
Report of the West North West Area Leader

To: Inner West Area Committee

Date: 22nd June 2011

Subject: Area Progress 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 the Area Management work programme for Inner West Leeds and local contributions to Council priorities.

1.0 Purpose of This Report

1.1 This report informs Members of the progress against the Area Management work programme for Inner West Leeds and local contributions to Council priorities.

2.0 Background Information

2.1 The Area Committee has received regular reports on progress against the Inner West Area Delivery Plan. This was due to run until March 2011 and so is not now a current document. However, the actions contained within the ADP are still relevant as many of them are ongoing into 2011/12. This report therefore provides an update against relevant actions and partner agencies' progress on local improvements.

3.0 Main Issues

Culture

- 3.2 Inner and Outer West Area Committee funding for I Love West Leeds has now been confirmed for 2011/12. This year's rotating festival will take place in Bramley Falls Wood Park and feature a mix of performances and activities for all the family, free of charge to everyone. The main body of the festival will include three weeks of events across West Leeds. Highlights include outdoor film screenings in Armley, Farnley and Farsley, a music trail in Pudsey, family activities at Bramley Shopping Centre and an orchestra in Bramley Baths. Schools are creating customised washing lines and bunting for display during the festival. Full festival listings will be available in the brochure which are currently being printed and should be available from 8th June for distribution. Assistance may be required for distribution this year, either physically or electronically.
- 3.3 Throughout the year the festival continues to support the Citizens Orchestra for the over 60s with weekly sessions, the group will be performing at Pudsey library during the main festival. The festival continues to support Armley Mills with the monthly Family Film Club and Neighbourhood Action in Farnley with quarterly screenings for older people. A further long weekend of events in the late Autumn including the launch of a series of new radio plays written specially for the festival which will be distributed free of charge to older people across West Leeds. Full festival listings will be available on www.ilovewestleeds.co.uk.
- 3.3 The City Projects Team are working with City Development and the Museums Service to consider ways of revitalising Armley Mills. Work is continuing to prepare the Development Prospectus and Design and Development Brief for Armley Mills. Discussions are ongoing to identify the opportunity to bring new uses into the mill complex and any development potential on adjoining land including Dunkirk Hill. Opportunities for hydro-power are currently being explored and it is anticipated that the City Council will commission a feasibility study considering the potential for hydro-power at a number of sites across the city including Armley Mills. The procurement process to identify a contractor as part of the Re:fit project is ongoing. This will see energy reduction measures being introduced to 10 Council buildings across the city, of which Armley Mills is one.
- 3.4 As part of the Townscape Heritage Initiative scheme, Alan Gardner Associates has been appointed to present a series of events to highlight the benefits of using traditional materials and techniques for preserving historic buildings. The events are aimed at local residents who own historic buildings in Armley. However, other historic building property owners, architects, building surveyors, conservation officers and contractors are encouraged to attend. The first two events took place in May and there is an event each month from June to October 2011. This includes an event as part of the Armley Fun Day in July.

Enterprise and Economy

- 3.6 A full update report from the Armley Town centre Manager is included elsewhere on this agenda.
- 3.7 Jobcentre Plus has now restructured internally to reflect how it wishes to move forwards as a business. Delivery of services will be based around more flexible

intervention and actions under the 'Get Britain Working' initiative such as Work Clubs, Work Experience and Enterprise Allowance which helps unemployed people who want to start and grow their own business and offers access to a business mentor and financial support of around £2,000. Support will now be focused on three groups of customers:

- a) those who are furthest from the labour market and not engaged with Jobcentre Plus such as lone parents, carers, those on incapacity benefit and other health related benefits. These customers will be supported through a new Jobcentre Plus outreach team who will work with existing partners such as Leeds City Council to develop this support strategy across the city. The outreach team is being led by Christine Street
- b) Those customers who have recently become unemployed or generally have been registered up to 39 weeks. They will be supported by existing Jobcentre Plus contracted provision, Get Britain Working measures and new and existing partner arrangements. All customers in this category will be allocated a personal advisor for the life of their claim. There is a move away from other organisations and partners duplicating services for this group as Jobcentre Plus will manage them through to the point at which they gain employment. This would avoid a scenario whereby a customer receives support from five different organisations for completion of a C. V.
- c) Those customers who have been registered as unemployed for more than 39 weeks. They will be referred to the new Welfare Reform Programme, delivered by BEST and Ingeus in West Yorkshire, with the aim of the customer being managed back to work by these private companies who would be paid to deliver this service. Jobcentre Plus would not provide services to this group, again avoiding duplication.

3.8 Armley Credit Union, an initiative supported by the Inner West Area Committee, continues to grow. In the last quarter of 2010/11 (January – March 2011) there were 102 new adult members and 21 new junior members. This is comparable with 103 new adult members in the same period last year and 13 new junior members. The majority of new membership is from the postcode areas of LS12 1 (New Wortley), LS12 2 (Upper Armley / the Aviaries), LS12 3 (Little Scotland) and LS13 2 (Moorside / Sandfords).

