

Report of Deputy Chief Executive

Report to North West (Inner) Area Committee

Date: 15 December 2011

Subject: Area Update Report

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Headingley, Hyde Park and Woodhouse, Kirkstall, Weetwood	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
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 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

This report provides members with a summary of sub groups business since the October Area Committee. It includes an update on the Little London Community Centre, and asks members to consider the attendance of resident representation at the Environment Sub Group.

Recommendations

1. Members are asked to:
 - Note and action as appropriate the Key Messages from Sub groups as set out in section 3.9.
 - Note the update on Little London Community Centre
 - Agree the introduction of resident attendance at Environment Sub Group Meetings and nominate one resident per ward as set out in section 3.16.
 - Note the position in relation to the recent robberies in the Hyde Park and Woodhouse Ward as set out in section 3.21.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 This report provides members with an update on recent Sub Group business, Forum business, the current position relating to Area Committee Wellbeing funding and other project activity.

2 Background information

- 2.1 An Area Committee Update report is submitted at every cycle of Area Committee meetings unless there is no additional business to report from sub groups or any changes to the Wellbeing funding position since the previous meetings. Partner organisations and Council services will contribute information to the Area Update Report.

3 Main issues

3.1 Forum and Sub Group Key Messages

- 3.2 Since the last Area Committee there have been one Planning Sub Group and Environmental Sub Group meeting. The Hyde Park and Woodhouse Forum have meet once. The following sections (3.3, 3.5 and 3.7) summarises the main points of discussion at those meetings. Section 3.9 lists the key messages from those meetings.

3.3 Planning Sub Group

- 3.4 Planning sub group met on the 9th November. They discussed a variety of issues and planning applications including:

- Neighbourhood Plans/ Localism Bill – the Neighbourhood Planning report when to the Executive Board recommending that four areas be put forward for the DCLG pilot scheme for neighbourhood planning. These areas were Kippax, Otley, Boston Spa and Holbeck. Members at the Executive Board meeting noted significant concerns in relation to Council resources in responses to neighbourhood planning, including that there is currently no budget for this work. The Council intends to hold a seminar for community groups and neighbourhood forums similar to that for town and parish councils in response to the recognition that such areas are disadvantaged by the process.
- Housing Strategy - meeting was held between officers from Area Management, ward members and Neil Evans (Director for Environments and Neighbourhoods) to progress housing strategy issues in inner north west. A number of issues were raised at the meeting including; landlords and selective licensing, parking and highways, refuse, cleansing and environmental enforcement, student involvement, working with the universities, demand for student housing. Executive Board had previously agreed that the INW Housing Strategy should be attached to the city wide strategy. Applications for courses at Leeds Metropolitan University were down on last year and that potentially this would present an opportunity to capitalise on changes within the local housing market. Ryan Platten and Sue Morse (Housing) were working on a report, requested by the Planning Group early in 2011, looking at the viability of a proposal to use section

106 commuted sums to 'buy back' HMO properties and convert them to family housing. It was noted that the aim was to bring this report to Area Committee in February.

- BHS Site, 2 Bridge Road - application is going to Plans Panel West. The development had a 33% larger floor area than the Tesco's proposal at Kirkstall District Centre.

3.5 Environmental Sub Group

3.6 Chaired by Cllr Matthews, the Environment Sub Group met on the 6th September. Various service updates were received including;

- Intensive Action in the student areas in the Headingley and Hyde Park & Woodhouse Wards to try and tackle the problem of bins on streets. The operation commenced Sunday 23rd October - bins were emptied and put back in gardens. Every property in the scheme area will be visited at least twice and letters issued to educate householders on the waste collection service and what the penalties are. This will be followed by an enforcement drive w/c 14th November.
- Fresher's Week Evaluation - Fresher's period ran from the 19th to 27th September this year. Overall it was felt that there had been no major problems although Cllr Matthews commented that there appeared to be more litter on the streets than in previous years.
- Beamsley Bin Project information was presented on proposed recycling and waste collection improvements for the Beamsley's area in Headingley, which would involve installing fixed communal waste points.

3.7 Hyde Park Forum

3.8 The Hyde Park Forum met on 22nd November 2011 at Woodsley Road Community Centre, chaired by Cllr Harper. The following items were discussed at the meeting:

- Environmental Issues – Leaf clearance is a priority for the area. A review is currently taking place around bin collection of hard to access properties. Environmental enforcement is taking place in a range of areas across Hyde Park & Woodhouse. 3400 households have been visited, a letter drop has been carried out and stickers have been put on bins. Graffiti is still a problem in the area. A range of work has been taking place by the graffiti team. The Police have made 2 arrests and a further arrest is pending. Graffiti removal kits are available to residents groups.
- Police /Community Safety – Crime statistics are slightly up on last year but last year was a particularly good year. Burglaries and robberies are particularly high in the area.
- Highways – The car parking outside Woodsley Road Community Centre is always taken up. The parking scheme is to be revised.
- Park 7 Countryside – Over 100,000 people attended LCC bonfires across 6 sites. A discussion took place around extra lighting for Woodhouse Moor. P&C said the

project would be cost prohibitive and partners agreed it would create a false sense of security.

