



Leeds Climate Change Strategy

The first ever climate change strategy for Leeds was backed by the Leeds Initiative, after it was approved by the Executive. 'The Leeds Climate Change Strategy: Vision for Action' aims to fulfil Leeds' commitment to the Nottingham Declaration, which requires the council to develop a plan with partners and communities to address the causes and the impacts of climate change.

Councillor Steve Smith, chair of the Leeds Initiative's Climate Change Partnership said: "This is one of the most important documents that the city has produced, and will influence all of our policies, actions and initiatives for years to come."

Story continued on page 4

Environment Leeds

the Leeds Initiative Local partnerships making things happen

the Leeds Initiative

Newsletter

Spring/Summer 2009

Friday Night Project expands

A scheme that offers a range of positive activities to teenagers, as a way of tackling antisocial behaviour, has expanded to a third Leeds location.

The Friday Night Project already offers activities such as sports, swimming, art and crafts to more than 150 young people in South Leeds and Middleton. Now a similar scheme has been launched in Armley, and organisers hope it will eventually be rolled out across the city.

These three areas are specifically targeted for the scheme, as young people in these areas have been identified as being most at risk of involvement in antisocial behaviour.

Laura Hobman, project co-ordinator, said: "Research showed us that there wasn't much for teenagers to do in these areas, and as a result they were at risk of getting involved in negative behaviour. We also discovered that antisocial behaviour among young people in these areas was most likely to occur on Friday evenings.

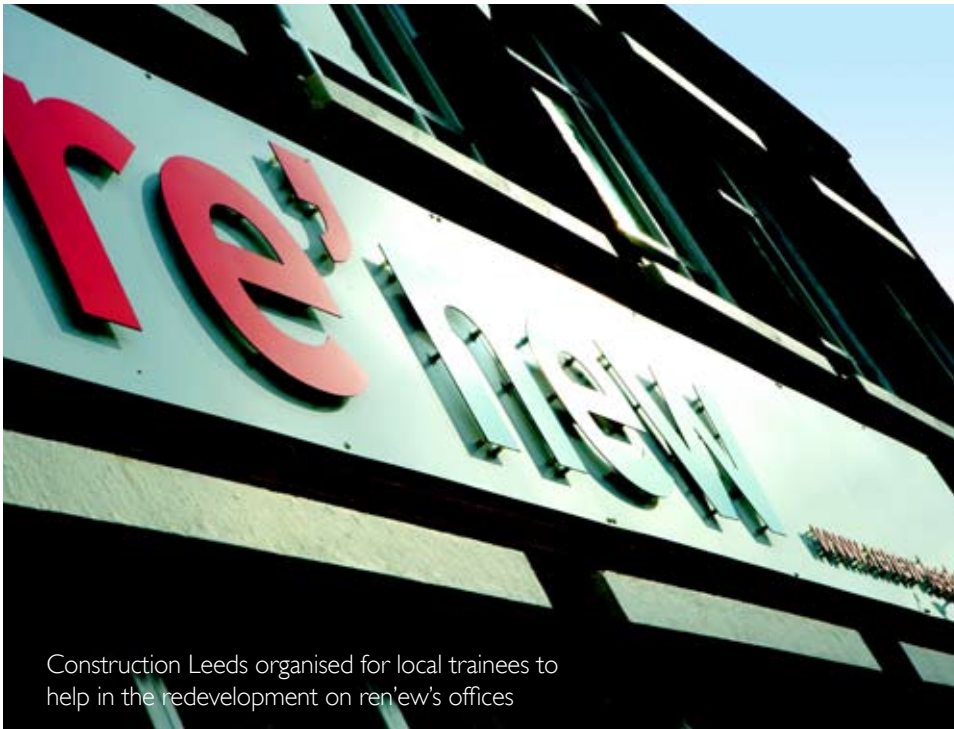
"The aim of the project is to show young people that there are activities out there for them that they can enjoy, and to engage their interest in a positive way."

The project is funded by the Government's Positive Activities for Young People fund, and has the support of Leeds City Council's Youth Service, Safer Leeds Partnership, Sure Start, the extended schools service, the Inner South Area Committee, Health for All (Leeds), Dance Action Zone Leeds, Leeds Federated Housing Association, Nacro and St Luke's Community and Regeneration Enterprises.

