

**Report of : Assistant Chief Executive (Customers and Communities)**

**Report to : Inner West Area Committee**

**Date: 26 June 2013**

**Subject: Inner West Neighbourhoods Improvement Programme**

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" 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**

A programme of Neighbourhood Improvement was launched in June 2012 targeting four of the most disadvantaged communities in Inner West Leeds. This report briefly sets out the progress that has been made to date, particularly in relation to the development of key partnerships and the formation of a Neighbourhood Improvement Plan aligned to local improvement themes.

The report will consider the key challenges to programme delivery identified during the first stage of activity and outline the next steps for targeting measurable improvement for priority neighbourhoods in Inner West Leeds.

The Neighbourhood Improvement Plan is included as the appendix to this report to highlight the range of activity being targeted by this programme of work.

### **Recommendations**

The Area Committee is recommended to:

- Note the progress made since the introduction of the Neighbourhood Improvement Programme in June 2012.
- Comment on the Neighbourhood Improvement Plan and the proposed actions for the municipal year ahead.
- Consider the opportunities for strengthening the links between Area Committee and Neighbourhood Improvement activity.

## **1 Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 This report aims to provide Elected Members with an update on the current position with the Neighbourhood Improvement Programme for Inner West Leeds.
- 1.2 It offers Members the opportunity to review this progress and to consider the development of programme activity going forward.

## **2 Background information**

- 2.1 Area Committees in Leeds have the delegated responsibility for Neighbourhood Management Co-ordination, to agree priority neighbourhoods and to approve and monitor Neighbourhood Improvement Plans for the committee's area.
- 2.2 Starting in 2006 the West North West Area Management Team has led a range of Neighbourhood Management activity on behalf of the Area Committee targeting the four priority neighbourhoods of New Wortley and Wythers in Armley ward and the Fairfields and Broadleas in Bramley and Stanningley ward.
- 2.3 This work was generally limited to the local co-ordination of community safety and environmental services by frontline staff and was delivered through three neighbourhood-based partnerships called LAMPs (local area management plans) and the Broadleas Improvement Group.
- 2.4 In contrast, Neighbourhood Improvement is a term used to describe a broader thematic range of activity including health, employment and learning. Rather than just co-ordinate services, it seeks to integrate and improve the services offered to localities. It offers a strengthened and more strategic approach to partnership working and performance management and provides a more measurable approach to delivering benefits to local communities.

## **3 Main issues**

- 3.1 Neighbourhood Improvement Board:  
In June 2012, the Area Committee approved the establishment of the Inner West Neighbourhoods Improvement Board to lead the development of Neighbourhood Improvement activity targeted at the area's four most deprived localities.
- 3.2 Chaired by the Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Neighbourhoods, Planning and Support Services and attended by senior officers and locality partners, the Neighbourhoods Improvement Board has now met four times and has set itself the following objectives:
  - To raise the profile of issues affecting priority neighbourhoods in Armley and Bramley and Stanningley Wards.
  - To set priorities for neighbourhood improvement and provide strategic leadership to a broad range of locality partners.
  - To oversee a programme of locality working which is responsive to the needs and aspirations of local communities.

Following a review of deprivation indices and service data, the Board identified three improvement themes that will form the basis of the Neighbourhoods Improvement Plan. A lead officer has been nominated for each theme to drive forward the development of programme activity:

- Tim Taylor, Health and Wellbeing
- Alice Winter, Employability
- Gail Webb, Learning Outcomes for Children and Young People

### 3.3 Neighbourhood Partnerships and Partner Network

During the past year work has been undertaken to improve the functioning of the three LAMP meetings in New Wortley, Wythers and Fairfield and the Broadleas Improvement Group. Rather than having four separate meetings: one for each neighbourhood, local partners have recommended that two Neighbourhood Partnerships should be established (one for each Ward). Work to make the transition from the LAMPs to this new structure has been completed and the resulting Neighbourhood Partnerships are now directly accountable to the Neighbourhoods Improvement Board.

3.4 Neighbourhood Partnership meetings will continue to offer an opportunity for front line staff to discuss priorities and joint working at a local level. They will also have a new role to help deliver actions from the Neighbourhood Improvement Plan and provide regular updates to the Board.

3.5 Recognising the need to develop stronger links between services operating at neighbourhood level, a Partner Network was launched in December 2012. This wider reference group of partners will be invited to attend an annual event and to contribute to online discussions relating to neighbourhood improvement activity.

### 3.6 Community Engagement

The Neighbourhood Improvement Board has stated a clear recognition that residents should play a central role in the Neighbourhood Improvement Programme, both in terms of leadership through the Board and in the way we co-ordinate services through the Neighbourhood Partnerships.

3.7 Gaining resident involvement in disadvantaged communities will always be difficult, but the Board currently only receives attendance from 2 residents: one each from New Wortley and Wythers neighbourhoods. Efforts to increase representation from these areas and recruit residents from Broadleas and Fairfields neighbourhoods have been unsuccessful to date.

3.8 Events and public meetings held in these areas have generated some interest, but they have not been successful in identifying residents who are prepared to get involved in projects or attend the Board and Partnership meetings.

