

**Report of Deputy Chief Executive**

**Report to Inner West Area Committee**

**Date: 27<sup>th</sup> June 2012**

**Subject: Area Update Report**

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Armley Bramley & Stanningley	<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 type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" 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. The Area Update Report provides Members with information on key services and other activities delivered in the inner West area since the last meeting. It highlights the improvements to Armley Moor and the Healthy Living Network's ten year anniversary.
2. The report also asks the Committee to formally approve the terms of reference for the two ward forums and appoint chairs to both for the current municipal year.

**Recommendations**

- 3 Inner West Area Committee Members are invited to:
  - i) Note the contents of the report, comment on any matters raised and suggest items for inclusion in future Area Update reports, and
  - ii) Approve the terms of reference for the Armley and Bramley and Stanningley ward forums and appoint chairs to both for the current municipal year.

## **1 Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform members on progress against the Area Support Team's work programme and local priorities.
- 1.2 The report also asks the Area Committee to approve the terms of reference for the two ward forums and appoint chairs to both as required by the Council's constitution.

## **2 Background information**

- 2.1. An Area Committee Update report is submitted at every cycle of Area Committee meetings. Partners contribute collectively on projects and provide service updates.

## **3 Main issues**

### Youth Service

#### 3.1 a) Armley Ward

The Area Committee funded football project at Armley Leisure Centre remains very popular, and a new group of young people from the Cedars, Wythers and Swallow Hill have been attending regularly.

Young people from New Wortley participated in a stone carving session to celebrate the new garden and the centre's 40 year anniversary.

Mobile provision continues to be targeted by the multi-agency tasking meeting, with new sessions delivered on Gilpin Terrance and Wyther Park Crescent.

The Senior Youth Worker is working closely with young people not in education, employment or training, signposting them to opportunities in work and further education.

#### 3.2 b) Bramley & Stanningley Ward

Music is a popular theme with young people, and bands supported by youth workers played at Bramley Carnival and recorded a CD at a professional studio.

A ten week cookery course has ended with the young people receiving a Leeds Youth Award for Food Hygiene and Basic Cookery Skills. The purpose of the session was to help young people live independently and make healthy food choices.

The Leeds City Council youth work team are jointly delivering with BARCA well attended sessions at Fairfield Community Centre.

#### 3.3 c) Lazer Centre

The staff at the Lazer centre are working with young people identified by schools to help them re-engage in education through a targeted action plan.

Residents of private and local authority children's homes are supported by Lazer Centre staff both on and off site.

Young people attending other sessions in the area have been recruited as volunteers at the centre and are attending training sessions every Tuesday to help them achieve their ambition of becoming youth workers.

Recent improvements to the centre include a new projector, screen and carpet. A jetty has now been built on the canal to enable canoeing and raft building sessions.

### Regeneration Projects

#### 3.4 Theaker Lane former Medical Centre

Sanctuary Housing continue to explore development opportunities for the former medical centre site and adjoining land in Armley. They are currently reviewing the scheme in light of rising costs and hope to be in a position over the coming months to determine how to progress with a scheme.

### Armley Festive Light Switch On

3.5 For the last two years, the Armley Festive Light switch on event was organised by the Town Centre Manager with operational support from Leeds City Council's Events Team. The Armley Forum was asked to nominate volunteers who could form a steering group to help shape this year's event with help from the Area Support Team.

3.6 Three volunteers kindly put themselves forward and Cllr McKenna has also joined the group. The first meeting was held on 2<sup>nd</sup> August, and plans are progressing for another successful event this Christmas.

### Healthy Living Network

3.7 Healthy Living Network Leeds is based in Armley, and recently celebrated their 10 year anniversary. To mark the event, the founding team were invited back to share this very special occasion.

3.8 Bernadette Murphy the founding coordinator gave a celebratory speech and remarked how pleased she was that the organisation was still going strong and continuing to be an important force for positive healthy living activities in West Leeds.

3.9 Many of the large projects the charity had undertaken were discussed including Fresh and Fruity (Food Access project), the Community Health Educators, Community Learning Champions, prison and environmental projects and the list went on. To highlight the large breadth and depth of the work undertaken and some staff who had worked for the project over the years, a colourful, pictorial time line was displayed to highlight the milestones and major achievements.

3.10 Jo Thorpe, the current director outlined the exciting plans for the future including; Food a Go-Go (healthy mobile food), the Healthy Living Crèche, The Armley Town

Street Hub, Get -Fresh-Greengrocer. The Area Committee are welcome to contact the organisation to find out more about these and other future projects.

