

Report of: Assistant Chief Executive (Citizens and Communities)

Report to: North East Inner Area Committee

Date: 27th January 2014

Subject: Inner North East Priorities and Consultation report

Are specific electoral Wards affected?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Chapel Allerton, Moortown and Roundhay		
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?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:		

Summary of main issues

1. The report provides members with draft new priorities for Inner North East 2014/15 for approval.
2. Key priorities are recommended for approval for the coming year based on community consultation and the data profile for the area. The priorities will form the basis for the next Community Charter.

Recommendations

3. The Area Committee is recommended to agree the new priorities for the Inner North East for 2014/15.
4. The Area Committee is requested to approve production of a Community Charter for 2014/15.

Purpose of this report

- 1.1 This report provides Members with an update on work to refresh the Area Committee Business Plan priorities as expressed through the public Community Charter promises for 2014/15
- 1.2 The report also provides an update on related community engagement activity and invites Members' views and ideas for new promises to help inform the final version of the revised Business Plan and Charter which will be presented for approval in March.

2 Background information

- 2.1 In 2008 the Area Committee approved the first Area Delivery Plan (ADP), in 2011 this was replaced by a Business Plan for the Area Committee which continues to be refreshed annually to take into account changing priorities and opportunities. Since 2012 the priorities within the Business Plan have reflected the five themes of the Leeds Strategic Plan, to clearly show how the work of the Area Committee feeds in to the overall direction of the city.
- 2.2 The annual refresh is produced following analysis of evidence provided by updated neighbourhood statistics, community consultation through the Area Committees engagement events and Elected Member discussion on local priorities.
- 2.3 Further to this, agreement is reached with local partners and service providers on what promises can be made in relation to each priority. This informs the refresh and makes clear accountabilities in reporting performance/progress to Area Committee during the year.
- 2.4 The refreshed priorities also provide a basis for which applications to the Wellbeing budget can be made.
- 2.5 In 2009/10 the Area Committee agreed that they would pilot the production of a Community Charter to present the business plan in a more user friendly and understandable format for residents and to help provide clearer progress reports to Area Committee during the year. The Area Committee agreed this was a success and have produced a Charter annually ever since.

3 Main issues

3.1 Autumn consultation and Neighbourhood Index analysis

- 3.1.1 As per the 2013/14 community engagement strategy the autumn consultation was carried out with a wide range of groups across the area. A list of the groups consulted is attached at appendix A.
- 3.1.2 The Volunteer Thank You event and other community events throughout the summer/ early autumn were also used as a key opportunity to consult local groups on the new priorities for the area.

- 3.1.3 Leeds City Council produces annually revised Neighbourhood Index statistics which analyse all available information; from the demographic makeup of an area to its environmental cleanliness and housing conditions, these statistics are used to inform the Area Committees priorities. It must be noted that these statistics have not been revised for 2014, due to resources being redeployed to locally analyse the new Census information.
- 3.1.4 Despite this, the information can still be used as a guide in determining where the Area Committee should focus its efforts, but it should be complimented by advice from lead professionals. An analysis of the most recent information available, produced in 2013, is attached at Appendix B for information.
- 3.1.5 It is suggested that the areas for concern in the table at Appendix B are those that are proactively targeted for action over the next year. In the worst areas this will be undertaken by the Neighbourhood Manager and a full report back on activities are included in the Priority Neighbourhoods report on this agenda.

3.2 New draft 2012/13 priorities for consultation

- 3.2.1 The suggested priorities for 2014/15 are as follows:

Best city... for health and wellbeing

There are a range of social, economic and environmental factors that affect people's health in Leeds, which cause some people to have poorer health than others. In Leeds, we will focus on housing, education, transport, greenspace, work and poverty and what we can do to help everyone have the best chance to be healthy. In the Inner North East we will;

- Promote walking and cycling, improve routes and access to opportunities.
- Improve community greenspaces and encourage local food growing.
- Tackle poverty
- Address key health issues in priority areas, including cancer mortality rate in Meanwood and infant mortality in Chapeltown, through Neighbourhood Improvement Plans.

Best city... for children and young people

Leeds will be a child-friendly city where the voices, needs and priorities of children and young people are heard and inform the way we make decisions and take action. In the Inner North East we will;

- Provide a year round programme of universal youth activities in partnership with the young people of the area.
- Drive a programme of targeted youth activities, for young people who require additional support to reach their potential, which is responsive to the needs of the young people in this area.
- Improve the links between schools and community groups to enable young people to take an active role in their community.
- Increase the levels of young people in employment, education or training by helping develop new initiatives to target NEETs.

Best city... for business

Leeds has started to recover from the recession, and we need to make sure jobs are created and that local people can access those jobs. We will make sure new developments create skills and opportunities through apprenticeships. Leeds will be an attractive place to visit and invest in, with cultural attractions for local people and visitors nationally and internationally. In Inner North East Leeds we will;

- Improve the local shopping centres to make them attractive places to visit by providing measures such as flower baskets, festive lights and village caretakers.
- Support local cultural attractions such as Chapel Allerton Festival
- Improve links between businesses and the community to create opportunities for volunteering, sponsorship and promotion.