Transport

- 3.9 In Armley ward, the Hill Top Road and Green Hill Road scheme is almost complete and initial informal monitoring suggests that the traffic calming is proving effective. Some issues need to be resolved regarding the beacons for the zebra crossing which are incomplete; this needs to be done in conjunction with SEC.
- 3.10 No objections were received to the advertised closure notice for Truro Street and Aviary Street and therefore the scheme will be issued by 10th June. It is anticipated that the contractor should be able to construct the scheme fairly soon after issue, albeit there is a two week lead in time for the demolition and reconstruction of part of a bin store wall.

- 3.11 The Tong Road pelican crossing is complete and according to local observations is being well used. The Hall Lane TRO and Canal Road refuge islands have been placed on hold due to the withdrawal of funding.
- 3.12 In Bramley, the Leeds and Bradford Road refuge islands were completed in mid May. Early observations are that vehicle speeds are down and crossing movements are up. A formal speed count will be undertaken in the coming weeks. The Broad Lane zebra crossing is also completed and is being well used, particularly by the school children of Hollybush School.
- 3.13 No further schemes are currently planned due to the withdrawal of the Traffic Management Capital budget beyond existing committed schemes. It is hoped that some area wide TROs will be progressed to deal with some of the outstanding issues at junctions and other problems with obstruction, although no funding has been identified at this stage.

Environment

- 3.14 A full update report on the delegation of Environmental Services to the Area Committee is included elsewhere on this agenda.
- 3.15 As agreed at a previous Area Committee, Councillors Hanley and Harper have been nominated to form an Inner West Environmental Sub Group. The first meeting of this group is expected to take place by the end of June and will focus on the Environmental Services delegation and potentially environmental issues in the wider sense.
- 3.16 Through the Wythers Improvement Group, a litter project has been established. A poster competition to address litter issues took place at Raynville Primary School on 8th June. This follows on from a litter pick that the school children carried out in the local area.
- 3.17 West North West Homes are planning to concentrate additional staff resources in the Wythers to focus on tenancy management issues, overgrown gardens and greenspaces.
- 3.18 The New Wortley Community Association has secured funding through Groundwork to make greenspace improvements to the area outside the community centre, between the centre and the parade of shops. The proposed works include re-surfacing footpaths, an informal play area and seating area, tree maintenance and bulb planting. The work is planned to take place in the autumn.
- 3.19 The New Wortley Residents Association have obtained sufficient public liability insurance cover to allow them to enter into a lease with the Council to implement a community garden on land at Holdforth Place / Clyde Walk. However, the Council's Legal Service has advised that as currently written, the residents association constitution does not allow the group to enter into tenancies and leases. Work is ongoing with the association to make the necessary changes to the constitution. A planting day was held in April which was well attended, but the community have been advised not to undertake further work to the garden until the tenancy has been finalised which it is hoped will be concluded over the course of the next month.

Health & Wellbeing

- 3.20 The Community Sports Officer will be promoting the Area Committee funded coaching scholarship to local clubs and organisations and inviting applications in June, with the scholarship starting in September.
- 3.21 The Community Sports holiday provision is currently being promoted and it is hoped to provide extended holiday provision at Armley Leisure Centre and Bramley Baths including fitness sessions for young people in community locations. Community Sports are also working with local clubs to offer holiday programmes including Wortley Boys, New Farnley CC, Farnley Falcons, Stanningley Rugby League and Esprit gymnastics club in Bramley.
- 3.22 Both Armley and Bramley clusters have identified teenage pregnancy and obesity as their priority areas of work. The teenage pregnancy Locality Action Plan is almost ready to go out to wider consultation. The idea is to use the young people's events to consult further on this and Interplay are interested in supporting this consultation. The events will now be organised as themed events – boys' and girls' events, rather than ward based as originally proposed. The aim is for young people to lead on the design and delivery of the event and to manage the budget.
- 3.23 The 'mystery shopper' initiative will be going ahead in West Leeds over the summer to identify areas for service improvement and particular issues that could feed into the Locality Action Plan. The training day for participants aged 13-25 has been booked for the 31st May at Pudsey Library. The Youth Service are leading on this and there has been a good level of interest so far. Young people will be given a £10 voucher for each service that they 'shop' and bus fares will be refunded.
- 3.24 The 'transitions' work for girls in the three primary schools – Raynville, Whitecote and Hollybush has now been booked for the summer term. This work is being funded by the Bramley cluster. Leeds West Academy has agreed to offer a summer camp[to the participating girls as well as follow up support throughout year seven for those most in need.
- 3.25 The Health Improvement Officer (HIO) has completed Armley Cook4life healthy living training for seven family support workers (FSWs) in the Armley cluster. She will be offering ongoing support to any cooking groups set up by the FSWs in order to maximise use of the St Bartholomew's community kitchen. All staff received training packs and support materials for future sessions.
- 3.26 The HIO has also promoted the Be Healthy Challenge child led Fun Days at the Healthy Schools meeting. The Armley cluster is to be offered staff training from the HIO in partnership with NHS Leeds for events to run in September / October. The HIO has also co-trained staff in some schools in the Bramley cluster on Be Healthy Challenge for events to run before the school year end.
- 3.27 The HIO also ran a Change4Life stand at the Fairfield Community Centre in April with a good level of interest. She also ran a Volunteer Walk Leader training course from the Public Health Resource Centre in Armley.
- 3.28 Men's Health Week is 13-19th June and as part of this Healthy Living Network Leeds is organising a comedy night with comedian John Ryan doing his show which focuses on male health related issues, dealing with serious issues in a humorous way. This

