

**Report of Locality Manager (South and Outer East Leeds)**

**Report to South Leeds (Inner) Area Committee**

**Date: Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2013**

**Subject: South and Outer East Locality Team Service Level Agreement and Performance Update**

Are specific electoral Wards affected?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Beeston and Holbeck City and Hunslet Middleton Park		
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?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:		

**Summary of main issues**

1. This report provides an update on performance against the Service Level Agreement (SLA) between South Leeds (Inner) Area Committee and the South South-East Environmental Locality Team. This report covers the period from June 2012 to May 2013.

**Recommendations**

2. That South Inner Area Committee:
  - note and comment on the performance of the South and Outer East Locality Team over the past year; and
  - approve the attached Service Level Agreement for the delivery of delegated environmental services in 2013/14.

## **1 Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 This report provides an update on performance against the SLA between Inner South Area Committee and the South South-East Environmental Locality Team. This report covers the period from June 2012 to May 2013.

## **2 Background information**

- 2.1 Executive Board approved revisions to the Area Committee Function Schedules to include a new delegated responsibility for Street Cleansing & Environmental Enforcement Services in March 2011. The delegation makes clear the responsibility of Area Committees to negotiate, develop and approve a SLA with the service that achieves, as a minimum, the service standards set by Executive Board. The SLA should determine the principles of deployment of the available resources by:
- the identification of priorities for service delivery annually (both geographical and in terms of types of services delivered)
  - the agreement of the most appropriate approaches to be taken to achieve local environmental cleanliness and quality.
- 2.2 The delegation of environmental services to Area Committee means that service resources, mainly staffing, are now devolved. Resources are organised into three wedge based teams for East North-East, South South-East and West North-West, aligned to new Locality Teams. The SLA sets out the detail of the resources which will be allocated to the Area Committees.
- 2.3 The annual SLA for the Inner South Area Committee was agreed on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2012.

## **3 Main issues**

- 3.1 Section 6.0 of the SLA sets out the principles and priorities against which the Locality Team's success will be measured. The following section describes performance against these principles and priorities over the last year; whilst the section following describes the SLA for 2013/14 and changes and additions from last year's agreement.

### **3.2 Performance against the 2012/13 SLA**

- 4 The following section describes progress and achievements against the principles and priorities described in section 6.0 of the Service Level Agreement.

### ***Service Principles and Priorities – SLA Section 6***

- 4.1.1 The Locality Team has reviewed and revised mechanical cleaning schedules in consultation with Elected Members and frontline cleansing staff. These changes include a move back to fixed days (rather than the previous eight day rolling schedule), scheduling to be on the day following bin collections where possible and, the movement of schedules to be coterminous with community events, e.g. Thursdays in Beeston Hill. Changes have also been made to manual cleaning routes in several areas following Elected Member feedback including the Parnabys and area around the Holmewell Road HWSS in Middleton Park ward, Allenby Road ginnel and Cross Flatts in Beeston and Holbeck and the Tempest Road area with City and Hunslet ward.

- 4.1.2 The Locality Team continues to improve the responsiveness of our staff and their ability to record and report issues which they cannot deal with directly. All frontline cleansing staff have been provided with camera phones and are reporting issues that they cannot deal with and evidence to enable prosecutions.
- 4.1.3 All identified ward priority areas and land have been surveyed and area based actions have been identified and are being delivered. Examples of this include enhanced and intensive enforcement patrols and action, increased cleansing frequencies and partnership work with ALMOs and others.
- 4.1.4 The Team continue to work with Waste Management to develop solutions in areas where refuse collection can be challenging, for example we are working closely with Waste Management to support the implementation of pilot arrangements on Cottingley Hall estate and to develop the business case for a full roll-out of the scheme in future.
- 4.1.5 The Locality Manager has chaired the South Leeds Crime and Grime meetings jointly with the Chief Inspector which has resulted in partner priorities and a forward work programme for the partnership. The Locality Team is engaged with Neighbourhood Improvement Projects and Boards and has supported these across the year.
- 4.1.6 The Team has supported community activities in several areas including work with the South Leeds Community Alliance around community engagement activities in Beeston Hill. A proposal is being developed with Parks and Countryside Services for further community engagement around the Cross Flatts Park area. Further work is required to develop similar arrangements within other ward areas, e.g. Middleton Park.
- 4.1.7 Reciprocal working arrangements are in place with Parks and Countryside Service. Locality Teams have been successful in obtaining additional funding from the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) to improve the environment in ALMO housing areas. Proposals have been agreed with Aire Valley Homes and Belle Isle Tenant Management Organisation and staff resources should be in place in June. More integrated working on these estates. In addition a temporary team is in place using HRA until development begins to improve environmental quality in the PFI area until the project begins.
- 4.1.8 The zero tolerance approach to waste in bin yards, focussed on putting the responsibility on the owners and occupiers rather than the council, is beginning to deliver improvements. Several bin yards have been cleared after notices being served and landlords in the area are now also being pursued using Section 80 (statutory nuisance) powers. For example bin yards in shared ownership on Marley Place in Beeston were cleared and secured by the landlords following a notice being served. The service is also having positive conversations with landlords about them taking responsibility for bin-yards and securing them. The Locality Team are also in discussion with Leeds Federated Housing to support them in taking responsibility for the bin-yards that they have shared ownership of. Work will continue on this priority area of work.
- 4.1.9 The partnership with Leeds United Football Club (LUFC), brokered through the Chair of Inner South Area Committee, has improved the local area significantly. A

