

Report of East North East Area Leader

Report to North East Inner Area Committee

Date: 02rd September 2013

Subject: Priority Neighbourhood Update Report

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Chapel Allerton and Moortown	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input 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

1. A new Neighbourhood Manager commenced in post in May this year. The new manager will initially focus on addressing key issues in the two priority neighbourhood areas, Meanwood (Seven Estates) and Chapeltown. Action plans for both these areas have now been developed and each areas priorities have been updated. These are attached in the appendices for information.
2. As work on the two priority neighbourhoods progresses and develops the Neighbourhood Manager's scope will widen to undertake some concentrated work in the other Neighbourhood areas within the Inner North East. All of the work carried out will take a partnership approach and address key community and neighbourhood issues aiming to reduce deprivation, inequalities and ensure prosperous effective communities.
3. This report outlines the key areas of work the Neighbourhood Manager is currently focussing on; highlights the achievements; the challenges faced and provides information on progress made to date.
4. The key areas of work in progress as summarised in this report are:
 - **Tackling employability, training and dealing with the impact of the welfare reform.**
 - **Maintaining and improving issues surrounding health and wellbeing.**

- **Addressing environmental and community safety Issues items including issues of waste; dealing with derelict buildings; crime prevention and anti-social behaviour.**
- **Helping young people and youth development: - working with statutory agencies and supporting voluntary agencies within the commissioning agenda.**
- **Development of the Chapeltown Cultural Quarter**
- **Taking a lead on social housing investment and regeneration in the priority neighbourhoods.**

Recommendations

The Area Committee are asked to

1. Note the content of this report;
2. Note the new priorities identified for the Chapeltown and Meanwood 7 Estates, actions and initiatives developed;
3. Contribute to the development of actions to address issues in priority Neighbourhoods in the Moortown and Rounday Wards to report back to a future meeting.

1. Background information

- 1.1 The Neighbourhood's Improvement priorities were agreed at the Area Committee in March 2012. At this time the Area Committee agreed to extend funding for a Neighbourhood Manager post for a further two years. With the departure of the previous Neighbourhood Manager and commencement of a new one this report provides an update on the actions and priorities developed.

Chapelton Neighbourhood Management priorities, achievements and challenges

Employability, training and dealing with the impact of the welfare reform.

- 2.1 Dealing with employability and training continues to be a priority, especially now with the impact of the welfare reform taking hold. Work is being carried out in the area with partner agencies to ensure affected individuals receive full support and advice to understand the benefit changes and gain access to work and training.
- 2.2 Unity Employment Services continue to offer support and advice to tenants and help people into work. So far during Unity's period of involvement 36 people have gone into training and 14 into voluntary work. This financial year ten people have gained employment, five commenced training and three secured voluntary work. Support on gaining employment and key life skills continues to be successfully provided by Re'new and Learn Direct.
- 2.3 Work has been carried out by East North East homes (ENE) and Leeds City Council (LCC) to identify which residents in the area will be impacted by the welfare reform changes and under occupation. Visits have been made to affected individuals to ensure support is offered. Further details of this work are covered in a separate report to the Area Committee.
- 2.4 There is some appetite for a recruitment and training day to be held in the area in autumn, to follow on from the Chapelton Carnival. Work is in progress with recruitment agencies, employers and partner agencies and members of the community to potentially hold this type of event.
- 2.5 Colleagues from Children's Services, Employment & Skills, Leeds City College, Leeds College of Building, igen, Business in the Community, Economic Development and the Area Support Team have been working together on a pilot to consider how the NEETs and worklessness agendas could be tackled more effectively within the Networks cluster area.
- 2.6 The group agreed that there were opportunities for improvement in terms of partnership working and outcomes for local communities. Several factors informed the decision to focus on the Networks cluster area, for some time limited, intensive work. The area is identified as a priority neighbourhood by the Area Committee and partners; there is a commitment from the Targeted Services Leader to ensure the employability agenda is combined with the Families First programme; the area has a high school and there are therefore opportunities for transition work. Although the area has significant challenges, it was felt that it would be a manageable area to

work on initially, with lessons learnt being used to inform future work in priority areas. It has been agreed that the focus will be on the wider employability agenda as the NEETs issues is not as prevalent within the Networks cluster area – 5.7%, compared with a city-wide figure of 6.7%..

