

Report of Area Leader - South East Leeds

Report to South Leeds (Inner) Area Committee

Date: Wednesday 21st September 2011

Subject: The Major Benefits and Added Value of Capital Well Being Funding in South East Leeds

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Beeston & Holbeck City & Hunslet Middleton Park
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. This report presents to Members the major benefits and added value of capital Well being funding in South East Leeds.
2. It describes how the capital Well being budget in the South East has been spent, for what purpose and the benefits gained from its expenditure.
3. Comments will be fed back to Area Chairs Forum and the Executive Board.

Recommendations

4. Members are asked to note the contents of this report and make comment as appropriate.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To present to Members the major benefits and added value of capital Well being funding in South East Leeds.

2 Background information

- 2.1 This report was provided in response to a request by Cllr Gruen at a recent Area Leaders meeting to explore the added value of well being funding for capital projects. Cllr Gruen requested that this report be presented at the September round of Area Committees for Members to note and offer an opportunity to comment on. Comments will be feed back to Area Chairs Forum and the Executive Board.

3 Budget and expenditure

- 3.1 The capital budget for the 6 years between 2004 and end financial year 2010/11 is attached in **Appendix 1**. A budget of some £2.1m has been spent on 233 projects. 142 projects (60%) have been council led. 91(40%) projects have been led by partners. In monetary terms, £1.35m (64%) has been spent on Council led projects and £0.72m (36%) on partner led projects. In summary, one third of capital well being funding has been provided to external partners.

4. Benefits

- 4.1 A conservatively estimated £1.5m additional funding has been leveraged as match funding for capital works. This figure does not include in kind contributions from volunteers or officer time from Leeds City Council core services which would increase this value. Many of these projects simply would not have taken place without the Area Committee capital budget being available and targeted against local priorities and the budget provides for at least five major benefits –

1. Developing community capacity and pride
2. Sealing the deal
3. Leverage
4. Implementing planned local actions
5. Supporting council departments and partners

4.2 Developing community capacity and pride

- 4.2.1 Funding has been available to develop community capacity, pride and generating a sense of belonging often influenced by local residents. For example,
 - Following the Area Committee contribution to support development works at Smithy Lane Recreational Ground, Tingley Tenants and Residents Association played a significant role in both the design and development of the site, working in partnership with Parks and Countryside to secure the £132,000 leverage from a number of funders.

- The capital budget matched funds secured by Groundwork Leeds to improve Primrose Valley, Halton. The project raised community spirit and engagement with local volunteers helping to deliver the improvements local people asked for; it also allowed volunteers to provide leadership by actively participating in the decision making, the delivery of the project and the final results of the improvements.
- Improved access to the Clarksfield Allotments allowed more community members to access the site and learn how to run an allotment. The increased number of local people involved in the site has helped the site flourish and train other community members to manage the site effectively.

4.3 Sealing the deal

4.3.1 In some cases capital well being has gap funded projects for the project to proceed. For example,

- Robin Hood Athletic Football Club had secured £35,000 funding for new changing facilities to enable them to run a ladies team and improve facilities for the junior teams. The £5,000 approved by the Area Committee completed the funding pot, allowing the project to be completed and providing an important facility for local community groups and provide opportunities for physical activities for all ages.
- Great and Little Preston Village Hall Committee secured £12,000 funding from Biffa Award, Great and Little Preston Parish Council and Coalfields Regeneration Trust for improvements to the flooring, heating and kitchen facilities at Great Preston Village Hall. £10,000 capital Well being funding completed the funding cocktail and allowed the works to be completed, benefiting a number of local groups who use the venue including a luncheon clubs and dance classes.
- As part of the building of the New Bewerley Community School, a Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) was built. £15,000 Area Committee capital funding for floodlighting supported the school in making the MUGA available for wider community use.

4.4 Leverage

4.4.1 Conversely, the Area Committee funding has acted as a catalyst to levering in funding from other sources. For example,

- Area Committee contribution to works at the sports pitches in Methley has led to both the FA and Rugby Football League agreeing to provide financial support to complete the scheme, the total amount is still to be finalised but is expected to exceed £100k.
- £112,000 Section 106 funding matched £30,707 Well being funding to complete significant improvements to Windmill Community Centre, Rothwell. This included internal and external painting, roofing repairs, refurbishment of ladies and gents toilets and installation of a disabled ramp, lift and toilet.

