

Report of the South East Area Leader

Report to Outer East Area Committee

Date: 14 February 2012

Subject: Summary of Key Work

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|---|---|--|
| 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 Temple Newsam Cross Gates & Whinmoor | | |
| 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 details of key issues affecting the Outer East area.

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 issues and activities in recent months including project work and community engagement.
- 1.2 The report will provide Members with minutes relating to community engagement activities, partnership meetings, sub-group meetings and meetings of Area Committee Chairs.

2 Background information

- 2.1 In 2011/12 Area Committee has approved 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.
- 2.2 The report will include relevant attachments such as community forum minutes, partnership minutes etc.

3 Main issues

3.1 Garforth Car Parking Strategy

- 3.1.1 As part of the Councils review of car parking in its town and district centre's a strategy for Garforth was developed in late 2011. The proposals have been discussed at the Community Forum and the local Traders Association meeting where it has been generally welcomed. The implementation of the recommendations is however subject to appropriate funding being secured. The main recommendations are detailed as follows:

- convert 24 spaces to 4-hour spaces in either Main Street or Barleyhill Road car parks, the remaining spaces (128) to be converted to 2 hour spaces
- review signing, lining and traffic orders on Main Street (including zig-zag lines, location of bus stops and narrower running lanes) with a view to providing short stay parking of 30 minutes duration where-ever possible.
- review disabled parking provision in the public car parks and redistribute 4 spaces along Main Street
- Review the need for bus timing points on Main Street.
- Review resident parking areas to allow dual short-stay use, if appropriate i.e restricted parking for residents and traders.
- create additional parking areas (including motorcycle parking) where possible e.g. by enlarging Main Street car park (demolish the garages), reviewing car park layouts.

- Encourage sustainable travel and efficient use of private car parks (including Town End and Gascoigne's within the business community).
- Complete a street audit of Main Street to support identified parking improvements.
- Continue with the existing parking management regime using comprehensive waiting restrictions but keep under review the possibility of introducing Pay & Display.
- Implement any changes / additions to signage to improve access to parking and information for visitors. .
- Set up regular car park inspection regime to identify the need for any improvements or maintenance.

3.2 Grafton Villas Long Footpath

- 3.2.2 This particular long footpath/ginnel in Cross Gates has suffered from regular crime and ASB over a number of years with many residents that live along the footpath demanding its closure. Initially closure was sought under the CROW Act (Countryside & Rights of Way). This proved difficult to secure and therefore the alternative option of gating the footpath and providing keys to residents was put forward as a viable solution.
- 3.2.3 A recent consultation exercise with local residents was overwhelmingly supported. A planning application has now been submitted and it is anticipated that if approved the gating of this footpath will be achieved in the very near future.
- 3.2.4 In the Well Being report to Area Committee there is a request for Area Committee to provide maintenance funding for the gates over a 5 year period.

3.3 Thorpe Park pitches

- 3.3.1 Members were invited to a briefing session by Parks & Countryside Officers on the 19th of January 2012 to be updated on plans for sports pitches and country park, which form part of the Section 106 agreement for the Thorpe Park development.
- 3.3.2 The timescales for this development are subject to a number of factors, including further development of the business park itself.
- 3.3.3 At the meeting there was a great deal of support expressed for the proposals that were outlined and a consensus that the project needed to be progressed. However, one important factor raised at the briefing session was the need to implement parking restrictions on the streets adjacent to the Whitkirk end of the site as it was clear that visitor parking would cause problems for local residents.
- 3.3.4 Parks & Countryside Officers agreed to include Highways in future negotiations and ensure that the parking issue was addressed.

3.4 Environmental Services Delegation

3.4.1 The service level agreement with Environmental Services was agreed by Area Committee at its meeting held in September 2011. The Area Committee agreed to form an environmental sub-group that meets 1 hour before each Area Committee meeting. In the absence of Cllr Mitchell the role of Chair will temporarily pass to Cllr Murray. The minutes of the most recent meeting held in December are attached as ***appendix 1***.

3.4.2 There have been a number of successes and challenges that have emerged from the clients viewpoint and some of these are listed below. These are some examples of feedback that have been taken from sub-group meetings, area committee meetings and forum meetings.

