

Report of the Assistant Chief Executive

Inner North West Area Committee

Date: 14 July 2011

Subject: Hyde Park Neighbourhood Improvement Programme

<p>Electoral Wards Affected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Headingley • Hyde Park and Woodhouse <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ward Members consulted (referred to in report)</p>	<p>Specific Implications For:</p> <p>Equality and Diversity <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Community Cohesion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Narrowing the Gap <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	
<p>Council Function <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Delegated Executive Function available for Call In <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Delegated Executive Function not available for Call In Details set out in the report <input type="checkbox"/></p>

Executive Summary

This report provides members with an update on the delivery of the Hyde Park Neighbourhood Improvement Programme. It will describe the steps taken to develop programme management arrangements and will highlight the progress made in consulting with residents and partners in the development of the Neighbourhood Improvement Plan (NIP).

The report will recommend that the Area Committee note the progress made in the implementation of this programme of work and approve the Neighbourhood Improvement Plan themes.

1.0 Purpose Of This Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- Advise the committee on the progress made in the development of the Hyde Park Neighbourhood Board and Tasking Team.
- Highlight the key actions taken by partners as part of the delivery of activity in the Hyde Park area.
- Present for approval the Hyde Park improvement themes.

2.0 Background Information

2.1 In June 2010, a delegation of Hyde Park residents presented a deputation to full Council outlining a number of issues facing the Hyde Park neighbourhood including; housing density, crime, poverty and environmental concerns.

- 2.2 In response to this deputation, the Executive Board recommended that a programme of targeted interventions be developed to address these issues through closer partnership working between the public sector, universities, voluntary organisations and the local community.
- 2.3 In response to a request from Executive Board, the Inner North West Area Committee in February 2011 approved the launch of the Hyde Park Neighbourhood Board to oversee the work of the Hyde Park Tasking Team and the delivery of a programme neighbourhood improvements.

3.0 Main Issues

3.1 Hyde Park Neighbourhood Board

The Hyde Park Neighbourhood Board provides the strategic direction for work in Hyde Park and has been established to drive forward a programme of neighbourhood improvements. The Board is chaired by Cllr Peter Gruen, Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Neighbourhoods and Housing and includes representation from elected members, a broad range of partners including council services, resident associations, local voluntary and faith organisations, landlords, universities and their student unions.

The Board meets bi-monthly and has met twice since the last report to Area Committee in February 2011. At its next meeting on 26 July The Hyde Park Board will be asked to approve the draft Neighbourhood Improvement Plan and consider the findings of the Hyde Park Neighbourhood Survey conducted in June 2011.

3.2 Hyde Park Tasking Team

The Hyde Park Tasking Team provides the operational management of community safety and environmental actions as part of the Hyde Park neighbourhood programme. Taking its direction from the Hyde Park Board, it meets on a rolling 6-weekly basis to direct the work of the following teams within Hyde Park:

- Streetscene (refuse and cleansing)
- Environmental Action Team
- Anti-Social Behaviour Team
- Area Management
- Leeds University Access and Community Engagement Office
- Leeds University Student Union
- Leeds Metropolitan University Students' Union
- West Yorkshire Police Neighbourhood Policing Team

Most recently the Hyde Park Tasking Team has led in the implementation of a Street Audit in May which identified hotspots for litter, graffiti, flytipping, waste in gardens etc. At its meeting in May, the Hyde Park board recommended an intensive programme of graffiti removal and a range of other actions in response to the street audit, which the tasking team will co-ordinate.

3.3 Community Engagement

The Neighbourhood Board will oversee the development of a programme of community engagement which will be a key feature its work in the Hyde Park Area. An overall community engagement plan for the Inner North West will presented for approval by the Area Committee in September and will include the following objectives relating specifically to the Hyde Park Neighbourhood Programme:

- To inform and gain the views from the local community about the Hyde Park Neighbourhood Management Programme
- To involve residents in decisions about service delivery and improvement
- To understand the diversity of the local community and tailor communications to specific audiences where required.

3.4 Key Achievements To Date

The Hyde Park Board acknowledges the importance of demonstrating real improvements for the Hyde Park area and looks forward to a full programme of service responses as part of the Neighbourhood Improvement Plan. There are however some recent achievements which the Board wish to draw to the attention of the Area Committee:

- The Formation of the Hyde Park Board: The board has met three times now and will provide strong leadership and direct influence over resources in relation to community safety and environmental issues.
- Priority Setting Conference: A well attended conference in March has been instrumental in setting the strategic direction of the Hyde Park Neighbourhood Programme. The identification of the draft neighbourhood improvement themes as set out in section 4.0 below was a key outcome of this conference.
- Hyde Park Street Audit: A street-by-street audit of environmental conditions was completed in April which will set an important benchmark for the board to use to measure how the programme is improving the quality of the local environment. Hot spots for issues like litter, graffiti, waste in gardens and bins left on the footpath have been used to target the Council's cleansing and enforcement teams.
- Hyde Park Neighbourhood Survey: The first annual Hyde Park neighbourhood survey was in the process of being implemented when this report was produced and has already met its target of 400 response. Further work is required to analyse the findings of this survey which will play a key role in measuring resident perception of crime and environmental issues in the area.

