

**Report of West North West Area Leader**

**Report to North West (Outer) Area Committee**

**Date: 26<sup>th</sup> September 2011**

**Subject: The Major Benefits and Added Value of Capital Well Being Funding  
in West North West Leeds**

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):all West North West wards	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input 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 is provided in response to a request at a recent Area Leader's meeting to explore the added value of Well-being funding for capital projects. It describes how the capital Well-being budget in the West North West (WNW) has been spent, for what purpose and the benefits gained from its expenditure.
2. The capital budget for Outer North West for the years between 2004 and the end of the financial year 2010/11 is attached at Appendix 1. Consolidated figures for each of the four WNW Area Committees are attached at Appendix 2. A budget of almost £2.4m has been spent on 203 projects across WNW. Within the Outer North West area, nearly £596,000 has been spent on 57 projects.
3. Area Committee Well-being funding across WNW has levered in a total of almost £3.2m internal funding and £5.6m external funding, enabling projects to proceed. Within Outer North West specifically, Area Committee Well-being capital funding has levered in £1,265,000 internal funding and £736,000 from external sources.

**Recommendations**

To note the contents of the report.

## **1 Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 This report is provided in response to a request by Councillor Gruen at a recent Area Leader's meeting to explore the added value of Well-being funding for capital projects. It describes how the capital Well-being budget in the West North West has been spent, for what purpose and the benefits gained from its expenditure

## **2 Background information**

- 2.1 When Area Committees were established in 2004, they were provided with revenue and capital budgets to improve local service provision and support local projects. Revenue budgets have been delegated to Area Committees each year whilst capital funding was initially provided as a three year funding stream (2004/5 – 2006/7) and then as an annual allocation from 2007/8 until 2009/10. There was no further capital budget allocation in 2010/11 or 2011/12. Capital funding can be used for development of or refurbishment of local authority owned buildings or property or community assets.

## **3 Main issues**

- 3.1 Within West North West, an estimated £8.8m additional funding has been attracted 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.
- 3.2 Across West North West there are numerous examples of the Area Committee leveraging in funding from both Council departments and external sources. The Area Committee and match funding has helped to implement planned local actions and assisted Council departments and partners in service improvements and delivering local projects. The wide range of capital funded projects have helped to:
- develop community capacity
  - address community safety issues
  - enhancing town and district centres
  - improve the environment, green spaces and parks
  - enhance community assets
  - deliver highways repairs and improvements and parking schemes and encourage sustainable transport schemes
- 3.3 Outlined below are a range of projects funded through Area Committee capital budgets across West North West to deliver these improvements. Although this is not a comprehensive list, it highlights the range and breadth of schemes that have been delivered and explains the benefits of the schemes. A full list of capital projects supported in Outer North West can be found at Appendix 1.

## **Developing Community Capacity**

3.4 Area Committee funds have been used to develop community capacity, for example:

- The Inner North West Area Committee provided £19,000 towards the refurbishment of Sandford Road play area in Kirkstall. The Guilbert and Sandfords Residents Association led the community consultation for the design of the scheme and secured £129,000 Big Lottery Bid. The project was completed in 2010 and replaced the toddlers' play facilities; created basketball youth space and provided attractive landscaped areas. The local community played a key role in the success of the project and developed their skills in community leadership and fundraising through their involvement.
- The Lower Wortley Road improvement scheme in Outer West provided physical improvements to the street scene to regenerate the area and improve community safety and the perception of safety. Area Committee funding of £28,000 was utilised to enable the scheme to go ahead with nearly £3m capital programme funding.
- In Inner West, the Area Committee fully funded a scheme to restore the horse trough and village pump and repair railings to improve the appearance of Bramley Town Street and the promotion and preservation of Bramley's history.