Best city... for communities

Our communities will get the backing they need to help local people lead their lives successfully. We will encourage community spirit and local activity, but recognise that it will take high-quality public services working with local people to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour effectively, and to keep our neighbourhoods clean and green. In Inner North East Leeds we will;

- Reduce crime levels and their impact on residents
- Tackle and reduce anti-social behaviour in our communities.
- Drive an effective and innovative Environmental Locality Team, ensuring that different methods are used which are appropriate to specific areas.
- Increase a sense of belonging and personal responsibility by supporting local community groups to grow and carry out activities, and ensuring that they are a meaningful partner of the council in all local activity.

Best city... to live

Leeds needs investment in new homes and our aim is to attract maximum investment from the private sector and government. We will finalise our housing planning policy to grow the city in a sustainable way, while maintaining the distinctiveness of communities and a green city. In Inner North East Leeds we will;

- Assess and ensure the most efficient use of council assets, including better reuse of old buildings.
- Improve the number of empty homes and derelict properties and protect local heritage.
- Support methods of energy efficiency in homes and neighbourhoods.

3.2.2 If the Area Committee approves the above then further work will take place with partners before next Area Committee to identify specific actions that can be undertaken to address the issues.

3.3 Charter 2012/13

3.3.1 As in previous years the Area Committee is requested to confirm that they would like to produce a Community Charter for the Inner North East. This gives a chance for the Area Committee's priorities to be shared easily with the public, partners and

organisations in the area to help facilitate partnership working and feedback from the previous year.

- 3.3.2 The above priorities, if approved, will be included in the Charter for 2014/15 along with the other standard items including what the wellbeing funding was spent on, 2013/14 achievements, chairs introduction and how the public can get involved/make a difference.
- 3.3.3 This year Charters were distributed electronically and printed in house at no cost, saving the Area Committee over £1,200. The Charters produced have been well received by recipients and it is suggested that the Area Committee again agree to this approach.
- 3.3.4 If the priorities are agreed for a charter then draft text for 2012/13 will be brought back to the next Area Committee meeting in March for approval. As the next Area Committee would then not be until June it is suggested that further drafts and mock ups be presented at ward member meetings for approval and the final draft brought to the June meeting for sign off to go to print. This is the shortest timescale possible and ensures that copies are sent out at the beginning of the period the charter covers.

3.4 Community Engagement Strategy 2014/15

- 3.4.1 The Area Committee business plan includes a section on consultation, this sets out how the Area Committee will ensure residents across the inner north east area have the opportunity to influence priorities set out in the business plan and other responsibilities delegated to the Area Committee.
- 3.4.2 The Executive Board agreed to review the way in which Area Committees function to ensure that their engagement with residents is as effective as possible.
- 3.4.3 As consultation is on-going with Councillors to determine this revised future, along the lines of a Community Committee, it is likely that the Community Engagement strategy will have additional amendments to be made once discussions are finalised. A revised community engagement strategy will therefore be brought to ward member meetings for discussion after any changes are agreed, so that the draft Business Plan can be presented in March for approval.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1.1 Consultation and engagement on the Area Committee's priorities will take place in line with the Area Committees Business Plan.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 4.2.1 Consideration is given to the equality impact of delivering the engagement strategy and a 'soft touch' equality impact assessment will be carried out for activities within the strategy. The aim of the strategy is to enable a greater engagement with equality groups under represented.

4.2.2 Where a negative equality impact is identified action will be taken to mitigate the impact or risk.

4.3 **Council policies and City Priorities**

4.3.3 The priority themes will mirror the themes and priority outcomes at a city wide level and also reflect the delegated functions and priority advisory functions.

4.4 **Resources and value for money**

4.4.1 As outlined in the Function Schedule 2011/12, the Well Being budget delegated by Executive Board is used to finance projects which meet the needs of the Area Delivery Plan or its successor. Members of the Area Committee are keen that wherever possible the use of well being brings in additional match funding to the area.

4.5 **Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In**

4.5.2 In line with the Council's Executive and Decision Making Procedure Rules, all decisions taken by Area Committees are not eligible for Call In.

4.5.3 There are no key or major decisions included in this report.

4.5.4 There are no legal implications relating to this report.

4.6 **Risk Management**

7.6.1 Not applicable under this section.

5 **Conclusions**

5.1 The autumn round of consultation is complete and the new draft priorities have been drawn up based on this, data analysis, local information and other intelligence. These priorities will be consulted on with partners, if agreed, and brought back to March Area Committee with actions.

5.2 If approved the draft text for the 2014/15 Charter will be brought back to the March Area Committee for approval.

6 **Recommendations**

6.1 The Area Committee is recommended to agree the new priorities for the Inner North East for 2014/15.

6.2 The Area Committee is requested to approve production of a Community Charter for 2014/15.

7 **Background documents¹**

7.1 None

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.

