and improve them where appropriate, based on lessons learnt from last year.
- 3.9 There are an increasing number of empty units in Armley on Town Street and Branch Road. The TCM is actively working with the letting agents to try and promote the vacant units and establish sensible rental expectations. The TCM is also working with the retailers to make sure they are preparing to take advantage of the potential benefits of a new supermarket. The TCM also continues to work with the Leeds Chamber to offer business training and advice, although take-up has been low to date.

Transport

- 3.10 On Armley Town Street traffic calming measures are being introduced to address accidents on #1 Length for Concern. The traffic island is to be reconstructed as a permanent feature on Sunday 13th March. It has been successful at reducing speeds but is too large for buses to negotiate and therefore will be re-built to an appropriate size.
- 3.11 Traffic calming works to Hill Top Road and Green Hill Road, including new footway works outside the Travellers public house, new zebra crossing and two new traffic islands (funded from Mushroom Farm development section 278 funding) are now being undertaken and should be completed by the end of March. The proposed parking restrictions to improve road safety on Hall Lane and two pedestrian refuge islands on Canal Road to aid crossing movements between the Aviaries and Armley town centre have been put on hold due to a lack of funding.
- 3.12 A point closure scheme in response to residents' concerns about anti-social driving on Truro Street and Aviary Street has recently deferred by the Chief Highways Officer. A decision is now expected on 22nd March.
- 3.13 On Tong Road, a new Pelican crossing near to the Sikh temple is to be commissioned, whilst on Broad Lane in Bramley, a new Zebra crossing near Hollybush Primary School has now been completed.
- 3.14 A scheme is also proposed for the provision of two pedestrian refuges on Leeds & Bradford Road to aid crossing movements between Ganners Hill and Bramley Fall Park. The scheme has now been issued to the contractor and will commence in March or April 2011.

Environment

- 3.15 Further to the report submitted to the last Area Committee; the following provides a brief update on the progress towards achieving the delegation of environmental services from June/July 2011.
- 3.16 Work is progressing on the development of a Service Level Agreement (SLA) for each Area Committee, with a generic template being agreed by Area Chairs on 11th February. A first draft of the Inner West Area Committee SLA will be shared with

Members at a workshop scheduled to take place on 29th March, 2-5pm, to which all Inner West Members will have received an invitation on 31st January. To inform the detail of the SLAs, service resources have been allocated across the City on a wedge basis, detail of which will be available at the March workshops, if not already shared with Members. Members will have further opportunity to input and comment on their SLA prior to the final version being presented for approval at the June/July Area Committee.

- 3.17 Appointment of the three Locality Manager posts, who will manage service delivery to meet the requirements of their respective area's SLAs, is due to take place in March. Area Chairs will be involved in part of the recruitment process for the posts, with the final decision on appointments however, remaining with senior officers. As soon as the appointments are formalised Members will be informed of who their Locality Manager is.
- 3.18 At their last meeting, Area Chairs discussed the potential roles of Deputy Area Chair, Environmental Champion and Environment Sub-group. Presently, some Area Committees have one or more of these roles, whilst others have none. It was agreed that whilst the roles will remain informal, i.e. have no decision making authority, they will be a valuable mechanism for dealing with the SLA and service delivery matters in a timely manner between formal Area Committee meetings. With regard to the function that a sub-group could undertake this would be especially relevant prior to and during the initial stages of the delegation. Once the delegation is in place and effective then local arrangements can be made as to how to deal with operational issues and the SLA, agreed as a wedge and/or between the Area Committees and their Locality Manager. In some cases the sub-group may be a time limited 'task and finish group', in other areas the sub-group may fulfill a more ongoing role of overseeing the SLA outside of formal Area Committee business.
- 3.19 The TCM will be developing a Keep Armley Tidy campaign during 2011, in conjunction with Christchurch primary school. A brief has been developed and the Family Support Worker is working with the children and teachers to design a poster, the closing date for entries being April 20th. The winning entry will then be displayed around Armley to coincide with a poster being displayed on the billboard near Branch Road in May.
- 3.20 Concerns have been expressed by visitors and traders regarding litter on Armley Town Street. Streetscene Services have agreed to deploy the street cleaning machine on a Sunday to deal with this issue. However further attention is required to improve the appearance of Town Street. Action Days are to be carried out jointly with the Police, dog warden patrols and the Environmental Action Team on Town Street, particularly to tackle dog fouling which has become a major problem in the area. The Police have confirmed that they have additional funding in place for extra resources to be put into Armley Town Street.
- 3.21 Through the Wythers Improvement Group, a litter project has been established with Raynville and Christ the King Primary schools to begin before Easter. Children from years 4 and 5 who live on the top Wyther area or bottom Wyther / Raynville area will be involved in a litter pick in the areas around the school to highlight the problem in the area. They will then be involved in a 'design a poster' competition and the winning entries will be printed onto stickers to be placed on wheelie bins in the local area. This work will complement the Area Committees funding of additional litter bins on the estate.

