
Report of the Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing

Neighbourhoods and Housing Scrutiny Committee

Date: April 2007

Subject: District Partnerships

Electoral Wards Affected:

All

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The report provides an update on District Partnerships and indicates anticipated next steps in partnership working at an area level.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Leeds Initiative and the Council's Executive Board agreed the establishment of 5 District Partnerships in October 2003. District Partnerships have developed in parallel to the City Council's Area Committees and the Area Management Service. The 5 District Partnerships were established in the autumn of 2004 and reflected local partnership arrangements in Leeds at that time. There are regular reports on Area Committee agendas about District Partnership matters.
- 2.2 The Leeds Initiative formally launched the Leeds Regeneration Strategy 2005 – 2008 in November 2005. It was developed to deliver the Narrowing the Gap agenda of the Vision for Leeds. It is made up of 5 District Action Plans and one citywide Action Plan. These District plans form the framework for action for the 5 District Partnerships.
- 2.3 All 5 District Partnerships have established similar partnership structures. These include a decision making Board/Executive representing the public, private and the voluntary/community sector meeting, on average, 5 times a year. All of the partnerships have focused task groups that feed into their decision making bodies to take forward specific activities. All have a conference or event at least once a year which includes a range of local stakeholders. In most cases a small group of officers from District Partnership organisations have the responsibility for taking

forward actions from Board/Executive meetings.

3.0 Membership of the Partnerships

3.1 Membership of each District Partnership reflects the key issues in each area. In summary:

- Public sector representation on the District Partnerships includes ALMOs, Education Leeds, Primary Care Trusts, JobCentre Plus, Leeds City Council, West Yorkshire Police and representatives of the further/higher education sector.
- Links to Area Committees are ensured through the Inner and Outer Area Committee Chairs being members of the District Partnership alongside Area Managers.
- The Voluntary and Community sector are represented through Leeds Voice and from local voluntary and community sector forums.
- 3 out of 5 Partnerships have private sector representation.

4.0 Priorities in 2006/07

4.1 District Partnership priorities over the year covered:

East

- Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour in the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods
- Improving the street environment
- The effective treatment of drug users
- Measures to decrease worklessness and improve skills
- Maximise the opportunities provided by investment at Thorpe Park, in district centres and through the EASEL initiative, for local people

North East

- Co-ordinating multi agency action in identified priority neighbourhoods of Beckhill, Chapeltown and Cranmer Bank/Lingfields
- Improving street environment
- Extended schools agenda
- Measures to decrease worklessness and improve skills
- Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour in the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods

North West

- Reducing crime and anti social behaviour in 6 priority areas, through multi-agency operations
- Developing and implementing service improvement and physical regeneration options in the Little London estate

- Developing Neighbourhood Management in Little London and other priority neighbourhoods.
- Improved provision of co-ordinated children's services and parental support through Extended Schools programmes at Otley, Holt Park and Little London.
- Undertaking joint enforcement activities in priority neighbourhoods including enforcement of highways, streetscene, anti-social behaviour, housing and environmental health issues.

South

- Extended schools
- 14-19 learning agenda
- Tackling anti-social behaviour
- Co-ordinating multi agency action in neighbourhood priority areas

West

- Co-ordinating and delivering 5 Local Action Management Plans (LAMPS) for the key priority neighbourhoods of New Wortley, Fairfield, Butterbowls and Bawns, Wyther and Broadleas
- Supporting the implementation of the Children's Act including the Common Assessment Framework and a pilot of integrated front line services
- Promoting the regeneration of the Leeds/Bradford Corridor

5.0 District Partnership Progress in 2006/07

5.1 A system of monitoring performance against District Partnership Action Plans was established in 2005/06. This forms part of the quarterly performance reporting process in the Neighbourhoods and Housing Department and is used to provide regular progress reports to the Narrowing the Gap Executive and the District Partnerships.