- 2.7 Partners have submitted data for the area which has been collated by the Area Support Team. This includes families being supported through the Families First programme, JSA statistics, NEETs and 'not known' figures, businesses in the area and any plans they have for expansion or contraction as well as information on Employment and Skills and Leeds City College provision and commissioned activity and how this is being accessed by local residents within the cluster area. It was also suggested that a number of case studies would be useful to identify where people are not accessing appropriate provision or where provision is not operating seamlessly. These are currently being identified.
- 2.8 The pilot group has agreed that now the data has been collated to provide an overview and the issues above identified, it is now vital to gain an understanding of the views of residents within the area, including those who access and those who are not accessing services to support them into work or training. A simple questionnaire has been drafted and frontline staff such as family support workers, housing officers, children's centre workers, other RSL front line staff, pastoral support staff within schools, Job Centre Plus and Employment and Skills outreach workers will be asked to complete 10 questionnaires with local residents they are in contact with. This will hopefully result in a total return of up to 300.
- 2.9 The group will reconvene in the autumn along with some of the front line workers who have been engaged in the questionnaires. In the meantime, a draft action plan is being drawn up to summarise suggested issues and actions to date. The next meeting will be used to develop the action plan and identify specific interventions that could be implemented to improve outcomes for local residents within the Networks Cluster area.

Health and wellbeing

- 2.10 Chapeltown remains the area with the highest levels of income deprivation. Work on health and wellbeing has continued with much of the initiatives being linked to income. In terms of key health issues in the area, the prevalence of diabetes is much higher than the Leeds overall figure. Recorded levels of obesity are also slightly higher than the city as a whole. Latest national statistics show that the infant mortality rate in Leeds has fallen again to 4.7 per 1000, this is the lowest ever achieved in Leeds. However, certain wards in Leeds including Chapeltown have persistently higher levels of infant mortality than the rest of the city. The Leeds Infant Mortality task group has set successive targets to narrow the gap in Infant Mortality between 'deprived Leeds' and more affluent parts of the city. The local target set is to reduce the infant mortality rate in 'deprived Leeds' to 5.5 per 1000 live births by 2015.
- 2.11 Plans are now developing to create a community gym in Norma Hutchinson Park. Local people have been making use of the children's playground equipment for keep fit. In order to prevent further damage to children's facilities and meet the fitness needs and desires of the local people agreement has been reached to build specialist fitness equipment into the park to encourage people from all parts and

ages of Chapeltown to use it. A steering group with local organisations on board has met twice to discuss the development of the project and two sessions of consultation have taken place with local group members. Approximately 100 responses from people of all ages have been returned, all being really positive about a fitness area in the park. Work is now concentrating on the specific equipment needed. Groundwork are going to be submitting a funding application to INE committee in the near future.

Environmental and Community Safety

2.12 The work on community safety continues. An effort to support families where there is a perceived risk of members engaging in criminal activity is on-going and progressing well. Partnership working in resolving community safety issues continues to be very successful. Tasking meetings provide a good way of engaging with key partners and contributing to a preventative approach to tackling key criminals and issues of antisocial behaviour in the area. The gang prevention strategy group continues to operate and demonstrates good and effective work between statutory youth services, the voluntary sector and the police. The IAG meeting held in Chapeltown is chaired by the police every quarter. This provides a good means of communication between the police, community members and partner agencies to review key issues of concern.

2.13 Work is taking place to deal with derelict buildings in the area to minimise the disruption caused to the community. Enforcement and building control sections of Leeds City Council (LCC) are involved in working with the owners of the Old Sikh temple on Chapeltown Road to ensure the building remains safe and secure. Work is also on-going to ensure progress is made towards the future regeneration of the building. There are also highways issues to address in this area, which are being progressed. In order to ensure all community members are consulted and kept up to date with progress on developments in the area a meeting with residents is planned for late September.

Young People and Youth Development

2.14 Both the voluntary and statutory sectors provide a range of activities and outreach work. A full summer activity programme is in place and underway for the school holiday period. Given the current economic climate with funding cuts voluntary organisations face challenges to sustain and develop services. The Neighbourhood Manager is working with these organisations to support them in to acquire funding and sustain their services.

2.15 Work has also commenced to develop the youth delegation agenda. A range of consultation with both partner agencies and young people is being carried out to ensure funding is spent efficiently and effectively.