For further information contact Laura Hobman on (0113) 276 0837 or email laura.hobman@leeds.gov.uk



The Friday Night Project promotes activities, such as dance, as a way of reducing antisocial behaviour.



Construction Leeds organised for local trainees to help in the redevelopment on re'n'ew's offices

Developing the future workforce

Construction Leeds have supported their parent body, re'n'ew with a recent on-site trainee support package tied into the refurbishment of new offices by Kerr Interiors.

Re'n'ew's appointment process specifies that the successful contractor must work with Construction Leeds to provide on-site work experience for local trainees.

Joanne Hughes, project co-ordinator of Construction Leeds, said: "Kerr Interiors have been amazing - to take five work placements over such a short period of time is brilliant and just proves that with the employer onside big things can be achieved.

"Our trainees on this job included a teenage girl who was interested in bricklaying and a 16-year-old school leaver who shadowed a joiner. Trainees learned about electricals, plastering and painting and decorating. We made sure everyone was able to attend their placements by offering basic support, including providing bus fares and equipment, and they did the rest."

Part of re'n'ew's work to build sustainable communities is through supporting local residents in training and employment opportunities, and helping the unemployed and under-employed to be work ready via Construction Leeds and Leeds re'Build projects.

As Kevin Wood, project manager Kerr Interiors says: "When we are under a tight schedule and need to get the work done quickly and efficiently it's not always easy to accommodate on-site tasters but working closely with re'n'ew, and with the support provided by Construction Leeds in co-ordinating placements and liaison, it's been a positive experience. It's a shame some of the trainees couldn't stay longer. We had no problem with any of them and were grateful for their helping hands. We'll definitely be giving re'n'ew a call in the future."

For further information on Construction Leeds contact Joanne Hughes on (0113) 247 0913 or visit www.leedsinitiative.org/construction

Construction Leeds

the Leeds Initiative Local partnerships making things happen

the Leeds Initiative

Newsletter

Spring/Summer 2009

Improved services for drug users is the main reason for a drop in discarded needles



Less discarded needles in Leeds

The number of discarded needles collected from Leeds' streets has fallen by 44% over the last year.

The substantial reduction in needles being discarded is being credited to improved services for drug users, and improved joint working between the city's drug services and street cleansing services, according to Safer Leeds, the city's crime reduction partnership.

Figures from Safer Leeds show that needles were collected in the year April 2008 to March 2009, down from 58,170 in 2007/8, and compared with a peak of 120,238 in 2005/6.

Councillor Les Carter, chair of Safer Leeds said: "These impressive reductions in the number of needles being discarded are a testament to the excellent work being carried throughout Leeds by a host of different agencies.

"There has been no single reason for the improvement. Instead, we have seen better management of offenders, greater support for people trying to quit and faster action to close drug dens.

"Drug use blights the lives of the users and the communities they live in. Discarded needles pose a significant risk to people's health, and these reductions are signs of a real improvements in the safety of many Leeds neighbourhoods."

To report discarded needles or syringes, telephone (0800) 138 6227, or (0113) 222 4406.

Safer Leeds
tackling drugs and crime

Continued from cover

"There's already some great work underway in the city and the feedback we've had from partners across the city is very encouraging. It has given us the platform to start tackling a much bigger environmental agenda and, most importantly, address the crucial issue of climate change.

"The strategy sets out and prioritises practical action that everyone in Leeds can take. This plan is the beginning of a long-term process but, with the support of residents and organisations across Leeds, we believe we can create a better environment for future generations."

In 2006, Leeds produced over six million tonnes of carbon dioxide, a harmful greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change. The strategy lists priorities for action to be taken over the next two years to reduce the city's carbon footprint and the steps necessary to cut emissions by 80% between now and 2050.

This will be achieved in a range of ways, including greater support of home energy efficiency; developing a more sustainable transport infrastructure; public and private sector partners pledging to reduce emissions; better waste efficiency; development of renewable energy and community heating plans; and planning policies to support low carbon development.

