

Report of the South East Area Leader

Report to Outer East Leeds Area Committee

Date: 13th December 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 weeks.
2. The report will provide minutes relating to community engagement activities, partnership meetings and meetings of Area Committee Chairs.
3. The report will provide an update on the governments welfare reform proposals.

Recommendations

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

Purpose of this report

- .1 The report will provide Area Committee with details of key activities in recent months including project work and community engagement.
- .2 The report will provide Members with minutes relating to community engagement activities, partnership meetings and meetings of Area Committee Chairs.
- .3 The report will provide an update on the governments welfare reform proposals.

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

Main issues

.1 Supporting town and district centre's

- 3.1.1 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 months 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.
- 3.1.2 At a recent meeting of the traders association they positively responded to LCC's parking strategy for the area which includes residents parking only on nearby streets to Main Street, limited time parking on the two LCC owned car parks and demolition of redundant garages that remain on one of the LCC car parks. The cost to deliver this work is in excess of £20k and funding opportunities are now being explored.
- 3.1.3 The area team has provided support to the traders association in Kippax in their endeavours to improve Kippax High Street, especially around the future of the Alldays site and rebuilding of the historic wall in the village. The area team will also be submitting a lottery bid to improve Kippax Welfare Sports & Social Club.

3.2 Priority Estates – Halton Moor & East Osmondthorpe

- 3.2.1 The estates of Halton Moor and East Osmondthorpe have been identified as priority estates in the Outer East Area Committees Business Plan. The Area Management Team is now working closely with partner agencies to identify particular problems and then formulate solutions to improve both estates.

- 3.2.2 After recent walkabouts with Environmental Services and officers from East North East Homes several areas were identified where the grass cutting had not been carried out to the required standard. Some areas fall outside LCC's domain and the appropriate land owner has been contacted and requested to make good
- 3.2.3 The standard of litter picking on both estates was generally very good. However a number of streets in East Osmondthore that back onto the ex wholesale market site have been used for fly tipping and appear to be a location where the stripping of cables is taking place. These areas have now been cleared and this issue will be raised at tasking to keep checking this area.
- 3.2.4 The main project that Area Management and East North East Homes agreed to pursue was the removal of raised planters across Halton Moor. These planters were installed under the Estate Action capital programme as part of the environmental aspect of the scheme to beautify the area. Many have now clearly failed and have been vandalised and look unkempt. Groundwork Leeds has agreed to provide a cost to remove the three worst planters and make good. Once a cost is provided a bid will be made to ENE Homes Area Panel to fund this work.

3.3 Probation Services – community payback team

- 3.3.1 There have been 33 referrals since April 2011 and 26 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.
- 3.3.2 Table A below provides a cost analysis of the hours worked by the community payback team in Outer East. The cost is based on national minimum wage of £5.93 per hour for probationers and £17.71 per hour for supervisors

Table A

| | July | August | September |
|----------------------------|-------------|------------|------------|
| Days worked | 35 | 14 | 17 |
| Number of Offenders | 220 | 84 | 95 |
| Number of Hours | 1371.75 | 545.75 | 623.25 |
| Cost of Workers | £ 8,134.48 | £ 3,236.30 | £ 3,695.87 |
| Cost of Supervisor | £ 4,462.92 | £ 1,735.58 | £ 2,107.49 |
| Total Cost | £ 12,597.40 | £ 4,971.88 | £ 5,803.36 |

3.4 Area Committee sub-groups and partnership bodies

- 3.4.1 **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 18th of October are attached as **appendix 1**.
- 3.4.2 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.
- 3.4.3 **Divisional Community Safety Partnership.** Cllr Katherine Mitchell represents the Area Committee on this partnership that most recently met on the 8th of September 2011. The minutes of that meeting are attached as **appendix 2**.
- 3.4.4 **Health & Well Being Partnership.** Cllr James Lewis represents Area Committee on this partnership. The minutes of the most recent meeting held on the 13th of October 2011 are attached as **appendix 3**.

3.5 Community Forums

- 3.5.1 The minutes of community forums held over recent months are detailed below:
- Swarcliffe Forum – 4th October - attached as **appendix 4**
 - Whinmoor Forum – 5th October – attached as **appendix 5**
 - Halton Moor & East Osmondthorpe – 11th October – attached as **appendix 6**
 - Halton Forum – 13th October – attached as **appendix 7**.
 - Cross Gates – 19th October – these minutes will be tabled as **appendix 8** on the day of the meeting. They were unavailable at the time of mail out.

3.6 Area Chairs Meetings

- 3.6.1 The minutes of the Area Committee Chairs meetings will now be included in the summary of key work report. The minutes of the meeting held on the 5th of September 2011 are attached as **appendix 9**.
- 3.6.2 The main agenda items discussed included:
- The Localism Bill
 - Community Centres review
 - Environmental delegation
 - Locality Working restructure

3.7 Welfare Reform

- 3.7.1 There are 3 appendices attached at the end of this report that provide an update on government welfare reform proposals.
- 3.7.2 **Appendix 10** is a report from the Chief Officer (Revenues & Benefits) that went to Area Chairs Forum on the 3rd of November 2011. The report provides information on the most significant changes over the next 3 years including housing benefit changes, changes to council tax benefit, universal credit etc.
- 3.7.3 **Appendix 11** is a letter from LCC to the Department for Communities and Local Government expressing the council's view that the proposal to replace council tax benefit will have a disproportionate impact on poorer areas of the city.
- 3.7.4 **Appendix 12** is a briefing note from the Director of Housing Services (ENE Homes) to the Area Committee Chairs Forum. The briefing note outlines to Members as to the potential implications/risks for the Leeds ALMO's / BITMO as a consequence of the Welfare Reform – particularly relating to the introduction of Universal Credit and Under Occupation. There are 2 appendices attached to that report outlining the ALMO/BITMO action plan.

Corporate Considerations

.1 Consultation and Engagement

- .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.

.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.

.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 Resources and Value for Money

- .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.

.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

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

.6 Risk Management

- .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.

Conclusions

- .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.

Recommendations

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

Background documents

- .1 Outer East Area Committee capital budget report – February 2010.
- .2 General purposes committee report – 26th May 2011.
- .3 Outer East Area Committee report – Local Authority appointments to outside bodies July 2011
- .4 Outer East Area Committee Business Plan report July 2011.