

Report of the West Leeds Area Manager

Inner West Area Committee

Date: 22 June 2006

Subject: Fairfield Local Area Management Plan – 12 month Review

Electoral Wards Affected:
Bramley & Stanningley

Specific Implications For:

Ethnic minorities

Women

Disabled people

Narrowing the Gap

Council Function

Delegated Executive Function available for Call In

Delegated Executive Function not available for Call In Details set out in the report

Executive Summary

1. Fairfield Local Area Management Plan (LAMP) has now been in operation for 15 months and has made a number of small but tangible improvements to the local neighbourhood on Fairfield Estate. Operating under three goals of:

- a. **Safe homes, safe streets**
- b. **Better physical environment**
- c. **Improve outcomes for young people**

the Fairfield LAMP group have been successful in getting £22,762 Well Being funds into the estate and from £52,930 from other service providers. Members of the group (Area Management and the Fairfield Residents Association) now have a strong working relationship with the police, community safety, housing and Community Action Support Team

(CAST). In the first year the LAMP group has focused on street cleaning, reducing crime and providing extra youth provision.

1.0 Purpose Of This Report

1.1 To brief Members on the first 15 months of the Fairfield LAMP

2.0 Background Information

2.1 The Fairfield estate in Bramley was the first neighbourhood in West Leeds chosen to introduce Local Area Management Plans or LAMPs. LAMPs aim to improve neighbourhoods through Area Management working with service providers to better meet the needs of local people and to target issues of deprivation.

2.2 Fairfield was chosen first as it is in the bottom 3% of all neighbourhoods in England and Wales and rates as 417th out of about 32,400 localities. Also West Leeds Homes had in September 2004 consulted residents on the condition of their homes and neighbourhood - part of a 'Planning for Real' exercise - to feed into the process of housing renewal. From the feedback concerns about safety and the environment were very strongly reported as in need of addressing. As these were not in the ALMO's remit of bringing the housing stock to decent home standards it was suggested that Area Management take a lead in addressing these external issues.

2.3 In February 2005 Area Management met with the local residents association to decide on a plan of action to address issues raised by the 'Planning For Real' exercise and other issues about the neighbourhood.

3.0 Main Issues

3.1 Based on the 'Planning for Real' exercise the following goals and objectives were agreed upon as the basis for the Fairfield LAMP:

Goal 1: Safe Homes, safe streets by:

- reducing vandalism
- improving policing
- reducing car theft and speeding
- reducing substance abuse

Goal 2: Better physical environment by:

- introducing a garden assistance scheme
- improving the streetscape
- reducing graffiti
- improving park maintenance

Goal 3: Improve outcomes for young people by:

- Increasing activity for 8-12 year olds
- Increasing activities for 13-19 year olds

3.2 Over the past 15 months the LAMP group has met on a monthly basis to address the three goals with various council or other service providers. To date the achievements have been:

Goal 1: Safe Homes, safe streets

- Establishing the Police and Community Safety as regular participants to the LAMP

- Assisting the police with local intelligence to target instigators of substance abuse on the estate and hot spots for vandalism
- Highlighted the need to fence house boundaries along Bramley Park to reduce burglary - Leeds West Homes invested £27,000 and Area Committee £6,000
- Distribute educational material about burglary via wheelie bin stickers – Community Safety- £500 Well Being funds
- Increase surveillance by PCSOs
- Resolved anti-social behavior around the Children’s Centre with the PCSOs

Goal 2: Better physical environment

- Access points for vehicles to Bramley Park checked and improved by Parks and Countryside
- £10,000 of Well Being funds to clear a site so that a Community Garden can be established – Sure Start
- Regular clean ups using skips funded by Well Being and ALMO – 3 held so far –total invested £1,700 (ALMO and Well Being) and 42 tonnes of waste removed
- Estate inspection to remove fire hazards by Fire Brigade
- Regular fly tipping removal and litter picking by CAST
- 5 Rubbish bins place around estate – worth £1,750 from Street Scene
- Ginnels cleaned and cut back – now a regular service by Street Scene
- Road resurfaced by Bramley Primary School – cost £5000 from Highways maintenance programme

Goal 3: Improve outcomes for young people

- Started an under 13 year old football coaching on Fridays for 12 months – costs £1,582 in 2005/06 and £3,575 in 2006/07 from Well Being fund for BARCA
- Negotiated the placement of two detached youth workers deployed from BARCA (costs about £4,500)
- Organised bus transport for youth to access LAZAR centre activities over Easter 2005 by Youth Services
- Organised temporary skate park in Stanningley Park from May 2005 to October 2005 by Youth Services (cost of delivery and removal £15,000)

While many of the achievements have been small improvements to the estate they have laid the foundations for further intensive work and have build a good rapport with the Residents Association and Fairfield Partnership. In 2006 Fairfield Estate qualified for extra funding through the Government’s Safer Stronger Community Fund because it is in the bottom 3% of neighbourhoods in the Index of Multiple Deprivation. This funding will expand the LAMP to deliver intensive neighbourhood management. Funding will be provided to the Fairfield Partnership who will employ staff to address the underlying issues on the estate and neighbouring Rossfield estate. Through this funding arrangement the LAMP will meet the following objectives listed in its original plan:

Goal 1: Safe Homes, safe streets

- Reducing crime by employing a Neighbourhood Warden – this warden will be also supervise the other 6 wardens in West Leeds. His or her remit will also be for the Fairfield and Rossfield Estate and assist in reducing crime and grime.

Goal 2: Better physical environment

- The employment of a community gardener to assist people with their gardens, work on environmental projects and work with Leeds West Homes in cutting and maintaining boundary hedges
- £147,000 in capital to improve the environment – in 2006/07 Groundwork will work with Bramley Primary School and residents to create a woodland garden by the school and improvements will be made to the entrance with new seating and a youth shelter. Funds will be used to promote garden improvements such as hanging baskets and bulb planting.

Goal 3: Improve outcomes for young people

- Extra funding to ensure programmes can be run from the community centre to address youth issues

In addition the SSCF will also employ a community coordinator who will ensure that a host of programmes are up and run at the community centre to address underlying problems on the estate including improving skills and education of residents.

4.0 Implications For Council Policy And Governance

4.1 Fairfield LAMP is part of the *Narrowing the Gap* agenda

5.0 Legal And Resource Implications

5.1 Administering the Fairfield LAMP is currently part of the Area Management activity and employs an SO1/2 about 85hrs per year – cost £1020 per year.

5.2 Future administration will become part of the Intensive Neighbourhood Management programme funded by the Safe Stronger Community Fund. Administration will continue in the near term by Area Management but will shift to the Community Coordinator employed through the SSCF.

6.0 Conclusions

6.1 In its first year the Fairfield LAMP has made some tangible benefits for the community in Fairfield estate. It has demonstrated to people a commitment by the council to improving their neighbourhood and in address long term issues of deprivation. Overall £75, 700 has been spent in the area that would not have been the case if the LAMP had not been set up.

7.0 Recommendations

7.1 Note the report.