The strategy has been written with the help of over one hundred organisations and the Climate Change Strategy Group, will take responsibility for keeping the delivery of the strategy on track.

The strategy is due to be launched in the summer.

For further information on the Leeds Climate Change Strategy contact George Munson on (0113) 395 1767 or email george.munson@leeds.gov.uk

Leeds Awards for Architecture

The Round Foundry, Leeds Grand Theatre and Shine business and conference centre were among the winners at the Leeds Awards for Architecture 2009. The awards were hosted by Keith Bradley, the winner of last year's RIBA Stirling Prize, the most prestigious prize in UK architecture.

The aim of the awards, now in their 22nd year, is to recognise innovative and sustainable architecture, conservation and landscape in Leeds, and to increase awareness and interest in the design of buildings and their surroundings.

The refurbished Grand Theatre was a winner at the awards



Light Night

Light Night is one of the biggest event in Leeds' cultural calendar and is now entering its fifth year. Based on the model of Nuite Blanche in Paris and Notte Bianca in Como, it involves venues across the city centre opening late and playing host to weird and wonderful events which celebrate the range of creative activity in the city. Leeds was the first city in the UK to run a Light Night event, in 2005.

Last year's event attracted 80,000 visitors to 50 venues around the city centre, which hosted 70 events. This year Light Night will take place on Friday 9 October 2009, for further information visit: www.lightnightleeds.co.uk

The *City-Dell* event transformed Queen Square into a microcosmic landscape of miniature bright cities.



City hosts national conference on financial inclusion

A national conference highlighting ways to promote financial inclusion and improve people's access to mainstream banking services was recently held in Leeds.

The conference follows the Beacon status awarded to Leeds city Council in 2007 for its work on financial inclusion. The award recognised the city's partnership approach to providing better facilities for banking services, affordable credit, and debt and financial advice.

Martin Dean, deputy director Leeds Initiative, who chaired the conference, said: "Financial inclusion has always been a priority in Leeds, and is a crucial part in our drive to narrow the gap in the city. It is even more important in these days of an economic downturn.

"That Leeds is recognised nationally for its partnership work in tackling financial inclusion is a massive testimony to the hard work that partners are doing."

For further information contact Martin Dean on (0113) 247 8931 or email martin.dean@leeds.gov.uk

LFSI launches new strategy

Leeds Financial Services Initiative (LFSI) has outlined its strategy for the next two years to support and develop the financial and professional services sector of the Leeds city region.

Howard Kew, the LFSI chief executive, said that the long term overall aim is to maximise the contribution the sector can make to the region's economy.

"There has never been a more important time to invest in protecting and supporting the sector in the city region and future proofing the industry," he said.

Further information can be found at: www.leedsfinancial.co.uk

Local businesses to benefit from healthy workplace toolkit

Poor health among employees can have a serious effect on productivity. Now local businesses are being encouraged to improve efficiency with the launch of the 'Leeds Healthy Workplace Toolkit for Employers'.

Developed by local experts working with the Healthy Leeds Partnership and supported by LHF Healthplan, the toolkit has been designed to demonstrate to local businesses that they do not have to make big investments of time or money to improve workplace health. Just one small change can make all the difference and significantly improve the health and wellbeing of their workforce, which in turn can help improve the overall health of their business.

The toolkit launch coincides with the Year of Workplace Health, an initiative endorsed by the Health Leeds and the Leeds Economy and Skills Partnerships.

Work related ill-health costs Leeds at least £50million annually. Improving health and wellbeing in the workplace can bring many associated benefits, including fewer absences, better retention, demonstrating a commitment to corporate social responsibility and more productive, happier employees.

Councillor Brenda Lancaster, chair of Healthy Leeds said: "In the current economic climate, businesses need to make the very best use of their resources, especially their workforce. Poor health among employees can have a serious effect on productivity, while a healthy workforce can make a crucial contribution to success."

The toolkit offers practical advice and straightforward hints and tips on key health, safety and wellbeing topics such as stress and musculo-skeletal disorders, as well as useful links and contacts for additional services in Leeds which can offer support.



