
Report of the West Leeds Area Manager

Inner West Area Committee

Date: 29 March 2007

Subject: Area Managers report

Electoral Wards Affected:

Armley and Bramley

Specific Implications For:

Ethnic minorities

Women

Disabled people

Narrowing the Gap x

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

The purpose of this report is to inform members of progress on Crime and Grime Tasking, Project Champion, Northern Challenge Housing proposals, Worklessness in West Leeds, Local Enterprise Growth Initiative, and the West Leeds District Partnership programme.

Inner West Area Committee members are invited to note the contents of the report and to comment on any aspect of the matter raised

1.0 Purpose Of This Report

1.1 This report informs members about actions on a number on a number of Area Committee priorities over the last three months

2.0 Background Information

2.1 The priorities of the Inner Area Committee are set out in the Area Delivery Plan agreed by members in February 2007. This report updates members on a number of specific actions:

- “Crime and grime” tasking and Project Champion
- Northern Challenge Housing proposals for Bramley
- Worklessness funding in West Leeds
- Local Enterprise Growth Initiative
- The West Leeds District Partnership programme

3.0 Crime and Grime Tasking and Project Champion

3.1 The new the “crime and grime” tasking structure reported to the last area committee has now been put in place in West Leeds. The multi-agency tasking structure involves monthly intelligence sharing meetings of Area Management, Pudsey Weetwood Police, the Anti-Social Behaviour Unit, Leeds West Homes, West Leeds Environmental Health, Youth Service/Barca, City Services Enforcement Teams and other agencies. Tasking action plans have now been put in place for both Inner and Outer West. The model being developed is based on the police’s successful tasking-led approach; focused on the gathering and analysis of intelligence within a defined area and tasking out of priority actions which will have maximum impact in the month ahead. The partnership has established two tasking teams commencing February 2007 based on the Inner and Outer wedges of West Leeds to work effectively in relation to priority crime and grime issues and hot spots.

2.2 The “Operation Apollo” neighbourhood programme has now been revised and revamped. Given the success of the programme in tackling local crime and grime issues, and following advice from the Home Office, the new programme is to incorporate a longer series of activities within a specific neighbourhoods rather than just three days. The first one of these new “Operation Champion” took place in Inner West Leeds w/c 19th – 28th March 2007 in the Wythers. At the same time Leeds West and North West ALMO delivered the Wyther Environment week.

Northern Housing Challenge Leeds Bradford bid

2.3 A joint bid for £28 million was submitted jointly between the Leeds and Bradford City Council in October to secure funding to develop affordable housing in East Bradford and West Leeds.

2.4 The proposal was a unique bid between Leeds and Bradford to build on their potential as an economic powerhouse and building on the promotion of

'cross border' initiatives by the Yorkshire and Humberside Housing Board and Yorkshire Forward. The work has been developed as part of the joint Leeds Bradford corridor initiative between the two cities. The whole scheme will build 1000 new homes either for sale or rent as well as creating 50 permanent jobs and 50 training places. The target area in West Leeds is the Fairfield Estate, which falls within the most deprived 3% of neighbourhoods in the country.

2.5 The Government and the Housing Corporation have agreed to include the bid in the 2008 Housing Corporation Affordable Housing programme to be worked up into a full scale proposal. The intention is for building work to commence in 2008/9 and would run through to 2012/13

Worklessness in West Leeds

2.6 There are concerns that West Leeds is not getting an appropriate share of the funding available in the city to tackle worklessness. The concerns relating to this funding are as follows.