### Ward Forum Terms of Reference

- 3.11 There are two ward forums in the inner West area. The Armley forum meets monthly (except August) and the Bramley and Stanningley forum meets bi-monthly.
- 3.12 Both forums currently elect chairs and vice chairs through a ballot once a year. Nomination papers are sent to the full mailing list ahead of the meeting, and the posts are elected on the day. The Armley forum has historically elected a Ward Member as chair. The Bramley and Stanningley forum was also chaired by an Ward Member until four years ago when the Vice Chair, a resident, assumed the role after the Chair stepped down in exceptional circumstances. The chair of the Bramley and Stanningley Ward forum has resigned, and a second election is due to be held at the next meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> October 2012.
- 3.13 A review of the Ward Forums' terms of reference has raised concerns that they are operating outside of the council's constitution. The constitution's rules on selecting a forum chair are as follows:

(Area Committee Procedure Rules 7.2)

'Where an Area Committee establishes a ward based Community Forum, the Chair of that Forum must be appointed by the Area Committee. In making that appointment however the Area Committee must ensure that Chairs are appointed with regard to the political balance of the ward to which a forum relates and having regard to the number of ward based Community Forums. Where a political group has the majority of members within a ward, the Chair will be appointed from those Members. Where no political group has a majority, the Chair will be appointed by the Area Committee from Members of the ward to which the forum relates.'

- 3.14 Community forms are directly accountable to the Area Committee, and Bramley and Stanningley forum is the only one in the city not to be chaired by a Ward Member. In the interests of keeping the direct link between the forum and Area Committee, and with consideration to the Area Committee procedure rules above, it is recommended that the Chair of both forums be a Ward Member nominated by the Area Committee.
- 3.15 Minutes of forums are noted at each Area Committee, however there is no record of the Committee formally appointing forum chairs or approving the terms of reference. Both terms of reference have been revised to clarify the position of Chair and deleting the reference to attendance being limited to those living or working within the ward, as this is not in keeping with council policy.
- 3.16 The Area Committee is asked to approve the revised terms of reference at Appendix 1 and formally appoint a Chair to both ward forums for the current municipal year.

## **4. Corporate Considerations**

### **4.1 Consultation and Engagement**

- 4.1.1. Community forums are held on a monthly basis in Armley and bi-monthly in Bramley within Inner West Leeds to inform communities.
- 4.1.2. Ward Members are consulted on projects and initiatives within their ward on matters relating to the Support Team's work programme and locality priorities.

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

- 4.2.1. This section is not applicable 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 rolled forward again to 2011/12 with amendments only to environmental delegations.
- 4.3.2. The Area Functions are included in the Council's Constitution (Part 3, section 3C).
- 4.3.3. Area Support Team's work programme contributes at a local level to the themes contained in the:
- Vision for Leeds
  - Leeds Strategic Plan
  - Health and Wellbeing City Priorities Plan
  - Children and Young People's Plan
  - Safer and Stronger Communities Plan
  - Regeneration City Priority Plan

## **4.4 Resources and value for money**

- 4.4.1. Programmes of work outlined in this report are resourced in the main by Area Support Team staff and where relevant their partners which in turn provides value for money.
- 4.4.2. In order to meet the Area Committee's functions (see Council's Constitution Part 3, section 3C), funding is available via Well Being budgets and the Community Centres Budget.
- 4.4.3. In order to meet the Area Committee's roles, funding is in the main supplied by other Leeds City Council Departments main stream budgets, and external partner agencies for example the Police and Primary Care Trust, which is in turn reflected in the fact that the Area Committee's role here is to influence, develop and consult. However, on occasion, wellbeing funding has resourced some projects related to its roles, for example community engagement, area based regeneration schemes and conservation area reviews.

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

- 4.5.1 This report is the report of the Area Leader for West North West Leeds who has delegated responsibility to action decisions in accordance with the Area Support

Team's work programme in accordance with part 3 of the Council's Constitution in relation to Area Committee Functions.

4.5.2 This report is not confidential, neither is it, or part of it exempt.

4.5.1 This report is subject to Call-In as the Area Committee's functions are delegated Executive ones.

#### **4.6 Risk Management**

4.6.1 There are no significant risks identified in this report.

### **5. Conclusions**

5.1 The Area Update report provides Members with information on a range of services and activities in the inner West area.

5.2 The report advises Members of the constitutional requirement for the Committee to approve the terms of reference for the ward forums and appoint Chairs annually. It asks the Committee to consider appointing a Ward Member to chair the Bramley and Stanningley forum to maintain the direct link between the forum and the Area Committee.

### **6 Recommendations**

6.1 The Area Committee is asked to:

- i) Note the contents of the report, and
- ii) Approve the terms of reference for the two Ward forums and appoint a Chair for each meeting for the current municipal year.

### **7 Background documents<sup>1</sup>**

7.1 Area Committee procedure rules

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<sup>1</sup> The background documents listed in this section are available for inspection on request for a period of four years following the date of the relevant meeting. Accordingly this list does not include documents containing exempt or confidential information, or any published works. Requests to inspect any background documents should be submitted to the report author.