Healthy Leeds

To order your free copy of the toolkit, contact the Leeds City Council Health and Safety Team on (0113) 247 7791, email env.health@leeds.gov.uk or download a copy from the Healthy Workplaces website: www.leedsinitiative.org/healthy/healthyworkplaces



The CHEs run Nintendo Wii sessions with older people as a way of encouraging them to live an active lifestyle

Bringing healthy living messages to Leeds

Twenty-one new Community Health Educators (CHE) have graduated as part of a lottery funded programme which aims to improve health and tackle health inequalities in Leeds. The CHEs were recruited from some of the city's most deprived neighbourhoods, and they work to deliver the *Fresh 'n' Fruity* and the *Older and Active* projects.

Fresh 'n' Fruity sees the CHEs working with residents from inner-city communities to educate them on making healthy food choices, by running cooking courses and tasting sessions. The project improves access to affordable fruit and vegetables by establishing market stalls in the poorest communities.

Older and Active motivates and empowers older people, especially those at risk of isolation. The CHEs work with groups of older people to encourage active living, and are running activities such as Nintendo Wii sessions, walking groups and healthy eating workshops.

Councillor Brenda Lancaster, chair of the Healthy Leeds Partnership, who presented the awards, commented: "These new health educators are drawn from communities around Leeds, and will therefore understand the issues faced by the people they will be working with. I am sure they will make a real and welcome difference and I wish them every success with the excellent work they are doing."

The projects help meet the health and wellbeing priorities of the Leeds Strategic Plan, and are part of the *Altogether Better* programme in Yorkshire and the Humber – a Big Lottery Fund programme aimed at building our region's capacity to empower communities to improve their health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities.

For further information on *Older and Active* contact Hillary Stoddart on (0113) 350 4210 or email: hillary@fgfleeds.org

For further information on *Fresh 'n' Fruity* contact John Parkes on (0113) 295 1043 or email: freshnfruity@healthlivingnetworkleeds.org.uk

CHEs work with Leeds residents by running health cooking courses.



Plan to tackle infant mortality

NHS Leeds has launched a partnership plan to tackle infant mortality in Leeds. The action plan outlines the work required in Leeds to reduce the tragic deaths of babies under a year old and to achieve the national infant inequalities target.

In Leeds around fifty babies die each year, which is significantly higher than the national rates. There are also significant differences within the city – with rates being sufficiently higher in deprived communities.

For further information email: joanne.christmas@nhsleeds.nhs.uk

The £32m East Link Road opens up opportunities for up to 27,000 jobs



Road releases Aire Valley's development potential

Up to 27,000 jobs, around 400 hectares of development land and a million square metres of new employment floorspace - the massive potential of the Aire Valley Leeds is about to be unlocked following completion of the £32 million East Leeds Link Road.

Strategically located to the south east of the city centre, Aire Valley Leeds is one of the most significant areas of investment opportunity in the north of England. In total it contains 400 hectares of development land and has the potential to generate a million square metres of new employment floorspace over the next 10 to 15 years.

The new link road opened to traffic at the beginning of February and has immediately released up to 250 hectares of development land, creating the potential for a new commercial powerhouse to drive economic development in Leeds and the wider city region.

With the potential to attract major levels of inward investment and new business activity, the area is now poised to become a key driver for the future prosperity of Leeds and the surrounding region.

Peter Beaumont, chair of the Aire Valley Leeds investors forum said: "The opening of the new link road has been long awaited and really signals the start of the next phase for the Aire Valley Leeds. The scale of the opportunity, the ongoing activity to deliver environmental improvements and the key sites that will provide the homes and jobs that the city needs now and into the next decade, will be clear for all to see".

For further information on the Aire Valley visit www.airevalleyleeds.co.uk



airevalley Leeds

Opportunity Unlimited

Leeds arena takes another major step forward

The Leeds arena development has taken another major step forward, as bulldozers moved in to demolish the Brunswick Building – a former university building located on the city centre arena site.

Councillor Andrew Carter, chair of the Leeds Initiative Going Up a League Board said: “This is a key stage in the arena development. A lot of people have worked hard to get us to this position, where we are actually able to start work on the ground.

“We are now progressing quickly on this project and the council remains committed to turning it from an ambition into a reality. Design work has started and the intention is to submit an outline planning application for the development in the autumn. The arena will act as a gateway into Leeds. It will benefit from excellent transport links and will complement the activities of the universities, creating a real buzz in this part of the city.”