5.2 At the end of quarter 3 2006/07 progress was as follows:

Quarter 3 2006/07 – Leeds Regeneration Plan Summary Progress Table											
Plan	No of outputs	GREEN		AMBER		RED		WHITE		BLANK	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
East	92	69	75	23	25	0	0	0	0	0	0
North East	91	82	90	3	3	0	0	5	5	1	1
North West	95	71	75	7	7	3	3	14	15	0	0
South	58	38	66	5	9	3	5	12	21	0	0
West	82	61	74	0	0	0	0	3	4	18	22
All DPAPs	418	321	77	38	9	6	1	34	8	19	5
City-wide	164	117	71	15	9	2	1	8	5	22	13
Total/Average %	582	438	75	53	9	8	1	42	7	41	7

White = commencement date not yet reached

Blank = no response from lead agency for action at end of quarter

- 5.3 Alongside this information, attached to the report are a selection of case studies, one from each district, to give examples of how the District Partnership Action Plans are being implemented on the ground.
- 5.4 Progress with the District Partnerships has been discussed at meetings with the Area Committee Chairs and Area Managers. Overall views were that District Partnerships were working effectively and making progress. There were good examples of partnership activity but concerns about the contribution and involvement of some partners. Particularly, there were concerns about PCT input in some areas and the impact of structural changes in the health sector, ALMOs and the Police.
- 5.5 In relation to the workload of the Partnerships, it was acknowledged that there was some necessary targeting of work in inner areas but concerns that issues in outer areas were sometimes not getting onto the agenda or receiving consideration by partners. It was suggested that further work should be done to look at the balance of workloads in more detail and consider if any alternative approaches may be required for particular issues.

6.0 Future Direction of Area Based Partnership Working

- 6.1 This section refers to a number of drivers and strands of work which are expected to inform and influence the future direction of partnership activity at an area level in Leeds.
- 6.2 **Government Thinking.** The Government's emphasis on neighbourhoods as the locus for service delivery and governance is a major element in the recent local Government White Paper. This places an emphasis on improving service delivery at the neighbourhood level, enhancing the local leadership role of elected members and opportunities for local residents to get more actively involved in their localities. It is backed by requirements built into the Local Area Agreement and CPA assessment of the Authority.
- 6.3 **Changes in council and partner structures** e.g. ALMO boundaries, Police Divisions. A number of operational boundary changes have prompted the need for a review of the existing District Partnership arrangements.
- 6.4 **The findings and recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Inquiry into Narrowing the Gap.** Published this month the Committee's findings include recommendations relating to District Partnership structures and the connectivity between the Vision for Leeds, the Local Area Agreement and the Leeds Regeneration Plan. A timetable is being drawn up to revise and update the Local Area Agreement by April 2008 to comply with new Government guidance and the outcomes of the Comprehensive Spending Review due in the Summer/Autumn. It would be appropriate to revise the planning framework and integrate these plans and their objectives where possible during the coming year. The work will need to address both strategic and neighbourhood issues and ensure that planning and delivery is addressed at the appropriate level.

6.5 Area Management Review. Current area management arrangements are being reviewed by senior officers through the corporate Area Management Review Board as reported previously to the Scrutiny Committee. Councillor Chapman, Lead Member, has sought views of elected members and is currently meeting with the Chairs of the Area Committees. The outcomes of this work will inform a report to the Executive Board in the near future. An issue to consider will be the relationship between District Partnerships and the Area Committees.

6.6 A report on Partnership Working and Localities was discussed by the Leeds Initiative Narrowing the Gap Executive on 29th March. The Executive was asked to support a process to be co-ordinated by the Director of the Leeds Initiative and the Council's Chief Regeneration Officer to review current arrangements for locality based partnership working and consult partners on the most effective framework for the future. The aim will be to report back to the Executive in the Autumn. In the meantime, existing District Partnership arrangements will continue until proposals for change have been agreed.

7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Scrutiny Board is asked to:

7.1 Note the current position regarding the District Partnerships.

7.2 Consider if it wishes to pursue any further scrutiny in relation to District Partnerships as part of its work programme for 2007/08.