2.7 The City Council currently managed by Leeds City Council are summarised below:-

Table 1: LCC worklessness funding 2007/8

Programme	Funding agency	Geographical focus	Commitments	Amount
NRF worklessness	Department for Communities and Local Government	Focus on most deprived SOAs	Fully allocated to 9 projects	£2,066,390
Skills Theme Chest	Learning and Skills Council	Activities at a city wide level and in Aire Valley, Beeston Hill, Gipton and Harehills	Fully allocated to 4 projects with	£2,111,350
SRB 6	Yorkshire Forward	Aire Valley	Fully allocated	£625,953
Objective 2	European Union	O2 area	Fully allocated to 27 projects	£4,175,284
Access to Employment	Yorkshire Forward/ European Union	O2 area where matched with EU funds	Currently being commissioned 1 st Round March 2007 2 nd round Sept 2007	£1,143,000

2.8 The above programmes include both allocated and unallocated funds. Where funds have been allocated to specific projects and agreed delivery activities it has been relatively straightforward to identify resources by area. Where this information has yet to be provided or resources have yet to be allocated to specific projects these have been split evenly across all areas to provide indicative figures on the resources available to each area.

Indicative figures across the Leeds wedges are:-

Table 2: Wedge funding for worklessness 2007/8

Locality	Indicative targeting of funding	Percentage of total available resource
East	3,395,512	34
South	2,805,442	27
North East	2,324,618	23
North West	1,127,816	11
West	468,589	5
Total	10,121,596	100

2.9 The above table demonstrates that the West Leeds district has the smallest share of the available resources. This reflects the fact that West Leeds is largely excluded from the geographical target areas for some funding streams such as Objective 2. It also reflects the fact that the parameters set for these funding streams by the funding agencies require resources to be targeted to areas with the highest concentrations of worklessness.

2.10 The tables below detail the total numbers and the concentrations of Job Seeker Allowance and Incapacity Benefit claimants and this shows that areas experiencing the highest levels of worklessness are inner East and South Leeds. However the numbers in West are not reflected by the funding available – there is a marked shortfall

Table 3 Job Seekers Allowance claimants Oct 2006

Locality	Number of claimants	Proportion of all claimants %
East	8,965	29
South	7,435	24
North East	4,185	13
North West	5,365	17
West	5,270	17

Table 4 Incapacity Benefit Claimants Oct 2006

Locality	Number of claimants	Proportion of all claimants %
East	3,958	30
South	3,060	22
North East	1,856	13.5
North West	2,674	19.5
West	2,109	15

2.11 This data supports the view that members and the West Leeds District Partnership have been articulating for some time that the wedge is being underfunded given our level of need on the four current funding streams (NRF worklessness, Skills Theme Chest, SRB 6 and Objective 2). This discrepancy is further increased if one includes the first round of the Access to Employment funding which is targeted at Objective Two areas only so excludes most of West and also by the recent Job Centre Plus Deprived Areas Fund which are targeted at Wards elsewhere in the city.

2.12 The second round of Access to Employment funding, to be commissioned in September 2007 will be available to parts of West Leeds. This will be worth £2.5 million. Given the underfunding in West there it will be important to press for part of this funding stream to be targeted at West Leeds and Inner West in particular.

Local Enterprise Growth Initiative

2.13 The Local Enterprise Growth Initiative is an item elsewhere on the agenda. The following is a summary of the current position. The Government has provided funds of £15.9 million to be invested in activities to support business development during the next four years 2009-2012

2.14 A sub group of the West Leeds District Partnership has been looking at a possible strategy for the Wedge in relation to this. This group has come up with the following overall objectives:

- a) To focus on the most disadvantaged area of Armley Bramley and Wortley, seeking both ways of bringing those operating in the black economy to set up mainstream growing businesses as well as supporting traditional start ups.
- b) To consider establishing West Leeds Family Learning Centre as a managed workspace and adult skills training centre, owned and run by a Development Trust.
- c) To create a Business Network, fostered by the Development Trust, to support start up and growing businesses, particularly looking to establish enterprise along Armley Town Street and within the West Leeds Gateway Regeneration area.
- d) To create a long term shift in perception of West Leeds as an interesting place to live where creative and enterprising things happen.

2.14 West Leeds traditionally slips off the regeneration funding map because, once aggregated, the indices of disadvantage do not look severe enough. Yet its general indexed position, putting the West as slightly more disadvantaged than the city as a whole, hides pockets of intense poverty, particularly in the inner-west area.