3.9 Summary of Key Messages:

3.10 The following section lists all the key messages from sub-groups and forums since the last Area Committee meeting for consideration by the Area Committee:

- The Environment Sub Group supports the introduction of communal waste sites and specifically request that these include glass recycling.

3.11 Little London Community Centre update

3.12 It was reported to Area Committee on 14th July 2011 that the construction of a new community centre for Little London would not now be provided as part of the Housing PFI project following a government best value review of PFI projects nationally. It was reported that maintenance works to the centre in Little London that had been delayed now needed to be brought forward. Area Committee approved a request to use part of the capital receipt from the sale of Woodsley Road Community Centre to meet the cost of outstanding health and safety works at the centre.

3.13 In the interim, work has forged ahead to establish an improvement and investment strategy for the community hub in lieu of the loss of PFI funding. The objective of the strategy is to attract investment in retail and other complimentary uses that will contribute to the wider regeneration of the area. Soft market testing of the retail grocery sector has revealed interest in retail development in Little London. A condition that would be applied to any development agreement would be the improvement or re-provision of community facilities and early indications are that this may be feasible subject to valuation and the necessary approvals.

3.14 At a time when budgets are under pressure it would seem prudent in light of these recent developments to delay the planned health and safety works for a short period until the options for improvement of community facilities are confirmed. Corporate Property management is aware of this proposed delay and has confirmed that the condition of the community centre offers no direct risk to anyone attending the centre.

3.15 A further report on progress of the project to improve the community hub and the implications for the Little London Community Centre will be brought back to the next meeting of the area committee on 23rd February 2012.

3.16 Resident Representatives at Environment Sub Group

3.17 The Inner North West Environment Sub Group is making good progress in developing the monitoring arrangement relating to the Delegation of Environmental Services. Members have requested that consideration be given to include resident representation to the Environment Sub Group to improve the level of engagement in the work of the sub group and in the management of the Environmental Service Delegation.

- 3.18 Changes to the membership of the Environment Sub Group will require a change to the terms of reference which needs to be approved by the Area Committee. The Inner North West Environment Sub Group Terms of Reference are enclosed for Members information.
- 3.19 It is suggested that that the terms of reference be changed to include one resident representative per Ward and that Members nominate resident representatives. It is suggested that this arrangement is reviewed at the July Area Committee meeting, where the membership and chair are agreed for all sub groups each year.
- 3.20 The introduction of resident representatives to the Environment Sub Group will bring it in line with the practice used for the Planning Sub Group.

3.21 Robberies in Hyde Park and Woodhouse Ward

3.22 After the recent spate of robberies in the Hyde Park and Woodhouse Ward, the Inner North West Area Committee are asked to note the activities undertaken to help address the issue:

- 11 arrests made so far, suspects have been bailed pending forensic results.
- Further arrests imminent.
- Co-ordinated patrols with University to maximise resources.
- Up to date joint intelligence lead patrols – debrief at end of each day feeding into the briefing for the next days so patrols are targeted to the key hotspots.
- Extra patrols currently deployed by University and Police.
- Councils CCTV van deployed to the area everyday.
- Bluetooth messages going to key locations providing crime reduction advice.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

4.1.1 Elected members have been consulted on the content of this report. Public engagement has been undertaken in relation to the Hyde Park and Woodhouse Forum and the Planning Sub Group. The inclusion of resident representation to the Environment Sub Group will improve the level of engagement for the sub group.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

4.2.1 There are no equality and diversity issues in relation to this report.

4.3 Council Policies and City Priorities

4.3.1 The Area Committee Functions and Priority Advisory Functions were approved by the Executive Board in June 2009. This approval was rolled forward to 2010/11 and is also being rolled forward to 2011/12 with amendments to the environmental

delegation. The Area Functions are included in the Council's Constitution (Part 3, section 3c).

4.4 Resources and Value for Money

4.4.1 There are no resource implications as a result of this report.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

4.5.1 There are no legal implications or access to information issues. This report is not subject to call in.

4.6 Risk Management

4.6.1 There are no risk management issues relating to this report.

5 Conclusions

5.1 This report provides members with an update on recent Sub Group business, the position in relation to the Little London Community Centre and plans to include resident representation to the Environment Sub Group.

6 Recommendations

6.1 Members are asked to:

- Note and action as appropriate the Key Messages from Sub groups as set out in section 3.9.
- Note the update on Little London Community Centre as set out in 3.11
- Agree the introduction of resident attendance at Environment Sub Group Meetings and nominate one resident per ward as set out in section 3.16.
- Note the position in relation to the recent robberies in the Hyde Park and Woodhouse Ward as set out in section 3.21.

7 Background documents

7.1 Council Constitution

7.2 Appendix 1: Inner North West Environment Sub Group