## **Community Safety**

3.5 Community safety issues continue to be a priority across West North West. Area Committee funding has been utilised to deliver a number of initiatives to improve community safety and has enabled or enhanced partner agencies' schemes, for example:

- The reduction of crime and the fear of crime continues to be a priority for West North West and in 2009 the Inner and Outer North West Area Committees jointly funded the Capture House Initiative. The Outer North West contributed £2,500 and the Inner North West £6,000 to the initiative. The Capture House project used Police surveillance and trackable assets to secure high profile arrests in neighbourhoods where burglary reduction is a priority.
- Inner and Outer West Area Committees have both contributed £25,000 to support the development of Safety Central in Bramley. The old Bramley Fire Station was transformed into fire and community safety headquarters and a regional state of the art visitor centre to promote fire and community safety to young people. This almost £3m scheme was attracted into West North West Leeds, partly due to Area Committee funding.
- The Outer West Area Committee contributed £4,700 to a gating scheme at Pembroke Road, Pudsey to combat anti-social behaviour and criminal activity. This was match funded by Community Safety.

## **Enhancing Town & District Centres**

3.6 The West North West has benefited from several improvement schemes through the Town & District Centre (T&DC) Regeneration Programme, such as Otley, Yeadon, Guiseley, Armley, Pudsey and Farsley. In addition the Area Committees have contributed funds from their Well-being capital budgets to enhance these schemes and deliver other improvements, for example:

- The Outer North West contributed £20,000 towards Otley Market Place T&DC Regeneration scheme. The remainder of the total cost of the scheme of £220,000 was provided by the Town & District Centre Regeneration Scheme. The scheme included the installation of five CCTV cameras, the lifting, cleaning and re-laying of the stone setts in the historic market place and the installation of new street furniture including benches, directional finger posts, an information board, bins, bollards and cycle racks. The scheme has helped to improve and enhance Otley town centre as a shopping destination and visitor attraction and provided much needed improvements for the area.
- The Pudsey T&DC scheme delivered the refurbishment of the market, car park improvements, architectural lighting to the town hall, installation of a bus lay-by to reduce congestion and installation of artwork to the leisure centre. The Outer West Area Committee has contributed £10,000 capital funding to enhance the overall scheme by part funding the bus lay-by along with £10,000 T&DC funding and £20,000 Local Transport Plan funding.
- The Inner North West Area Committee provided the critical final contribution of £45,000 for a project totalling £65,000 which provided improvements to the Woodsley Road district centre. The aim of this scheme was to promote the shopping area on this road as a vibrant, attractive local centre and resulted in road resurfacing, introduction of a Traffic Regulation Order and replaced street lighting. The money also improved pedestrian access, hanging baskets, benches and other features to the central area and green space improvements adjacent to a nearby car park recently brought back into LCC ownership

## **Improving the Environment, Green Spaces and Parks**

3.7 A number of schemes which have improved the environment across West North West have been supported through Area Committee capital funding, for example:

- Bin yards create a number of problems in the Inner North West and Inner West as they often accumulate waste and provide hiding places for criminal activity. The Inner North West Area Committee has been systematically investing in capital improvements to bin yards to lower walls which make them easier to clean and less attractive to criminal activity. In Inner West, a scheme on the Fairfields estate in Bramley was delivered through £55,000 from the Safer and Stronger Communities Fund and £15,000 Area Committee funding.
- The Outer North West Area Committee provided £20,000 of funding towards environmental and access enhancements in Chevin Forest Park. High visitor pressure on the car parks meant that two in particular were in need of re-surfacing with a more durable surface. A wheelchair access ramp had

already been built from Surprise View car park but an improved section was needed to connect this to two new disabled parking bays. Minor re-surfacing was required at Lower Shawfield car park to also provide better wheelchair access. The project was undertaken by Parks & Countryside in partnership with local voluntary groups.

- The refurbishment of Tyersal Park play area was delivered by Parks & Countryside following an award of £80,000 from the Children's Big Lottery Fund and £20,000 from the Outer West Area Committee. The Area Committee funding allowed the scheme to be developed to a high specification and stimulating play equipment provided.
- Environmental improvements to Rodley towpath have been undertaken using Outer West Area Committee funding of £11,000. This was supported by match funding of £25,500 from Ward Based Initiative, Highways, British Waterways and Section 106 funding.