- 3.22 The Green Leeds funding for the Armley Moor project has been confirmed and Section 106 greenspace monies are expected to be agreed over the coming weeks. This provides a funding package which will allow the creation of new footpaths across the moor, new street furniture and railing along Town Street and a green gym. The Council will, for the next 10 years, undertake grass cutting of the moor.

Health & Wellbeing

- 3.23 The Armley Credit Union, which has been supported this year by the Area Committee, continues to grow. Final figures for quarter 4 (January – March 2011) were not available at the time of preparing this report.
- 3.24 Teenage conception rates in Inner West area are amongst the highest in Leeds. A draft Locality Action Plan has been devised to consult with young people and is now being re-formatted into a style suitable for young people and will be widely circulated. It has been suggested that the consultations should be linked with the young peoples' access to contraception events for which funding is available. There may be opportunities for young people to lead on these events and to be creative in terms of design and delivery. Consultation is to commence in April and be completed by the end of September. A West specific website <http://sites.google.com/site/leedswestnet/> has been set up for the community to use as an information exchange to promote services and events. The draft action plan will be available via this website to be used in consultation.
- 3.25 Both Armley and Bramley clusters have identified teenage pregnancy and obesity as their priority areas of work. Schools and partner agencies will be supported through the teenage pregnancy group to ensure that these priorities are translated into appropriate outcomes. Whitecote, Raynville and Hollybush schools within the Bramley cluster are to benefit from delivery of an eight week 'Girls Talk' transitions programme over the summer term, funded by the Bramley cluster and delivered by Getaway Girls.
- 3.26 The Specialist Inclusive Learning Centres (SILCs) are also likely to identify teenage pregnancy as a priority. However, there are some concerns about children accessing schools based activity funded sessions. Looked After Children / children attending SILCs often go to school away from where they live. This causes problems in identifying the relevant cluster to approach in terms of funding and how to claim. For example, the children at St. Catherine's Drive children's home attend five different schools across Leeds. They want to access after school services in Bramley as a group but the cluster will only consider funding for the child that attends Leeds West Academy. This has resulted in alternative funding being sought which is time consuming and does not address the key issue. Access to flexible transport is also a barrier as current transport contracts are for drop off and collection at fixed times, therefore not enabling children to stay on after school. This issue has been raised at a recent commissioning event.
- 3.27 A 'mystery shopper' exercise will take place, modelled on one that took place in East Leeds last year. Young people will be trained to mystery shop sexual health services in West Leeds such as pharmacies, 3-in-1 sites (pregnancy testing, C-card and Chlamydia testing) contraceptive and sexual health clinics. This will be co-ordinated by the West Yorkshire Youth Association and paid for by the PCT through Access to Contraception funding.