Chapeltown Cultural Quarter

2.16 Work is under way to develop the Chapeltown Cultural Quarter (CCQ). Representatives from the West Indian Centre; Northern School of Contemporary Dance; UNITY and regeneration colleagues meet regularly with the Neighbourhood Manager. This enables the group to develop ideas about a new Mandela Centre as a first class performance, sports and cultural venue with wider links in that vicinity.

2.17 There are several buildings used by the community, all related to existing cultural activities. In order to make the most of scarce resources and current aspirations, the project is looking to consolidate the activities of the Leeds West Indian Centre and aspects of the current Mandela Centre as well as the Carnival Committee to offer the use of an extended building on the Mandela Centre site. The aim of the project is to establish a sustainable community hub with artistic, cultural and educational scope with a particular, but not exclusive, emphasis on black artistic talent within the Leeds City Region. The hub will provide opportunities to attend affordable community, inspired artistic and creative events as well as educational programs. It will also:

- Encourage and inspire the community to participate in arts and culture
- Provide a community owned asset that will improve economic and social opportunities within the Chapeltown area as well as within the wider region.

Social Housing Investment

2.18 Following an initial housing market assessment a housing investment strategy for the Chapeltown area has been developed. Work is being undertaken with key housing providers and partner agencies to develop both regeneration and community cohesion in the area. From September 2013 this strategy is to be handed over to ENE area support team. Operational housing staff were consulted via workshops twelve months ago and contributed to this strategy. A half day seminar, aiming to provide feedback progress and update the plan is set to take place in late September and co-ordinate this work. The main focus of the strategy is to achieve greater collaboration across the social housing organisations operating in the area to ensure the provision of good quality, fit for purpose housing in the short to medium and long term. Thus maximising the impact of the investment plans of those organisations.

2.19 Key pieces of work include:

- Collaboration and encouragement of good practice with private landlords operating in the area.
- Improving private sector housing generally and stimulating private sector investment.
- Development of new fit for purpose housing schemes on the appropriate sites in the area.

2.20 It is hoped that once this strategy is agreed and adopted it can be used as a template to develop further strategies in mixed tenure areas.

Meanwood Neighbourhood Management priorities, achievements and challenges

Environmental and Regeneration Issues

2.21 Environmental issues within Meanwood continue to improve although monitoring is required to ensure that fly tipping and vegetation cutting back is completed effectively. There are significant issues with rubbish dumping and fly tipping within the Beckhills area which are being worked on. Within the last month enforcement action was successfully taken against a local resident who had caused significant environmental issues with fly tipping on the Beckhills estate. Effective marketing of

the financial penalty that he received sent a clear message out to community members. This was a useful preventative measure. A new hotspot team are now in place throughout the Inner North East Area and are doing concentrated work on clearing the area and carrying out enforcement work in targeted zones. This work is progressing well and good feedback has been received.

- 2.22 One piece of work which should make a significant impact upon this area is the regeneration of the Beckhill estate following the clearance of some properties in the Beckhill Approach / Garth area. Regeneration in this area stalled slightly due to internal restructure issues but is now set to commence again in September this year. It is hoped that the development will also allow for provision of a play space and sports area for young people. This is a much needed commodity within this area especially given its specific needs. It is hoped that this will not only provide the area with a facelift and potentially provide employment opportunities or placements for local people, but also supply some capital to be able to complete additional works to improve the remainder of the estate.
- 2.23 Discussions are in motion to look at developing the Beckhill hill centre into a community hub where local people can drop in and attend to access key resources. Research is being undertaken into both what the gap in provisions is and what local residents need. For example there have been discussions about developing a job shop and IT facilities to enable people a space to access and develop skills in using the internet. Any work that is undertaken will need to link into the asset review being conducted throughout Leeds.

Community Safety

- 2.24 Crime and community safety work is proceeding satisfactorily and the anticipation is that a significant improvement will occur over the results from the previous year with burglary in particular much reduced across Chapel Allerton. Tasking meetings and good partnership working with both the police and voluntary agencies continue to provide a useful method of preventing key issues of crime and anti-social behaviour.
- 2.25 There has been an increase with nuisance motorbikes /quads in the Meanwood area. A multi-agency approach has been taken to address this and there are plans to put up gates to prevent access to the areas where the crime is most prevalent. Partnership work in the Stonegates area continues through regular tasking meetings and this is progressing well.