request has been lodged with LUFC to hopefully continue and expand on this in future.

4.1.10 Work with businesses has developed across the year with several being held to account for their impact on the local environment. Work on the Parnabys and Belle Isle Ring Road in Middleton Park have delivered real improvements without additional cleansing resources.

4.1.11 The Team has supported In Bloom at judging times and community clean-ups across the year. Leaf-fall clearance was successfully delivered with no extra resources. A winter programme to clean arterial routes across the area took place in December and January in partnership with Continental Landscapes Ltd, which ensured areas were litter free across the winter period.

### ***Service Activity – SLA Section 7***

4.1.12 Between 1<sup>st</sup> June 2012 and 10<sup>th</sup> May 2013 there were 4,598 requests for service emanating from the Inner South Area Committee area. Of these 1368 were for Beeston and Holbeck ward, 1,990 for City and Hunslet ward, and 1,240 for Middleton Park ward. 45% of the jobs across all three wards were for fly-tipping (either removal or enforcement), followed by 9% for litter, 8% waste in gardens and 4% dog fouling and other dog control issues.

4.1.13 In the same period the Locality Team served 367 legal notices. 108 notices were served in Beeston and Holbeck ward predominately for domestic waste issues, bins on the street and waste in gardens and bin yards. 220 were served in City and Hunslet ward, predominately for domestic waste issues, waste in gardens and bin yards, and fly-tipping. 39 notices were served in Middleton Park ward predominately for commercial waste issues, fly-tipping and waste in gardens and yards.

4.1.14 90 Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) were issued across the wards with the majority (45) being issued in City and Hunslet ward. 29 were issued in Beeston and Holbeck and 8 were issued in Middleton Park. FPNs were mainly issued for dog control issues, littering and commercial and domestic waste issues. 19 prosecutions were undertaken in the period mainly focussed on flytipping, domestic waste issues and dog fouling and control issues. Whilst enforcement activity has increased in the last year there is still the need for further improvement in some areas, e.g. Middleton Park ward. Ward Member directed patrol work is now in place with regular (minimum 11 weekly) patrols taking place in each ward. Patrol work has also been undertaken on Saturdays utilising additional Area Committee funding. Covert CCTV funded by Area Committees is also in place and being used across the wedge area.

4.1.15 A restructure of the regulatory part of the Team has taken place and been delivered with minimal impact on the service. This restructure has also allowed the rebalancing of the Team's budget to increase frontline cleansing resources. As a result of this a further bulky/hot-spot team will be in place in June. The gully cleansing service has successfully been integrated into Locality Teams resulting in a more responsive service to local needs. However, further work is required to deliver the necessary improvements to this service area.

4.1.16 The reliability of mechanical cleaning services has improved across the last three reported periods (since August 2012) Whilst snow and ice impacted on the last period's performance, when this is removed we have improved from 88% to 91% of

routes delivered as scheduled. The delivery of manual cleansing as per the schedule has not improved however and further work is required to improve our cover and holiday arrangements to better maintain services when staff are absent.