- 3.28 The PCT, supported by the Area Management Team and Health Improvement Officer, delivered an event entitled 'New Wortley New You' on 22nd February. The event offered debt advice, healthy eating advice and mid-life health checks at New Wortley Health Centre. It attracted a wide range of people and organisations giving out information on health and well-being and financial inclusion. The community association, in conjunction with Groundwork have been successful in applying for £40,000 funding to make improvements to the area outside the community centre. Further consultation will be carried out on this project over the coming months. It took place during half term to encourage families to attend. In addition, families were encouraged to sign up to the Change4life movement. The event was well attended with positive feedback from individuals and professionals.
- 3.29 The Health Improvement Officer and Armley Cluster Extended Services have been promoting use of the new St Bartholomews Community Kitchen through a launch event on 9th February 2011. Six family support workers from the Armley cluster of schools have expressed interest in training which will hopefully start by the end of April. The training will enable them to run community cooking groups with parents and carers, including consistent healthy eating messages, food safety and practical support including recipes and resources.
- 3.30 A Youth Café and arts and crafts activities have been established at the Lazer Centre to compliment the motorbikes and outdoor activities. Young people regularly volunteer and are positively engaged. The Youth Service are working on improving relationships with local young people to get them involved with running of the centre and are working towards establishing a young peoples' committee.
- 3.31 A second co-hort of young women have taken part in a Baby Reality course which has enabled them to discuss the nature of relationships and what they want from a healthy relationship. This has increased confidence and decreased aggression that some of the young women show to each other. These young women are also planning awareness raising activities for other young people in the use of contraception as part of the West Leeds teenage conception strategy.

Learning

- 3.32 The West Leeds Coaching Scholarship scheme has been operating positively in Inner West. One unemployed young man from Armley has no affiliation to a club but has ambition to work or volunteer in sport. He has attended first aid training and started his football level 1 training and child protection training in late March. Another young man from Bramley is attached to Ebenezer Table Tennis Club and has attended a senior level 3 coaching course. He is now qualified and is coaching for his club.
- 3.33 Youth Services have developed a good relationship with the Armley cluster of schools. Packages of activities have been produced and distributed to all head teachers via the Cluster Co-ordinator, resulting in a very busy half term with two primary schools using the Lazer Centre.
- 3.34 Currently the Youth Service runs eight sessions in Bramley - these are stable although new young people attend each week The Bramley enhanced generic Youth Club is the corner stone of the work, attracting up to 40 young people each Tuesday

evening. This provision is open to all aged 13 to 17. The session is constructive in its own right and also serves to enable consultation with young people and signpost them into other Youth Service sessions or to other providers. Other entry points are via referrals through other agencies and occasional outreach work.

- 3.35 Workers engage with a range of young people from those who have been victims of bullying to challenging young people and those who find themselves NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training). A key aspect is the involvement of seven volunteers who bring many skills and greatly enhance the work

Thriving Communities

- 3.36 A detailed community safety update report is presented elsewhere on this agenda.
- 3.37 Members should note that planning permission has now been granted for the Area Committee funded CCTV camera on Broadlea Hill. It is anticipated that the system will be installed and operational by the end of April.
- 3.38 The Alert Box scheme on Armley Town Street is continuing to prove successful. The Alertbox company has asked the TCM whether the Armley system could be showcased to other towns who may be interested. It is hoped that this will raise the profile of Armley.
- 3.39 Speeding is currently an issue on Armley Town Street with several complaints being received. Traffic Management are considering accident figures and potential traffic calming solutions, although there is currently no funding available for such a scheme.
- 3.40 A review of services dealing with anti-social behaviour has now been completed. A new three team approach will mean that case officers deal with issues from reporting to resolution and will team up with ALMO neighbourhood management officers. Leeds' new approach is being scrutinized by central government as a possible model to roll out nationwide.

