

**Report of the South East Area Leader**

**Report to Outer East Leeds Area Committee**

**Date: 18<sup>th</sup> October 2011**

**Subject: A summary of Key Work**

Are specific electoral Wards affected?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Garforth & Swillington Kippax & Methley Cross Gates & Whinmoor Temple Newsam		
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?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:		

**Summary of main issues**

1. The report will detail priority work carried out in the area over recent months.
2. The report will provide an update on Swarcliffe PFI credits.
3. The report will provide minutes relating to community engagement activities, partnership meetings and meetings of Area Committee Chairs.

**Recommendations**

4. Area Committee will be requested to note the report and raise any queries.

## **1 Purpose of this report**

**1.1** The report will provide Area Committee with details of key activities in recent months including project work and community engagement.

**1.2** The report will provide an update on Swarcliffe PFI credits.

## **2 Background information**

**2.1** Since 2008 Area Committee has produced an annual Area Delivery Plan. In 2011/12 this will be replaced by a Business Plan with a focus on community engagement, partnership work, functions delegated to Area Committee, integrated working and locality working. This report will update Area Committee on priority work, including project work and community engagement as well as key issues for discussion.

**2.1** The report will include relevant attachments such as community forum minutes, partnership minutes etc.

## **3 Main issues**

### **3.1 Swarcliffe PFI credits**

**3.1.1** This budget of £350,000 has been delegated to Area Committee with all projects having to be approved at Area Committee meetings. The funding came about after lobbying by Cross Gates & Whinmoor Ward Members that followed initial problems with the PFI contract in the Swarcliffe area.

**3.1.2** The most recent project to provide parking improvements at Stanks Drive, Swardale Green, Swardale Road and Langbar Close are now completed. The final cost was significantly lower than originally estimated and this money will now be available to spend on other project work.

**3.1.3** The breakdown of expenditure is as follows:

- Environmental improvement works (bins, benches, notice boards etc) - £58,546
- Renewal of kitchen at St Gregory's Youth & Adult Centre - £18,641
- Parking Improvements - £104,857
- Community Environment Support Officer (CESO) - £60,715

**3.1.4** The total amount spent to date is £242,759 leaving a balance of £107,241. The CESO post is funded until the end of March 2014.

### **3.2 Work of the Community Environment Support Officers (CESO's)**

**3.2.1** Between the 1<sup>st</sup> of July and 5<sup>th</sup> of October the South Outer East Team dealt with 257 requests for service.

**3.2.2** 44% of these jobs were proactively identified by the officers whilst on patrol allowing action to be taken to resolve issues before they impact on the community and lead

to complaints. Patrols of all areas are undertaken by the officers on a daily basis with officers regularly calling in to local housing offices and community centres to show a visible presence to residents and pick up any environmental issues. In addition the CEO's attend all tasking meetings and residents forums.

3.2.3 The following numbers of referrals were made for the removal of refuse, needles or graffiti;

- 87 Street Cleaning
- 26 Graffiti Team
- 7 Virgin Media
- 11 Yorkshire Metro
- 19 Highways
- 2 Yorkshire Electric
- 21 Parks & Countryside

3.2.4 There were 44 legal notices served by the team including,

- 26 for waste in gardens and other domestic waste issues.
- 8 for littering offences.
- 4 for dog fouling.
- 6 for obstruction of the highway.

3.2.5 Work with Community payback has resulted in a number of ginnels and other pieces of miscellaneous land across the wards being cleared and cut back.

3.2.6 The Team also provided an information stall over the full 5 days of the Older Persons Week.

3.2.7 The CEO covering Temple Newsam ward has been on sick leave during August and September. He is making a good recovery and should be back to work by November. During his absence the Halton and Halton Moor area has been covered by the other CEO's and Enforcement Officers for the area. The CESO covering Garforth and Halton has taken up a new role as the Street Cleaning Supervisor for the Locality Team. The work in Garforth is now being covered by the CESO that covers the villages and other members of the team's enforcement officers.