3.4.3 Member involvement and local accountability

- Effective local Elected Member engagement, influence, accountability and governance
- A degree of cross ward negotiation for service resources
- Direct contact between Elected Members with named/known supervisors
- An effective overview of the performance of the SLA by the Area Committee Environmental Sub Groups
- Strong promotion and engagement of Elected Member Environmental Champions
- Strong collaborative support by the Area Leaders and their teams for both the delegation and the role of the locality managers for environmental services
- Strong and increasingly effective crime and grime tasking arrangements
- Increasing confidence in senior officers and their staff to work together on the ground
- Feedback from residents to elected members is predominantly positive
- Some frustration about the slow progress on some long standing issues and the allocation of some resources.
- A need to consider the involvement of Elected Members in the purchasing and the location of machinery.
- A need to consider the alignment/delegation of the Refuse Service alongside the existing delegation for environmental services.

3.4.4 Partnership Working

- Co-location of Environmental Locality Teams with Area Support Teams - where this has occurred - has improved relationships and response speeds to Elected Members and the community.
- Improved crime and grime tasking arrangements with senior leadership have provided for action on workforce practice and cultural change
- Regular neighbourhood focus through walkabouts with Elected Members, Officers from the Council and partner agencies has helped to develop a sense of common purpose around the environment.
- The facility to commit resources locally has improved the speed of response and as a consequence has improved relationships with statutory providers and with residents and community organisations.
- Cross organisational/geographical boundary work has teased out areas of potential conflict and confusion but also resolution between agencies operating in the same area.
- Further work is required to align the work of the Housing ALMOs and Parks and Countryside.
- The development of time limited Integrated Environmental Services meetings chaired by Area Leaders is identifying further opportunities for improvement and providing a forum for improved collaboration.
- A constructive dialogue with Parish and Town Councils is emerging which has sought to enhance the relationship between them and Leeds City Council. However, more work could be done to embed the relationship.
- Further work is required to better join up the enforcement elements of the service with our partners such as the police.

3.4.5 Impact on workforce practice and cultural change

- Improved attendance by the service at local meetings has helped improve communication
- Improved focus and responsiveness have been reported by Elected Members and residents.
- Closer supervision and management of front line staff has promoted the view that walking past a problem is seen increasingly as a negative behaviour within the service.

- The development of case studies to exemplify the behaviour of staff that have travelled the extra mile has led to positive feedback from Elected Members and local residents.
- A broader direct engagement of Environmental Services supervision and front line staff with Elected Members should be promoted and would be welcomed.

3.4.6 Impact on the quality on the environment

- All Area Committees have recognised that it is relatively early days for the delegated service. Nevertheless, Elected Members hold a general view that in the main areas look cleaner.
- Elected Members feel more engaged with associated matters such as the response to littering problems caused by road side traders.
- The response of the delegated service during difficult periods such as the recent gales has been well received and has contributed to a cleaner environment.
- Better planning after significant events, festivals etc. has led to a rapid return to a clean environment.
- Improved litter bin emptying in district centres has led to a cleaner open public space.
- An increasing focus on ginnels of concern to Elected Members and the tackling of hotspots of detritus and debris are again contributing to the view that areas seem cleaner.

3.4.7 Considerations for further development of the service

Elected Members have articulated the following views for consideration by the service and where appropriate for these to be included in a refreshed version of the service level agreement (SLA2). These include:-

- An account of what the service is doing to become more efficient and effective and how it will evidence productivity gains to Area Committees.
- Strengthening the education and enforcement strategy of the service
- Providing clarity on the resources and approach applied to ginnels and how a range of local resources will be aligned to tackle the problem
- Improving the reporting of progress to area committees that minimises jargon, uses plain English, describes outcomes and includes resident satisfaction measures.
- Providing for a robust community engagement strategy that draws on intelligence gathering from and feedback to the community.