The demolition of the Brunswick Building is the next stage in the programme to build the Leeds arena, which is planned to open in 2012. Work to demolish the building and clear the Claypit Lane site is expected to take around 18 weeks and once the site has been cleared and levelled part will be used as a temporary public car park.

John Sutherland, Managing Director of venue operators SMG Europe said: “This will be the first tangible step in turning the vision of an arena for Leeds into reality. Once work begins, the public and the wider entertainment industry will appreciate that Leeds really is going to have a venue which puts it on the map for world class entertainment.”

In another major step forward Leeds City Council has announced the team which will design the 12,500-seater facility. The team is being headed up by award-winning building and technical services consultancy Jacobs, and will receive expert advice from Populous, who have already worked on legendary venues like Wembley Stadium and Wimbledon’s Centre Court.

The arena was identified as a priority for the city in the Vision for Leeds 2004 to 2020, and was initiated by the Leeds Initiative’s Cultural Facilities Task Group.



The new arena will attract world famous artists, including local band Kaiser Chiefs.



John Sutherland, managing director of SMG Europe with Councillor Andrew Carter – outside the Brunswick Building, where demolition work began to make way for the arena

Plans are underway for a celebratory year for Northern Ballet Theatre



Photo by Bill Cooper

40th Birthday celebrations for Northern Ballet Theatre

Leeds-based Northern Ballet Theatre (NBT) is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year, and to mark the occasion plans are underway to organise a street party this summer, and a fundraising gala towards the end of the year

NBT moved to Leeds in 1997 and is recognised as one of Britain's leading dance drama companies in the country. NBT has established a thriving learning and access department that works with education and community partners across the city. NBT is also the only Centre for Advanced Training for classical dance in the country and offers courses for budding young dancers as well as classes for children and adults. NBT and Leeds Metropolitan University have developed an award-winning partnership and the university is NBT's lead tour partner.

Work has just started on building NBT's new headquarters with Phoenix Dance Theatre on Quarry Hill. The building will be a major new centre of excellence for dance and has been funded by Arts Council England and Leeds City Council including a donation from Yorkshire Forward. The building will be unique in housing both a classical and contemporary dance company as well as a classical dance school. In addition, through its partnership with NBT, Leeds Metropolitan University's performing arts degree courses will take place in the building.

Momentum, the campaign to raise the remaining £1.5million of the £12million building, recently broke the £1million mark. Follow progress at www.building-momentum.co.uk



Northern Ballet Theatre's new headquarters are due to open in summer 2010



Photo by Rym Kechacha

The dragon boats return to Leeds for another weekend of action



Investing in the future

Leeds Community Foundation (LCF), in partnership with Leeds City Council, has launched a new grant-making fund. Supported by the Office of the Third Sector, the City of Leeds fund offers a 'double your money' deal for anyone wishing to make a difference in Leeds.

LCF is looking for individuals, companies and organisations to make a single or regular donation, or to host a fundraising event. For every pound donated to the fund, government will give a pound, doubling the amount of money in the fund, which will be used for supporting community projects in the city and helping to narrow the gap in Leeds.

LCF is looking at new fun and engaging ways to let the fund grow. As part of this LCF is hosting a special 'It's a Knockout' competition on Saturday 4 July. Teams of 10 people will battle it out ...carrying giant jigsaw pieces across the slippery slope...sprinting in relays through inflatable tunnels...and more. An ideal fun day out – for friends, family and clients.

Dragons return to Leeds

Following the success of the first Dragon Boat Festival last year, the Leeds Community Foundation is hosting the event again, this time with a two-day event, on Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 June. The race is being held at Clarence Dock with a whole series of family-focused events and activities taking place at Brewery Wharf, thanks to a new partnership with Artsmix and Planet Leeds.

For further information contact Amanda Wingfield on 0113 242 2426 or email amanda@leedscommunityfoundation.org.uk

Sport Leeds seminar

The sixth annual Sport Leeds seminar is due to take place on Wednesday 20 May. The key note speaker at this year's event will be former Olympic swimmer Duncan Goodhew MBE.