### **Enhancing Community Assets**

3.8 Area Committee funds have been used to support and develop community assets across the West North West, particularly in priority neighbourhoods, for example:

- The Inner North West Area Committee provided £100,000 of Well-being capital funding in support of Headingley Development Trust's efforts to refurbish the former Headingley Primary School to run as a social enterprise. This investment was matched by a further £500,000 loan from Leeds City Council and £500,000 of grant funding provided by Adventure Capital Fun, making the project the largest capital scheme in Inner North West. A key element of the scheme was the successful community asset transfer which resulted in the community centre provision moving from the Headingley Community Centre on North Lane to the New HEART (Headingley Enterprise and Arts) Centre. Refurbishments to the former school were completed in January 2011 and the new HEART Centre now provides training and meeting rooms, enterprise catalyst space, and a café and provides Leeds City Council's community centre provision for the area.
- In 2007, the Outer North West Area Committee contributed £20,000 towards a £376,000 construction project that created a large extension and link to the Grade II listed building of St Margaret's Church in Horsforth. The new building provided much needed community facilities for the area incorporating large and small meeting rooms, an office, and a large kitchen with modern facilities and toilets with access for the disabled and baby changing facilities.
- The Outer West Area Committee provided funding of just over £7,000 for the refurbishment of Swinnow Community Centre. In developing a business plan to make the centre well used and financially viable, the centre's management committee identified three key areas that need improvement to reduce running costs and increase usage 1) repair and replace windows, 2) refurbish the floor to increase the potential range of users and 3) repairs to external lighting to improve safety.
- In Inner West, a community garden was planned and designed by Fairfield Tenants & Residents Association at the entrance to their neighbourhood close

to shops. It contains a sculpture of two people set amidst shrubbery, flowers and seating with walkways through the garden leading into the estate. The garden compliments housing development taking place to improve the estate and the refurbishment of the local Fairfield Community Centre.

## **Highways and Sustainable Transport Schemes**

3.9 A number of highways schemes, parking improvements and projects to enhance sustainable transport have been supported in all areas across West North West, for example:

- The Outer North West Area Committee provided £1,900 towards the construction of a new cycle shelter within St Peter and Paul Primary School grounds in Yeadon. The project tied in with the construction, by Sustrans, of a new cycle path along the disused railway tracks in the area. By providing a bike shelter, more children have been encouraged to travel to school by bike, giving the additional benefit of improving the health of children as well as reducing congestion on local roads. The project cost £3,900 in total with the remainder of the funding provided by Sustrans.
- 20 mph zones have been introduced to the Dragons area of Wortley and Whincovers area of Farnley to address issues of speeding and improve safety. The Outer West Area Committee provided just over £20,000 and this was match funded by Highways.
- Significant highways repairs took place in Armley and Bramley funded through the Inner West Area Committee Well-being capital budget. Roads were targeted which had been prioritised by Highways for attention.

## **4 Corporate Considerations**

### **4.1 Consultation and Engagement**

4.1.1 The projects referred to in this report have been developed through consultation with elected Members, partner agencies and local communities.

### **4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration**

4.2.1 All Well-being funded projects are required to demonstrate how they promote equality and diversity. There are many examples of Well-being funding being used to promote community cohesion and integration.

### **4.3 Council Policies and City Priorities**

4.3.1 All capital Well-being funded projects are developed in accordance with Council Policies and City Priorities.

### **4.4 Resources and Value for Money**

4.4.1 Those applying for Well-being funding are required to provide evidence of comparable estimates for the work proposed to be undertaken. Of particular note, is the level of match funding levered in by the Area Committee funding across a range of projects in West North West.

## **4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In**

4.5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

## **4.6 Risk Management**

4.6.1 There are no particular risk management issues arising from this report. However, Well-being funding applicants are required to highlight any potential risks associated with their project and measures that would be taken to mitigate against them. In addition, when the Area Committee commissions schemes, the Area Management Team works with the Council department, partner agency or local community group to identify any potential risks and solutions.

## **5 Conclusions**

5.1 This report has provided an overview of Well-being capital expenditure across West North West and specifically in Outer North West since 2004. It has highlighted the range of projects that have been supported and the level of funding that has been levered in from within the Council and from external sources. Although no new capital funding has been allocated since 2009/10, Area Committees are able to continue to support capital schemes through their revenue budgets. However, given the pressure on their revenue budgets it is unlikely that the capital projects on the scale that have previously been delivered will be possible in the foreseeable future. This will impact on the level of match funding that can be attracted.

## **6 Recommendations**

6.1 Members are asked to note the content of this report.

## **7 Background documents**

7.1 None