- 4.1.17 A programme for maintaining and cleaning the priority ginnels identified by Elected Members is now in place. This includes partnership commitments from Aire Valley Homes and Parks and Countryside.
- 4.1.18 59 additional litter bins have been installed using Area Committee funding. These are being emptied using existing resources through an increase in productivity. We have also replaced an additional 30 damaged or missing litter bins across the wedge area.
- 4.1.19 The Locality Team has explored innovative approaches to creating capacity to undertake environmental improvement work across the area. The Team piloted a work placement scheme with HMP Leeds with trainees, released on a temporary licence from HMP Leeds worked for a five week period undertaking work across the wedge area and creating additional capacity. We are now working with HMP Leeds to develop proposals for more permanent arrangements.

### **Service Outcomes – SLA Section 8**

- 4.1.20 The overall measure of cleanliness across the city has improved from 85.9% of sites which were acceptably clean in 2011/12 to 92.0% of sites in 2012/13.
- 4.1.21 South and Outer East Locality Team had a budget of £2.3million in 2012/13. At year end the service was £53,000 overspent (2%). This overspend included a £50,000 identified saving from integration with Parks and Countryside which did not have any identified actions to deliver. When this is removed the budget was broadly balanced (£3,000 overspent).
- 4.1.22 Sickness levels within the service are a continued focus. During 2012/13 South South-East Locality Team staff were on average absent for 15 days per FTE. Whilst we do not have a comparative figure for the team during 2011/12 overall sickness across the whole of citywide cleansing and enforcement has improved from 12.73 days per FTE in 2011/12 to 11.76 days per FTE in 2012/13.

### **4.2 SLA for 2013/14**

- 4.2.1 The SLA for 2013/14 can be found at appendix A. Changes and additions for the year ahead include:
- Work with waste management to look at solutions to refuse collection arrangements in areas that won't move to fortnightly collections;
  - Fixed days for mechanical cleaning to coincide (where possible) with refuse collection arrangements;
  - Additional flytipping/hotspot resources;
  - Priority ginnel programme;
  - Ward based enforcement patrols;
  - Schedule of additional chargeable services.

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

- 4.3.1 A key principle of locality working and the Service Level Agreement is a focus on delivering the best outcome for residents across the area, so that the streets and neighbourhoods in which they live are of an acceptably clean standard. This principle underpins equality and community cohesion, seeking to bring neighbourhoods with poor environmental quality up to an acceptable standard, whilst improving all areas of Leeds.

### **4.4 Council Policies and City Priorities**

- 4.4.1 The delegation of environmental services to Area Committees, via an approved Service Level Agreement, contributes significantly towards the Stronger Leeds section of the new Safer & Stronger Communities Plan 2011-15. By delivering services at an Area Committee level, the priority to '*ensure that local neighbourhoods are clean*' will be much more achievable.

### **4.5 Resources and Value for Money**

- 4.5.1 The SLA is transparent about the level of resources available to deliver services within the SSE Locality area over the period. The level of resources within SSE Locality remain broadly as per the levels during 2012/13 municipal year. Further discussions will take place about resource allocation and deployment at Area Committee, Locality Team and citywide levels.

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

- 4.6.1 Following revision to the Council's Constitution the Area Committee has the legal powers to approve the attached Service Level Agreement and therefore formally undertake the delegation of services set out within it.
- 4.6.2 There are no further legal implications.
- 4.6.3 The report contains no information that is deemed exempt or confidential.
- 4.6.4 All decisions taken by the Area Committee in relation to the delegated functions from Executive Board are not eligible for Call In.

### **4.7 Risk Management**

- 4.7.1 The Area Committee is being asked to approve the attached Service Level Agreement, which will formalise the partnership arrangements between the South South East Environmental Locality Team and the Committee. Should the Service Level Agreement not be approved then the Locality Team will still be required to deliver environmental services within the area, however this will be without the significant input of the Area Committee.

## **5 Conclusions**

- 5.1 A significant amount of progress has been made over the period of the first SLA. The new SLA for the year ahead has incorporated this learning and the feedback from Elected Members to give us the basis for further improvements over the year ahead.

5.2 The SLA will be reviewed annually to inform the production and approval of subsequent agreements for future years, in line with corporate budget cycle and review process.

## **6 Recommendations**

6.1 The Area Committee is asked to:

- a) Note the contents of the report;
- b) Approve the attached Service Level Agreement (appendix 1).

## **Background documents**

There are no background documents associated with this report.

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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.