will take place on Wednesday 15th June at Stanningley SARLC from 7-8pm followed by a signposting, advice and information session. Tickets cost £3 and are available from Healthy Living Network or Stanningley SARLC.

- 3.29 A drugs project funded by West North West Homes Leeds has been running to stabilise vulnerable tenants on the Wythers, reduce the impact of drug abuse and prostitution and to build tenants' emotional resilience. However this project is due to end in June and drugs issues may therefore potentially escalate.
- 3.30 The Community Sports Service has secured central government funding for a three year project to target the bottom 20 'super output areas' particularly women, to increase their participation in sport. The project which is targeting women aged 25-45 years starts on Thursday mornings from 16th June at Armley Leisure Centre. It offers a 10 week off-peak Bodyline Card for £5 per week.

Thriving Communities

- 3.31 A detailed community safety update report is presented elsewhere on this agenda.
- 3.32 Members should note that planning permission has now been granted for the Area Committee funded CCTV camera on Broadlea Hill. YEDL completed their part of the work on Friday 3rd June. BT are in the process of finishing connections from the site to the Leedswatch control room and this was due to be completed by Wednesday 8th June. The lines will be configured within the control room and tested. The camera is due to go live by the end of June.
- 3.33 A Community Safety Action Day is planned for the Wythers for 8th June 4-7pm in the bottom Wythers / Raynviles area to tackle some of the current issues around anti-social behaviour and hate crime.
- 3.34 With regards to 2 Branch Road, a trial was set to take place on 4th and 5th May in relation to the prosecution case which has been brought against the owner by the City Council in relation to non-compliance with the S215 untidy land and listed building notices served in 2008. Various offers were made by the defence to settle out of court, but the Council held firm. The building owner attended court on 4th May and pleaded guilty. Sentencing was adjourned until 29th June and the owner told the court that he would undertake the necessary works to comply with the notices in advance of sentencing. Some work has been completed, but further work is necessary if the owner does intend to comply. The owner has indicated separately that he is prepared to accept a THI Grant Agreement and that he has spoken to third parties about selling the building, although a sale is not being progressed at the present time.

Harmonious Communities

- 3.35 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. Twenty one participants took up free places on the programme, funded by NHS Leeds through Leeds Community Health Development Network as part of their commitment to invest in local community development. Many of these

were community leaders from the Inner West area. A graduation ceremony took place on 19th May at St George's Centre in the centre of Leeds.

- 3.36 The Local Area Management Plan is achieving progress on the Fairfields estate. The May / June issue of the newsletter been produced and disseminated. An Easter event was held on 12th April which was very well attended. A four week free cookery course, funded by NHS is due to start on 19th June from 9:30 – 13:30 and will be delivered by BARCA. A gardening scheme for tenants is being developed by West North West homes whereby old and vulnerable tenants will qualify for this gardening service for a small charge. Fairfield Community Centre will soon have an internet café room which will be open for the community to use. A Day of Action will take place in conjunction with Aramark on 24th June at Fairfields Community Centre. This will involve 75 volunteers working to improve the centre and grounds.
- 3.37 It is suggested that it would be useful to have an update report back to the Area Committee at its September meeting on the housing development on the Fairfields estate.
- 3.38 Work is also ongoing with the community to refresh the Community Plan for New Wortley to ensure it reflects their current aspirations and priorities.

4.0 Implications for Council Policy and Governance

- 4.1 The work programme of the Area Management Team is steered by relevant Council policies.
- 4.2 Members are consulted on projects and initiatives within their wards. In addition, each Leeds Strategic Plan theme has a Member champion to progress work in this area. An Environmental sub group has now been established and the key issues are included within the 'Environment' section of this report.

5.0 Legal and Resource Implications

- 5.1 In order to deliver the Area Committee's functions, funding is available via Well Being budgets and the community centres budget. 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 in the fact that the Area Committee's role here is only to influence, develop and consult. However, Wellbeing funding has resourced some projects e.g. community engagement, area based regeneration schemes and conservation area reviews.

6.0 Conclusions

- 6.1 The report has provided an update on a range of issues across the Inner West Area including those delivered by the Area Management Team and its partners. The overarching aims of the Inner West work programme is to:
- Improve the quality and value for money of Council service delivery
 - Improve the quality of democracy and citizen participation
 - 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 Progress reports

Background Papers

None