3.2.8 The Locality Team no longer deals with domestic noise nuisance, which has gone to a city wide noise team. Although the South East Team has lost 2 officers to this new team, noise was a significant proportion of the teams work. As a consequence the removal of noise work has left the environmental team with additional capacity which allows them to cover sickness absence and ensure that all areas of South East Leeds receive officer coverage and support.

### **3.3 Area Committee sub-groups and partnership bodies**

3.3.1 **Environmental sub-group.** The Environmental champion, Cllr Katherine Mitchell, chairs the Environmental sub-group which has agreed to meet for one hour before

each Area Committee meeting. The notes of the meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> of September are attached as **appendix 1**.

3.3.2 The primary objective of the group for meetings held during 2011/12 is to ensure a Service Level Agreement for the first 6 months is in place and that robust monitoring procedures are put in place to ensure an improvement in the service over that period. The group will also be engaged in having a new SLA in place for April 2012.

3.3.3 **Health & Well Being Partnership.** There have been no further meetings of this partnership since Area Committee last met in September. A report concerning activities and priority work of the partnership will be brought to the next meeting of Area Committee in December.

3.3.4 **Divisional Community Safety Partnership.** Cllr Katherine Mitchell represents the Area Committee on this partnership that most recently met on the 8<sup>th</sup> of September 2011. The minutes of that meeting were not available at the time of mail out.

### **3.4 Community Engagement**

3.4.1 **Older Persons Week.** This year's event was held over the following dates and venues:

- 26<sup>th</sup> September – Great Preston & Little Preston Village Hall
- 27<sup>th</sup> September – St Gregory's Youth & Adult Centre, Swarcliffe
- 28<sup>th</sup> September – Christ Church Hall, Halton
- 29<sup>th</sup> September – Kippax Social & Welfare Club
- 30<sup>th</sup> September – Garforth Liberal Club

3.4.2 This event is held annually to celebrate the contribution older people make to our communities; provide them with advice and information especially in relation to health, safety and services; and for them to have a good time. Attendance on all 5 days was very good with approx 500 older people engaged over the course of the week. The event is funded by Area Committee costing around £3,500 from its community engagement stream of the well being budget.

### **3.5 Community Forums**

3.5.2 The minutes of community forums held over recent months are detailed below:

- Whinmoor Forum – 19<sup>th</sup> July – attached as **appendix 2**.
- Swarcliffe Forum – 20<sup>th</sup> July - attached as **appendix 3**
- Cross Gates Forum – 27<sup>th</sup> July – attached as **appendix 4**.
- Kippax & Methley Forum – 21<sup>st</sup> September – attached as **appendix 5**.

- Garforth & Swillington – 27<sup>th</sup> September – attached as **appendix 6**.

3.5.3 The minutes of the Halton Moor/Osmondthorpe Forum (11 October), Whinmoor Forum (11 October) and Halton Forum (13 October) were not available at the time of mail out.

### **3.6 Tasking Teams**

3.6.1 **Cross Gates & Whinmoor.** The main actions of this group have concentrated on hotspot locations for ASB and nuisance such as Stanks Parade of shops. As well as CCTV that has been installed, the Neighbourhood Policing Team have treated it as a priority area and Aire Valley Homes have installed a stud wall to alleviate problems residents living above the shops are having with youngsters that congregate at this location.

3.6.2 There has also been an emphasis on taking action to address the problems associated with empty buildings in the area, most notably empty public houses. Combined efforts with the Police, ASBU, enforcement and the environmental action team has seen a reduction in complaints of nuisance, dumping and vandalism associated with these buildings.

3.6.3 **Garforth/Kippax & villages.** The actions from this meeting have focused on a number of individuals involved in anti-social behaviour where repossession proceedings are pending. There has also been an increase in domestic burglary associated with individuals coming from outside the area.

3.6.4 Environmental enforcement has been taken against several fast food outlets in the villages main shopping areas. This is mainly in relation to discarded litter from these outlets e.g. take away boxes.

3.6.5 **Temple Newsam.**

3.6.6 The emphasis in this area has been to address the increase in burglaries and stop the nuisance of off-road motorbikes especially around Halton Moor, Halton and near Temple Newsam park.