4.5 **Implementing planned local actions**

4.5.1 Well being funding has enabled the Area Committee to implement key local developmental actions – particularly, environmental projects and community safety activities. For example,

- Improvements to greenspace and enhanced public realm in Whitkirk at the Hollyshaw Lane junction near Temple Newsam Park. At this location capital funding was used to replace old benches, provide new flagging and replace the plants and hedges with a species that was more easily maintained. As a result the area looks a lot better and is maintained to a better standard than previously.
- Morley and Rothwell Neighbourhood Policing Teams have used capital funding to purchase a Speed Indicator Device and a Pro Laser Device. The police have deployed the devices in targeted areas to reduce speeding and increase safety for both pedestrians and motorists. The SID project in particular has provided the Police with more opportunities to work with local community groups.
- As in other parts of the city, binyards are a particular problem in Beeston Hill, causing numerous issues to council services and local residents. Funding was provided to clear and repair the sites, and lower the height of the front walls. This has had a positive impact by increasing visibility into the yards and improving the appearance of the area. Proper use of the yards helps streetscene services to be able to complete their work more effectively and reduce the need for costly intensive clean ups.

4.6 **Supporting council departments and partners**

4.6.1 The Area Committee has been able to support our own council departments and supplement the funding of partner agencies to improve their services to the local community. For example,

- CCTV linked to LeedsWatch has been installed in the main shopping areas of Outer East Leeds including Garforth, Kippax and Halton Village. Halton Village in particular has had serious problems with ASB and vandalism to shops. Reports from tasking team in the area confirm that these problems have greatly reduced with Halton Village no longer registering as a hotspot area for the Neighbourhood Policing Team. A survey was carried out following the installation and respondents all said they felt safer both shopping and visiting restaurants, especially on an evening.
- Improvements to 'bring sites' in Morley and Rothwell Town Centre were delivered by Environmental Services encouraging recycling and improving the visual appearance of the recycling sites. Capital well being contributed to hard standings, new banks and attractive screening. Recycling rates have increased and the visual appearance was greatly improved.
- Funding to improve football pitches at Beeston St Anthony's Football Club supported this community group to provide out of school activities for children and young people.

5 Corporate Considerations

5.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 5.1.1 Projects developed are in consultation with Elected Members and local communities. Approval for a contribution from the Well being budget is secured at Area Committee.

5.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 5.2.1 Community groups submitting a project proposal requesting funding from the Well being budget have an equal opportunities policy and as part of the application process, complete a section outlining which equality group the project will work with, how equality and cohesion issues have been considered.

5.3 Council Policies and City Priorities

- 5.3.1 The projects outlined in this report contribute to targets and priorities set out in the following council policies:

Vision For Leeds

Children and Young Peoples Plan

Health and Well being City Priority Plan

Safer and Stronger Communities Plan

Regeneration City Priority Plan

5.4 Resources and Value for Money

- 5.4.1 There are no resource implications as a result of this report.
- 5.4.2 The report presents the added value of capital Well being funding in South East Leeds.

5.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

- 5.5.1 All decisions taken by the Area Committee in relation to the delegated functions from Executive Board are eligible for Call In.
- 5.5.2 There are no key or major decisions being made that would be eligible for Call In.
- 5.5.3 There are no legal implications as a result of this report.

5.6 Risk Management

- 5.6.1 This report provides an update for Members and therefore no risks are identifiable. Any projects funded through Well being budget complete a section identifying risks and solutions as part of the application process.

6 Conclusion

- 6.1 The capital Well Being budget has provided a valuable opportunity for Elected Members to work with residents and local community groups in the development, maintenance and enhancement of the physical infrastructure in their communities. Often residents and community groups have supported the delivery and assured the sustainability of these projects themselves. This engagement has empowered local residents and confirmed their role as community leaders alongside local Councillors. The multifaceted benefits - articulated above - are a powerful reminder of added value and the judicious, timely and targeted use of locally delegated budgets to make a difference.

7 Recommendations

- 7.1 Members are asked to note the contents of the report and make comment as appropriate.

8 Background documents

- 8.1 The Major Benefits and Added Value of Capital Well Being Funding in South East Leeds, Area Leaders Meeting, 19th July 2011

South East Budget and Expenditure

1. Budget

Between 2004 and 2010 the three South East Area Committees received the following capital allocations:

Area Committee	Capital (£)	Commitment at July 2011
Outer East	£725K	Fully committed.
Outer South	£683K	£41.2K uncommitted.
Inner South	£700K	Fully committed.

2. Expenditure

Area Committee	Inner South	Outer South	Outer East
Number of projects supported	61	76	96
Largest single project	Hunslet Library £70.5K	Smithy Lane Recreation Ground £43K	Methley Sports pitches £83.K
Council led projects	22 projects £269.5K	50 projects £447K	70 projects £633.2K
Partner led projects	39 projects £430.5K	26 projects £194.8K	26 projects £91.8K