West Leeds Gateway (WLG) Programme

- 3.41 The WLG regeneration programme has been reviewed in light of the priorities of the coalition government and limited scope for public sector funding contributions. For the next five years, the focus will be on projects which can create and sustain economic growth and job creation and there will be a greater emphasis on working in partnership with the private sector.
- 3.42 A trial is to take place on 4th and 5th May in relation to the 2 Branch Road prosecution case brought forward by the Council in relation to the owners failure to comply with the Section 215 untidy land notice, advertising discontinuance notice and elements of the Listed Building notice served in 2008. The owner has expressed an interest in progressing a THI grant scheme and further information is to be provided over the coming months. However, the property owner will be required to complete all outstanding enforcement works prior to a grant offer being made.
- 3.43 Work is ongoing with the community to review the priorities identified within the New Wortley Community Garden. Meanwhile, the community are in the process of seeking the additional insurance cover required to operate the community garden and

Holdsforth Place. It is anticipated that work will recommence on the garden in early April and the community are arranging a community planting day.

- 3.44 A piece of work is to be undertaken to explore the issues currently facing businesses within the 'Canalside' employment area, identified within the West Leeds Gateway Supplementary Planning Document. This area extends along Armley Road from Armley town centre to Armley gyratory and future aspirations for the area. This will involve working with the Council's partners and businesses located in the area to prepare a strategy to sustain and develop the area to ensure it grows and continues to be the focus for employment for local people and being able to attract new and inward investment. While there are a large number of businesses operating in this area, little is currently known about their activity, scale, rate of employment and future aspirations. There are also a number of vacant sites and derelict buildings. The eastern fringe of this area is located close to the city centre, but connectivity is poor. This will be considered as part of the strategy.

Harmonious Communities

- 3.45 An 'Inspiring Leaders' course was designed in 2007 by Lead Change, based at the University of Manchester, to offer a bespoke training course that helps people leading and managing in the voluntary and community sector. Inspiring Leaders is designed to help participants enhance their leadership and management skills enabling them to be more effective in their roles and have a measurable impact on their organisations and the community.
- 3.46 Participants can apply for a free place on the programme (as this is funded by NHS Leeds through Leeds Community Health Development Network as part of their commitment to invest in local community development) if they volunteer or work in the voluntary and community sector for the benefit of communities in Inner West or Inner North West. The content is practical and participants will be encouraged to actively participate, debate, problem-solve and reflect. Organisations from Inner West such as Christchurch Armley Youth Project, Fairfield Community Partnership, Healthy Living Network Leeds and New Wortley Community Association have signed up to the course which will run on Wednesdays for five weeks from 23rd March to 20th April and culminating in a graduation ceremony in May. The Area Management Team has assisted with nominating organisations and individuals who could benefit from this course.
- 3.47 The football group at Armley Leisure Centre on a Tuesday night has been well supported and Area Committee funding has enabled the project to continue for another year. Two Leeds United coaches for the next 20 weeks instructing and coaching the young people. At least 40 young people of various ages have been attending from a variety of different neighbourhoods.
- 3.48 The girls group from the Wythers estate have completed their self defence training and have received accreditation locally and nationally.
- 3.49 The adventure group at the Lazer Centre is going well and is attracting new young people that the Youth Service have not previously worked with. The group is planning to go out on expedition this year. The Swallow Hill youth club continues to attract reasonable numbers of young people. The young people have taken part in cooking competitions, sports events and have been on several trips. The group have also achieved accreditation.

- 3.50 The New Wortley Youth Club is now working well with support from PCSOs and local volunteers. A core group of attendees has now been established and they are regularly taking part in positive activities.
- 3.51 A regular group from the Sikh temple are currently taking part in an accredited 12 week motorbike programme. They will eventually achieve OCN unit in maintenance and a local Leeds Youth Award.
- 3.52 The Local Area Management Plan is achieving progress on the Fairfields estate, particularly around ideas to develop social enterprise from the centre and achieve financial stability, as well as encouraging community engagement. Partners have contributed to initiatives to promote financial inclusion and are working together to plan events particularly in the school holidays, in conjunction with Aramark. A royal wedding party is to take place at the centre on 29th April. A regular newsletter is produced and widely distributed, detailing forthcoming events.

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.

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 The Inner West Area Committee is asked 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