2.15 There are 12 West Leeds super output areas in the 10% most deprived in the country, but the LEGI target areas show a much higher level of deprivation in two key areas of concern – overall poverty and education and skills

Table 4: Inner West Leeds selected deprived neighbourhoods and skill levels

Selected West Leeds ward/SOA areas	Index of Deprivation (2 = in worst 2% SOA's nationally)	Index of Skills (1= in worst 1% SOA's nationally)
Armley ward		
Clydes	3.5	3
Gilpins	3.5	7.5
Upper Wythers	3.5	1
Bramley ward		
Broadleas	6.5	1
Fairfields	2	1

2.16 Not all of these neighbourhoods are in the bottom 3% in the overall index but they are very close to it and (worryingly) on the index of education and skills, perhaps the most important indicator of future economic prosperity, four areas are in the most disadvantaged 1% in the country.

2.17 This raises the prospect of these areas slipping further behind in the next generation if urgent action is not taken.

2.18 The West Leeds District Partnership has taken the lead in bringing forward a LEGI development programme for West Leeds.

1) A LEGI Steering Group has been formed which includes representatives from the West Area Management Team, Education Leeds, Ward members, Leeds Ahead, Camberwell Project, and the private sector.

2) Several businesses have been approached to give their backing to the West Leeds initiative including

- ASDA
- Grangevale Developments
- Elite Forwarding

3) A business engagement programme is underway culminating in a seminar in March that will establish a local business network.

4) A number of business and voluntary sector individuals have come forward as interested in building the Development Trust and involving the voluntary sector in the enterprise initiative.

5) The Area Team have engaged The Camberwell Project to advise on how to take forward the LEGI work

2.19 Proposals for West Leeds will be put to the Leeds City LEGI board in May 2007

West Leeds District Partnership issues

2.20 The West Leeds District Partnership Executive met for its quarterly meeting on March 16th 2007. The partnership welcomed new members Clare Warren, the new Chief Executive of West North West Homes, and Frank Zagajewski, from one of the wedges largest businesses, Farnell in One.

2.21 The Partnership received presentations on current changes within the Leeds PCT and the implications for West Leeds (a separate item is included on this agenda) and on how West Leeds was faring in terms of fuel efficiency and fuel poverty.

2.22 The Partnership considered a proposal that it should consider merging with the North West District Partnership. This would mirror the new boundaries of West and North West ALMO and the Pudsey Weetwood Police Division. The suggestion was agreed in principal but to proceed through developing working relationships initially on matters of common concern, moving towards a possible merger later in the next 12 months.

2.23 A forward programme for the District Partnership was agreed as follows

1. Worklessness Seminar: 23 March 2007 West Leeds Family Learning Centre (jointly with North West)
2. Managing Neighbourhoods better seminar: July 20th 2007
3. Review of West and North West Regeneration Action Plans: joint work September 2007 onwards
4. Joint seminar/event on community cohesion (another “know your community day”) autumn 2007

2.24 The main theme for the West Leeds District Partnership Executive on 16th June 2007 will be an analysis of the “state of the wedge” after three years of District Partnership work – how are we doing on narrowing the gap?

2.25 The main theme of the September Annual General Meeting on September 30th will be a celebration of young people’s achievements- to be organised through the Children Leeds West partnership

3.0 Conclusions

3.1 Significant progress has been made across a range of the Inner West Leeds Area Committee priorities over the last three months as identified in this report

4.0 Implications for Council Policy and Governance

4.1 The work of the West Leeds Area Management Team in delivering the Area Delivery Plan for Inner West Leeds is part of the Council's corporate agenda in achieving closer working and better services.

5.0 Legal and Resource Implications

5.1 The Area Delivery Plan and the Strategy Success are administered through West Leeds Area Management team. This report had indicated that new resources are being brought into the West wedge to tackle the problems identified in plans.

6.0 Recommendation

6.1 Inner West Area Committee members are invited to note the contents of the report and to comment on any aspect of the matter raised