The seminar also sees the return of master classes for aspiring coaches in athletics, badminton, rugby league, tennis and women's football, providing the opportunity for them to learn from high-level national and international coaches, including Leeds Rhinos' Brian McClennan.

The seminar is aimed at anyone involved with sport and active recreation in Leeds and the wider region. Whether are a participant, coach, volunteer, official, administrator or professional the seminar provides an opportunity to hear first hand what is being achieved and what future challenges lay ahead.

**For further information
visit: www.sportleeds.com**

Sport Leeds

Former Olympic swimmer Duncan Goodhew MBE will be the key note speaker.



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Profile: Patrick Spencer-Salami, Chair Leeds BME Strategy Group

Patrick-Spencer Salami is the new chair of the Leeds Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) Strategy Group. He brings to the role a wealth of experience of advocating on behalf of, and representing black and ethnic-minority communities, locally, regionally and nationally.

The Leeds BME Strategy Group works within the Leeds Initiative structure to ensure that BME community issues and priorities are considered in key strategic forums. It aims to influence and support the Leeds Initiative and its partners to make a positive difference to the life chances of BME communities in Leeds. Specifically, it aims to focus on improving the outcomes for BME communities across the key themes and priorities set out in the Vision for Leeds.

Patrick's day job is as the chief executive of REEMAP a Leeds-based registered education charity operating across West Yorkshire. It was established in 2002 to complement and deliver a range of educational support programmes with a view to raising the educational achievement of BME children and young people across West Yorkshire.

Patrick said: "I am looking forward to chairing and working with the BME Strategy Group and I know that together we will achieve good things to reduce the inequalities experienced by some of Leeds BME communities."

Patrick was born in Stepney, East London and was educated at the Unity School in Nigeria, before gaining a BA honours in History from the University of Jos. He has since gained an MA in Marketing Management at Middlesex University, a Certificate in Fundraising from the Institute of Fundraising in London and he also holds a post-graduate Diploma in Management Studies from Thames Valley University.

Patrick enjoys spending time with his teenage son and daughter, and enjoys cooking, especially for, in his words, "people who appreciate their food". In his spare time Patrick writes short stories and poetry, and relaxes by driving.

Harmonious Leeds

the Leeds Initiative

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LEGI forum puts Leeds on show

Local Enterprise Growth Initiative (LEGI) programmes from across the country had the opportunity to see first-hand what Leeds' own programme, Sharing the Success, had achieved so far, when it hosted the third National LEGI Forum.

LEGI programmes seek to develop enterprise, create new jobs and boost prosperity in some of the city's most disadvantaged communities.

The event provided an opportunity for delegates to experience the conference facilities at Hillside in Beeston and Shine in Harehills, both significant projects within Sharing the Success. Hillside and Shine provide workspace and support for new business start-ups as well as office, conference and meeting space for businesses and community groups.

Simon Brereton commented: "There was a lot of useful information shared at this forum. I was particularly pleased to host the event in Leeds as it gave us the chance to showcase the new enterprise centres which are a fundamental element of the Sharing the Success programme. It was also great to hear Carl's story, a perfect example how someone from a disadvantaged area can change their lives for the better."

For further information on Sharing the Success contact Simon Brereton on (0800) 048 0054 or visit www.sharingthesuccess.co.uk

Shine is one of the catalyst centres to be developed through the Leeds LEGI programme.



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the Leeds Initiative

Leeds Initiative and Partnerships

As of 1 April 2009 the Leeds Initiative office team joined with four Leeds City Council teams to form Leeds Initiative and Partnerships. The four teams are: Equality; International Relations; Policy and Performance (which includes the Local Area Agreement team); and Regional Policy. The new team will lead to a more effective approach to partnership working for the city.

Kathy Kudelnitzky is the chief officer for the new team, and said: "We see the new team as providing a tremendous opportunity for us to build on the great work we are already doing within our existing individual teams as we combine our collective activity, expertise, ideas and experiences. We have a challenging year ahead of us and I am confident that by working closely together we can rise to those challenges and succeed in taking our agenda forward."

For further information please contact Martin Dean on (0113) 2478931 or email: martin.dean@leeds.gov.uk

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