



Report of Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing

Inner West Area Committee

Date: 29th March 2007

Subject: Leeds Enterprise Growth Initiative (LEGI) for West Leeds

Electoral Wards Affected:

**Armley
Bramley & Stanningley**

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

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

1.0 Executive Summary

1.0 The Leeds LEGI bid "Sharing the Success" was approved by government on the 6th December 2006. The bid secured £15.6m over the first three years to deliver an ambitious enterprise programme targeted at tackling 'worklessness' issues in the 31 Super Output Areas (SOAs) within the city which feature in the worst 3% of SOAs nationally. The main bid outlines £36M regeneration programme with each £1 of LEGI funding matched by £1.35 of public/private sector finances.

1.1 The programme was developed in collaboration with the Leeds Initiative, the Local Strategic Partnership and the Leeds Local Area Agreement. This report advises Inner West Area Committee on progress in implementing the Local Enterprise Growth Initiative (LEGI) in West Leeds

2.0 Purpose of the Report

2.1 To inform Inner West Area Committee of the action taken in West following the successful allocation of funds to Leeds. The Inner West Area Committee is asked to note the contents of the report and to support the proposed action plan for LEGI West.

3.0 Background Information

3.1 LEGI is designed around a central concept of 'enterprise-led regeneration' which uses enterprise in all forms to tackle disadvantage and poor quality of life outcomes

(such as worklessness and social exclusion) in deprived communities. For inner west this means focusing on the most deprived areas of New Wortley, Fairfield, Broadleas, and Wyther communities where there is persistent and long standing problems of worklessness.

- 3.2 LEGI is looking at three 'headline' outcomes focusing on the themes of Engaging People, Engaging Business and Engaging Investors. This will be achieved through implementing a strategy and action plan :
- to increase the total level of entrepreneurial activity;
 - to reduce failure rates and improve sustainability of locally owned businesses
 - to encourage inward investment into deprived areas this will be achieved.
- 3.3 A city wide LEGI Programme Board has been established with the first initial meeting held on the 8th March 2007. In line with government guidance the Board is relatively small (between 10 and 12 representatives), private sector led and representative of the key partners/sectors involved in delivering the LEGI programme. The City Council is formally represented on the Board by the Chief Regeneration Officer (Neighbourhoods & Housing Department) and the Executive Member for Development/or his nominee. Terms of reference for the board are enclosed in Appendix A. A city wide programme manager who will work with and report to the board is currently being appointed.

4.0 Leeds LEGI Programme for West

- 4.1 The central plank to the strategy is a Catalyst Centre for West Leeds. The centre will provide a physical presence for enterprise, learning and development serving our deprived communities. The centre will be designed and run by a network of entrepreneurs and will be owned by a not-for-profit Community Interest Company (CIC). It will be directed by a Development Trust made up of local representatives from the private and community sectors. This is at an early stage of development and independent consultants - The Camberwell Project - have been appointed to prepare a bid to the total funding allocation in order to secure a specific amount of funds for west Leeds and to explore the possible siting of the Catalyst Centre in West. It is important to find a key location and building which will provide a springboard for business activity in West. A site that could be utilised for such a centre is West Leeds Family Learning Centre which will come within the control of Area Management on 1st April 2007. Discussions re this site as a venue are at an early stage.
- 4.2 Another strand of the LEGI funding will support increased activity for business support and brokerage services in the west through Leeds Ahead. This social enterprise is currently appointing a business broker for West and North West.
- 4.3 Funding though LEGI is also available to work with potential entrepreneurs in schools with the assistance of Enterprise Ambassadors. Education Leeds are leading on this aspect of the work and discussions are taking place with those schools which serve pupils resident in the worst 3% neighbourhoods.

5.0 Current Activity

- 5.1 To date a LEGI West Steering Group has been formed with representation from Ward members, Area Management, Leeds Ahead, Private Investors (Elite Forwarding), Jobs and Skills at West Leeds Family Learning Centre, Education Leeds, Community Engine and The Camberwell Project. The group have met on three occasions to co-ordinate an action for west Leeds. .
- 5.2 The action plan includes the work currently being undertaken by The Camberwell Project which will be ready mid March ready for submission to the main LEGI project Board late March. In conjunction with this a social enterprise company called Community Engine are contacting all local businesses and potential business activity in the west area for a business seminar and 'launch' of LEGI West on 22nd March 2007
- 5.3 Following this event, a Worklessness Seminar is being held on March 23rd where all the agencies addressing worklessness in West Leeds are meeting to discuss what is actually provided, by whom and what has been achieved. Any gaps discovered at this seminar will be addressed by joint funding applications to ensure that all need is met. The information collected at both these events will form part of the business case to be submitted for LEGI funding.
- 5.4 The need to create a Development Trust who will be responsible for the management and direction of the Catalyst Centre is also being explored and is in the early stages of development

6.0 Conclusions

- 6.1 Having secured funding to support the growth of enterprise and address worklessness via LEGI city wide, it is the role of the LEGI west group to secure funding for west Leeds which will tackle worklessness and deprivation in the poorest communities in west Leeds

7.0 Recommendations

- 7.1 Ward members are asked to note the contents of this report.