3.5 Link to Area Committee

The Area Committee has a delegated responsibility for neighbourhood management and co-ordination as follows:

- to agree priority neighbourhoods within the Inner North West and
- to agree and monitor Neighbourhood Improvement Plans for the Committee's area.

The Hyde Park Neighbourhood Board will function as a programme steering group and will seek the Area Committee's approval on the selection of service priorities for Hyde Park and the development of the Neighbourhood Improvement Plan. Where necessary the Hyde Park Board will send key messages for approval by the Area Committee.

The Area Committee has made a contribution of £19,568 in 2011-12 towards the delivery of neighbourhood improvements in the Hyde Park Area. Once the Hyde Park Board has been able to consider the findings from the recent Neighbourhood Survey, proposals will be put forward setting out how this funding will be used to best effect.

4.0 Neighbourhood Improvement Themes

A key part of the Council's efforts to implement Neighbourhood Management is a focus on achieving measurable outcomes which relate to the specific needs of the target neighbourhoods.

Having carefully considered the range of issues affecting the area, the Hyde Park Neighbourhood Board has identified a set of three neighbourhood improvement themes for approval by the Area Committee: Community Safety, Environment, and Health and Wellbeing. Sections 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3 below describe the outcome for each theme which the programme should seek to achieve and a set of measurable objectives:

A fourth theme of parking was identified at the board meeting in May. Further discussions are required with the Board and service managers to identify what objectives relating to parking should be included in the Hyde Park Neighbourhood Improvement Plan

4.1 Community Safety

Outcome: A Hyde Park Neighbourhood which is a safe place to live and where people feel safe in the community.

Objectives:

- **Improved Response to Burglary:** Hyde Park represents one of Leeds most consistent hotspots for burglary. The Police will continue their efforts to target local burglaries and will work closely with key partners to improve communication to residents and students about securing their property. A burglary reduction plan will be developed in conjunction with partners over the summer with a view to implementing the plan from October onwards.
- **Improved Response to Anti-Social Behaviour:** ASB issues are having a considerable impact on quality of life in the Hyde Park area. A programme of actions will be recommended to address persistent graffiti, noise, rowdy behaviour and arson (bin fires).

4.2 Environment

Outcome: A clean and tidy Hyde Park that the whole community can enjoy and take pride in.

Objectives:

- **Improved Refuse Collection and Cleansing:** The Hyde Park area presents significant challenges to the delivery of an effective refuse collection and cleansing service. The Hyde Park programme will look to drive forward service improvements which are responsive to unique social and geographic characteristics of the Hyde Park Area and they are undertaken with a high degree of quality and efficiency.
- **Improved Environmental Enforcement:** The neighbourhood improvement programme will seek to co-ordinate a joined up approach to environmental enforcement in the Hyde Park Area ensuring that residents, tenants, landlords and private businesses adhere to relevant environment policy and that issues of litter, fly-tipping, waste in gardens and other similar issues do not negatively impact the area.

4.3 Health and Wellbeing

Outcome: A Hyde Park neighbourhood where people with poor health outcomes have good access to health services and financial advice.

Objectives

- **Improved Understanding of Health Inequalities:** A clearer view of health and social care issues amongst vulnerable groups in Hyde Park is needed. The programme will seek to survey these vulnerable groups to better understand their barriers to accessing public health services.
- **Increased Access to Health Services:** Hyde Park has a very low take up of health checks in the over 40 population. The programme will seek to take steps to increase the number of people accessing health checks enabling them to make positive choices about health
- **Increased Access to Financial Advice:** There is a direct correlation between poor health outcomes and poverty. The Hyde Park Programme will seek to increase the percentage of vulnerable individuals accessing debt and financial advice.

5.0 Implications For Council Policy and Governance

There are no implications for council policy and governance.

6.0 Legal and Resource Implications

There are no specific legal implications for the Hyde Park Neighbourhood Programme, however there are implications for the allocation of mainstream resources. Staff resources relating to environmental enforcement and cleansing in particular will need to be drawn from other areas to respond to issues in Hyde Park.

The Inner North West Area Committee approved a grant of £19,568 of Wellbeing Revenue at its meeting in March 2011. The Hyde Park Board will consider how this funding can best be targeted to respond to local priorities and will seek the approval of the Area Committee on the implementation of these proposals.

7.0 Conclusions

The development of the Hyde Park Neighbourhood Programme represents a positive step forward towards addressing the key issues affecting the Hyde Park area. The work of the Hyde Park Board and the Hyde Park Tasking Team offer a robust approach to managing and co-ordinating this programme of work.

8.0 Recommendations

The Area Committee is requested to;

- A. Note the progress made in relation to the development of the Hyde Park Neighbourhood Board and Hyde Park Tasking Team as described in section 3.0
- B. Note the emerging Hyde Park neighbourhood improvement themes as set out in 4.0

Background Papers

- 13 October 2010 report to Executive Board titled: Response to Deputation Regarding Social Deprivation and Community Cohesion in Hyde Park
- Area Committee Roles