

Community involvement

The partnership believes that communication and consultation with the people of east Leeds is central to working together to meet the needs and hopes of residents and businesses. One of our main tasks is to build a co-ordinated and district-wide approach. We will do this by:

- working through the existing neighbourhood forums which cover the whole district, linking the work of the district partnership with the area committees;
- using the new East Leeds Voluntary and Community Sector Forum;
- holding consultation events and activities; and
- hosting a conference twice a year to allow local service providers and the local community to influence the work of the partnership.



Measuring progress

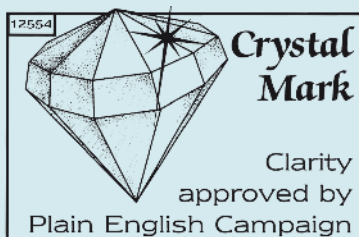
Throughout the lifetime of the plan, the partnership will monitor its progress, responding to problems and future issues. The partnership has a number of working groups which each take responsibility for an aspect of work, including crime, health and employment. The chairs of these groups will make sure that the work across the eight

themes listed above is linked and co-ordinated. We have developed a plan which sets out targets so that we will know whether we are going to achieve our action plan.

Photographs

Page

- 1 The former St Aidan's opencast mine near Woodlesford, which is being converted into a wetland nature reserve
- 2 Harehills Lane
- 3 Gipton Co-op (top left)
- 3 An event at the Miners Welfare Hall in Allerton Bywater to celebrate the International Day of Older People (bottom left)
- 3 The Shah Jalal Mosque in Harehills
- 5 Outside Gipton Co-op



East Leeds
making things happen

East Leeds District Partnership

Unit One

Acorn Business Park

Killingbeck Drive

Killingbeck

Leeds, LS14 6UF

E-mail: nhd.east@leeds.gov.uk

Phone: 0113 214 3240

the Leeds Initiative

Local partnerships making things happen



East Leeds District Partnership Action Plan 2005 to 2008

Context

East Leeds is a district of contrasts made up of three distinct zones. Close to the city centre are the older terraced areas of Harehills and Richmond Hill, and further out is a large area of connected council estates in Gipton, Osmondthorpe, Seacroft, Halton Moor and Whinmoor. The outer suburbs and rural edge of the district includes Halton, Methley, Colton and Whitkirk, Temple Newsam and the former mining communities of Garforth, Kippax and Swillington, Micklefield and Allerton Bywater. Most of the employment and economic activity is in the inner area, except Thorpe Park at junction 46 of the motorway. Overall 157,000 people live in 66,000 households in the area.



East Leeds
making things happen

East Leeds faces a range of challenges, including:

- high unemployment (double the city average in some areas of the district);
- significant problems with crime and antisocial behaviour;
- low educational achievement (58% of the population have no qualifications);
- high levels of benefit dependency;
- low skill levels;
- poor health (20% individuals have a limiting, long-term illness); and
- low levels of home ownership.

However, we also have valuable opportunities to deal with these problems, including:

- new job opportunities in the developing Aire Valley, Thorpe Park and the expansion of St James's hospital;
- new schools such as the new campus in Burmantofts and the David Young Academy;
- new health-care facilities;
- new housing in Allerton Bywater, Gipton and Seacroft; and
- a long-term (over 10 years) programme to increase home ownership to improve the quality of life of people who live in east Leeds, being developed by the council, a private developer and the arm's-length management organisations.

Priorities

The East Leeds District Partnership identified that making sure the environment is clean and safe is essential to tackling the problems experienced by the communities of east Leeds. The partners identified a number of early priorities to:

- tackle crime and antisocial behaviour in the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods;
- improve the street environment in the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods; and
- make sure that drug users have access to effective treatment.

Actions

The East Leeds District Partnership will carry out the following actions to help achieve one of the main aims of the city's long-term plan for the future – Vision for Leeds 2004 to 2020 – to narrow the gap between the most disadvantaged people and communities and the rest of the city.





Culture

We will:

- support the development of facilities for culture and leisure, developing the Epiphany Arts centre at Gipton, a project which provides space for arts for local residents and the wider Leeds community;
- promote the rich cultural heritage of the east Leeds district;
- improve access to arts, cultural and sport facilities, particularly for black and ethnic-minority residents; and
- develop a local cultural and sports strategy, including mapping current activity.

Enterprise and economy

We will:

- improve the skills base;
- improve the move from school to work for young people;
- work with employers to make sure that 25% of all new jobs are taken up by local people;
- work with and support local businesses, encourage business growth, and develop social enterprises – businesses that use their resources to help local communities;
- develop a marketing strategy to promote east Leeds as a place to live, work and invest;
- develop schemes to reduce the number of people in the district on Incapacity Benefit; and
- promote the out-of-city shopping area and invest in the local environment.

Environment

We will:

- improve the street environment in the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods;
- work with residents to develop better-quality open space and improve management and maintenance, for example, in St Aidan's nature reserve, the Wykebeck Valley and Beckett Street Cemetery;
- increase recycling rates by improving awareness, particularly among businesses; and
- involve schools in promoting environmental responsibility.

Harmonious communities

We will:

- reduce crime and antisocial behaviour in the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods by carrying out 16 multi-agency operations in the first year;
- develop a partnership approach to involve all our communities, particularly in Gipton and Harehills, and increase the number of residents attending consultation events and forums by 10%;
- provide support for voluntary-sector organisations; and
- deliver projects to encourage children and young people to take part in positive activities in their free time.

Health and wellbeing

We will:

- improve treatment for people who misuse drugs by developing a drugs and alcohol action plan and delivering a community drugs treatment service;
- improve the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities by developing a plan to reduce poverty, including making sure that people can afford to heat their homes properly;
- tackle teenage-pregnancy rates; and
- build a childcare centre in Harehills.

Learning

We will:

- improve educational achievement and skills, by supporting schools with the lowest GCSE rates, providing out-of-school and holiday work experience;
- develop new schools and a learning campus in Seacroft, and increase school-based community learning facilities;
- improve opportunities for disenchanted and non-academic 14- to 19-year-old pupils, in areas with the lowest achievement, by delivering mentoring projects and work-based learning skills; and
- increase the number of pupils staying in full-time education after 16 by developing learning plans and giving personal support.

Transport

We will:

- improve links between residential and employment areas, working with Metro;
- improve road safety by developing an action plan to reduce accidents; and
- promote cycling and walking.

Thriving places

We will:

- manage neighbourhoods to higher-quality standards by setting up nine 'tasking teams' across the district – an approach with proven success which brings together all the services responsible for maintaining and managing the neighbourhood to make areas clean, environmentally friendly and safe for local people;
- make sure that east Leeds becomes a place where people choose to live, including carrying out work to older housing (built before 1919) in Harehills and Richmond Hill;
- deliver schemes and projects to increase home ownership over the longer term and improve the quality, mix and choice of housing; and
- deliver the first phase of the project to improve homes in east and south-east Leeds (Gipton and Seacroft).