Focus for the next period

- 2.26 In addition to the continuation of the projects highlighted within the report and included in the action plans appended, work for the coming period will be to focus on assessing the needs and priorities for other parts of the Inner North East.
- 2.27 Historically the Queenshills Estate has been part of the Moor Allerton Partnership and actions included in the NIP for this area. It is acknowledged that further work needs to be undertaken as a separate focus on this neighbourhood, this will be one of the priorities of the Neighbourhood Manager along with the Area Officer over the coming months.

- 2.28 Furthermore the Brackenwoods Estate in Roundhay, whilst not falling into the bottom 10% most deprived, has challenges that would benefit from a neighbourhood management approach, again this will be a priority for the Neighbourhood Manager over the coming months.
- 2.29 In developing actions for the wider area the Neighbourhood Manager will consult with Members through Ward meetings to develop action plans and these will be presented to a future Area Committee meeting for approval.

3 Corporate Considerations

3.1 Consultation and Engagement

Meanwood/Seven Estates area

- 3.1.1 Consultation and engagement is completed through community groups as well as the Beckhills Implementation Group (BIG) in Meanwood. There has been some discussion about changing the name of the group to reflect the fact that it covers issues within the whole of Meanwood area (Seven estates including Stonegates). The group are still undecided about changing the name and a vote will take place next meeting on this issue. Until recently there was a separate sub group to discuss health issues impacting on the area but this was not well attended. To save resource time and ensure all health issues are covered a specific section on health is now a standard item on the agenda at the BIG meeting. A community leadership team was set up and was successfully running in Meanwood up to around twelve months ago, two meetings took place and were well received. With the departure of the last Neighbourhood Manager and several months gap before recruitment of new manager, this team needs to recommence and be fully embedded into the area. Members have been contacted and a meeting has been set for late September. There is future progress with regeneration on the Beckhill estate in the pipeline to commence before the end of the year. This should enable a positive start to revitalising the group and assist full participation of community members in the area.

Chapelton area

- 3.1.2 Consultation within Chapelton is currently through a number of sources. These include the Independent Advisory Group; resident and public meetings and through community representatives at groups which focus on the key areas in the Neighbourhood Improvement plan. Developing a community leadership team in the area has proved to be a challenge. However work is underway to recruit members to develop members for such a team, following the working example of Meanwood. This is a key priority. It should ensure full participation of community members in the areas development.
- 3.1.3 There was a separate health and wellbeing meeting held in the area but there was some duplication with issues overlapping with the Harehills area. Following consultation there is now a combined health and wellbeing group for the Harehills and the Chapelton area.

The Chapel Allerton Community first panel

3.1.4 The Community first panel continues to work well around the allocated funding provided for Chapel Allerton by the Community Development Foundation (CDF). There has been a good selection of applications received this year with only £3,500 remaining for this funding round which ends in March 2014. Key projects in the area have been funded through this scheme These Include:

- Apna Sports Group
- Irish Arts Foundations
- Meanwood Valley Baptist Church working with InterAct
- Yorkshire Adabee Arts Forum
- Impact Sports & Art
- BHI identity project
- The Feel Good Factor Roots project.

3.1.5 There has been a lack of applications received from the seven estates area, so organisations need to be encouraged to apply for this funding.

3.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

3.2.1 Equality and Diversity are monitored through the NIP's and in identifying inequalities and looking to resolve associated issues this information forms a crucial part of all work in priority neighbourhoods.

3.3 Council Policies and City Priorities

3.3.1 The work links directly to overall city wide plans through the Vision for Leeds.

3.4 Resources and Value for Money

3.4.1 The work here looks to streamline existing resources, creating an integrated approach to issues with associated improvements in value for money.

3.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

Not applicable in this assistance

3.6 Risk Management

Not applicable in this instance.

4 Conclusions

4.1 The approach being taken in the priority neighbourhoods is working well. New key aims have been identified and good progress is being made. Work to develop actions in the more challenging parts of Roundhay and Moortown Wards now needs to be focussed on, and partnerships developed further to tackle these. This will form part of the basis for the work programme of the Neighbourhood Manager over the future period.

5 Recommendations

The Area Committee are asked to

- 5.1 Note the content of this report;
- 5.2 Note the new priorities identified for the Chapeltown and Meanwood 7 Estates, actions and initiatives developed;
- 5.3 Contribute to the development of actions to address issues in priority Neighbourhoods in the Moortown and Rounday Wards to report back to a future meeting.

Background documents

Chapeltown and Scott Hall NIP
Meanwood NIP

¹ 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.