- Strengthening and providing consistency in the involvement of Police Community Safety Officers in enforcement action.
- Deepening the engagement of Parish and Town Councils in the delegation.
- Providing clarity on the resources and approach applied to binyards and how a range of local resources will be aligned to tackle the problem.
- Providing clarity on the resources and approach applied to graffiti and how a range of local resources will be aligned to tackle the problem.
- Improving the levels of coordination for white bag collection.
- Providing clarity on the role of the Community Payback Team in environmental improvement programmes.
- Addressing the lack of litter bins near bus stops
- Addressing the approach to orphan land and private estates.

3.5 Tasking Teams

- 3.5.1 **Garforth/Kippax/villages.** Recent achievements have included the extension of the 'no cold calling zone' in Garforth to incorporate the whole area at Ringway where a large proportion of accommodation is for elderly residents. The Police have continued to use covert cameras, with some success, to bring charges against individuals involved in bogus calling.
- 3.5.2 **Temple Newsam.** Crime levels have steadily decreased in the ward over recent months. The group has recently focused more on environmental issues such as fly tipping especially in the Osmondthorpe estate around Neville Close and Neville Garth. A recent clean up using probation services cleared overgrown vegetation and fly tipped waste.
- 3.5.3 **Cross Gates & Whinmoor.** In this ward the focus has also been on environmental issues, keeping gardens tidy and clearing open land using probation services and environmental officers. Security at the White Laithe shops has been a problem that comes and goes for several years. The Well Being report refers to a project that will provide security gates to the alley way between NISA stores on this parade.

3.6 Community Engagement

- 3.6.1 The following community forums recently met:
- Cross Gates Forum 11th January 2012 – minutes attached as **appendix 2**
 - Halton Moor/East Osmondthorpe Forum 17th January 2012 – minutes attached as **appendix 3**
 - Whinmoor Forum 17th January 2012 – minutes attached as **appendix 4**
 - Halton Forum 19th January 2012 – minutes attached as **appendix 5**

- Garforth & Swillington Forum 24th January 2012 – minutes not available at time of mail out
- Swarcliffe Forum 1st February 2012 – minutes not available at time of mail out.

3.7 Area Chairs Meeting

3.7.1 The Area Committee Chairs meeting was held on the 11th of November 2011 and the minutes of that meeting are attached as **appendix 6**.

3.7.2 Agenda items discussed in detail at the meeting included:

- Implications of the Welfare Reform Bill
- The Localism Act
- Strategic Approach to Community Engagement
- Citizens Panel
- Luncheon Clubs
- Community First Funding

3.8 Olympic Torch Route

3.8.1 The Olympic Torch comes through Leeds on Sunday the 24th and Monday the 25th of June. Although the parade does not come through Outer East Leeds the main event to celebrate the torch coming to Leeds will be held at Temple Newsam on the evening of the 24th of June. This event will be ticketed and will be a celebration of sport and achievement in the city.

3.8.2 The route itself will go through Headingley, Potternewton, Harehills and Richmond Hill on the 24th and through Hunslet, Beeston and to the John Charles Centre on the 25th.

3.8.3 The Council is planning to have a fortnight celebration of sport across the city for the two weeks prior to the torch coming to Leeds.

3.8.4 The torch route and other activities will be promoted across the city and arrangements will be made to provide information through the usual channels at community forums and other engagement events.

3.9 Kippax Welfare Ground

3.9.1 The Area Support Team and Leisure Services recently helped submit a lottery bid to improve facilities at this sports ground. The project seeks to improve access to sport for all sections of the community, especially women, disabled groups and the elderly who are all currently under represented on the site.

3.9.2 The funding bid requests £600,000 to pay for the following:

- Provide male and female changing rooms that have disabled access
- Provide a multi use games area
- Provide a path round the site to improve access for elderly and disabled
- Create new junior sports pitches
- Provide a lift to the club house
- Increase parking spaces
- Provide netball courts

3.9.3 A decision is expected in March 2012.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

4.1.1 The community forums outlined in section 3.6 form the main part of the Area Committees face to face community engagement strategy that is incorporated into its Business Plan.

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 main section of this report provides details of activities around community engagement and the delegation of environmental services to Area Committees that support this legal duty.

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 report – Local Authority appointments to outside bodies July 2011
- 7.2 Outer East Area Committee Business Plan report July 2011.
- 7.3 Well Being report February 2012.