3.6.6 There have been 55 lock upgrades and sash jammers fitted in the Colton and Whitkirk areas using tasking funds. This is to address the issue of euro-profile locks being vulnerable to break-in. The Sutton estate, which has also seen an increase in burglaries, was recently targeted as part of operation champion.

3.6.7 There have been numerous seizures of off-road motorbikes that have plagued the area. During the summer complaints peaked but in the last 6 weeks complaints have reduced by 50%.

### **3.7 Probation Services ‘Community Payback’ scheme**

3.7.1 There have been 22 referrals since April 2011 and 18 of these jobs have been completed to date. The vast majority of the work has been clearing vegetation, litter clearing, tidying ginnels, helping in bloom groups etc. The work is fairly evenly spread across all 4 wards and generally speaking this service is still providing good

value for money in the Outer East wards and feedback has been good from those receiving the service.

- 3.7.2 In a number of instances however there have been significant delays in getting specific jobs completed. These included work at Sherburn Court and Kippax High Street, as well as providing monthly costs of work completed as included in the service level agreement. Monthly meetings are held with Probation Services to go through referrals, track the work of the team and address any issues as they arise. This is intended to prevent future delays, expedite outstanding work and ensure that the project runs smoothly.

### **3.8 Supporting town and district centre's**

- 3.8.1 A priority action within the Area Committees Business Plan is 'supporting work that helps town and district centres remain commercially active and vibrant'. In recent weeks the Area Management Team has helped Garforth traders and businesses to form a business association to improve trading on the main street and develop opportunities to ensure the street's long term welfare. Their first meeting was held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October and was attended by approximately 30 traders with a further 20 wishing to become involved once the group is launched.
- 3.8.2 At the meeting, traders had a presentation on LCC's parking strategy for the area and discussed opportunities for the traders to form their own association. The group will next meet on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October to agree their response to the parking recommendations.

## **4 Corporate Considerations**

### **4.1 Consultation and Engagement**

- 4.1.1 The community forums and older person's event week outlined in section 4.5 form the main part of the Area Committees face to face community engagement strategy that is incorporated into its Business Plan. The PACT meetings outlined in 4.6 forms an important part of the Policing Pledge, to engage and set policing priorities with local people.

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

- 4.2.1 Under equality legislation the Council has a legal duty to pay due regard to the need to eliminate and promote equality in relation to race, disability, gender, age, sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity, and religion or belief.
- 4.2.2 The work included in this report that support this legal duty includes: Wyke Beck Valley pride; local fire service changes; community engagement, especially in relation to older person's week; and partnership work.

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

- 4.3.1 The proposals contained within this report contribute to the existing targets and priorities set out in the Council's Policy Framework in the following plans:

- Safer & Stronger Communities Plan
- Children & Young Peoples Plan
- Health & Well Being City Priority Plan

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

4.4.1 There are no resource implications as a result of this report other than funding that has previously been agreed by Area Committee from its respective capital and revenue budgets.

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

4.5.1 All decisions taken by the Area Committee in relation to the delegated functions from Executive Board are eligible for Call In.

4.5.2 There are no key or major decisions being made that would be eligible for Call In.

4.5.3 There are no legal implications as a result of this report.

#### **4.6 Risk Management**

4.6.1 This report provides an update on project work and key issues in Outer East. Any projects funded from the Well Being Budget complete a section identifying risks and solutions as part of the application process.

### **5 Conclusions**

5.1 The report provides up to date information on key work and key issues for Area committee to consider. Members are requested to note the content of the report and raise queries relating to issues raised within the report.

### **6 Recommendations**

6.1 Area Committee is requested to note the content of the report and raise queries relating to issues raised within the report.

### **7 Background documents**

7.1 Outer East Area Committee capital budget report – February 2010.

7.2 General purposes committee report – 26<sup>th</sup> May 2011.

7.3 Outer East Area Committee report – Local Authority appointments to outside bodies July 2011

7.4 Outer East Area Committee Business Plan report July 2011.