3.9 The following sets out the aspiration for representation and involvement from residents in the next 12 months:

- Neighbourhood Board: 8 residents in total (2 from each neighbourhood)

- Neighbourhood Partnership: 8 residents in total (2 from each neighbourhood)
- Residents Network: A database of at least 40 locally active residents (10 from each neighbourhood)

3.10 Two Community Organisers hosted by BARCA have joined the Neighbourhood Partnerships and it is hoped that they will help to support increased resident participation.

3.11 Two further events to promote the Neighbourhood Improvement Programme and encourage resident participation have been arranged as follows:

- 8 August: Fun Day in the Fairfields
- 23 August: Multi-Cultural Feast in the Broadleas

### 3.12 Neighbourhood Improvement Plan

A Neighbourhood Improvement Plan (NIP) has been developed to help co-ordinate the activity agreed at the Board. This is enclosed as **Appendix 1**.

3.13 The NIP sets out programme activity under each of the three workstreams and provides a performance management framework to highlight progress and measure improvement against medium and long term objectives. The content of the NIP has been developed directly through discussions led by theme leads at Board meetings.

3.14 The NIP is a live document and further work is needed to clarify how certain outcomes will be achieved and their benefit measured. The Area Support Team will continue to update and refine the content of the NIP.

3.15 Members are asked to note the content of the NIP and comment on any areas where changes or clarification is needed.

## **4 Corporate Considerations**

### **4.1 Consultation and Engagement**

4.1.1 Ward Members and a broad range of stakeholders have been consulted on the development of the Neighbourhood Improvement Programme.

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

4.2.1 The Neighbourhood Improvement Programme has been developed specifically to respond to the needs of individual neighbourhoods. It takes account of local diversity and the specific needs of disadvantaged communities. It aims to influence the delivery of services to reduce the inequality of life outcomes in deprived neighbourhoods in Inner West Leeds.

4.2.2 It is recognised that disadvantaged communities in Armley and Bramley and Stanningley Ward are not well integrated and suffer from poor cohesion. The programme seeks to tackle this disadvantage and bring communities together in joint problem solving.

### **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. The work of the Neighbourhoods Improvement Board will contribute 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 by in large through mainstream resources, whether this be programme leadership provided by Area Support Team staff, Board members and theme leads, or the work of delivering activity through the Neighbourhood Partnerships.
- 4.4.2. The Neighbourhood Improvement Plan offers a mechanism for monitoring the outcomes achieved by this activity and provides an opportunity to make value for money assessments.

#### **4.4.3 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.
- 4.5.3. This report is not subject to Call In.

### **4.6 Risk Management**

- 4.6.1. There are no significant risks identified in this report.

## **5 Conclusions**

- 5.1 Neighbourhood Improvement Board: Good progress has been made in the development of the role and capacity of the Neighbourhood Improvement Board. The group has met four times since September 2012 and in this first period of activity much of the discussion has focused around identifying priorities and

setting objectives. Going forward the programme will benefit from clearer direction regarding how objectives will be achieved and measured.

- 5.2 Neighbourhood Partnership: The process of moving from four crime and grime LAMPS to two Neighbourhood Partnerships has been completed and the groups have now met three times. Further work is needed in the year ahead to strengthen the link between the Board and the Neighbourhood Partnerships. Area Support Team will continue to play a leadership role in managing overall programme activity, but further contributions are needed from partners and theme leads who can provide leadership around the three improvement themes.
- 5.3 Community Engagement: Gaining resident involvement in disadvantaged communities will always be difficult, but the programme is currently falling short of its target for resident involvement in the Board and has no residents attending Neighbourhood Partnership meetings.
- 5.4 Proposed community development work delivered by Public Health targeted at New Wortley will be used to map local networks and support better representation from that Neighbourhood, but additional work is needed to identify and recruit resident involvement from Wythers, Broadleas and Fairfields as well
- 5.5 Now that the initial process of setting up the Board is complete, further discussions are needed to confirm if the format and timing of Board and Partnership meetings should be altered to encourage more community involvement. Consideration should be given to whether community development support is needed in some areas to help support residents form local networks and to represent their neighbourhoods at meetings.
- 5.6 Neighbourhood Improvement Plan: It is intended that the NIP will help to provide a link between the strategic discussions at the Board and the co-ordination of services at the Neighbourhood Partnership. While some progress has been made in achieving this aim, the Board has needed to focus much of its time on agreeing priorities and objectives.
- 5.7 Input from both Area Support Team staff and theme leads is needed going forward to help translate these objectives into specific actions to be delivered by the Neighbourhood Partnerships.
- 5.8 Link to the Work of the Inner West Area Committee: The Neighbourhood Improvement Programme provides an opportunity for the Inner West Area Committee to influence how a range of services respond to issues relating to employability, health and wellbeing and learning outcomes for young people.
- 5.9 As the programme enters the next phase of activity, Member involvement will become particularly important as the partnership seeks to ensure that changes and improvements to service delivery are responsive to local needs.

## **6 Recommendations**

- 6.1 The Area Committee is recommended to

- Note the progress made since the introduction of the Neighbourhood Improvement Programme in June 2012.
- Comment on the Neighbourhood Improvement Plan and the proposed actions for the municipal year ahead.
- Consider the opportunities for strengthening the links between Area Committee and Neighbourhood Improvement activity.

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

7.1 None

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<sup>1</sup> The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.