

**Report of Assistant Chief Executive**

**Report to North East (Inner) Area Committee**

**Date: 10<sup>th</sup> March 2014**

**Subject: Area Update 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 type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" 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. This report provides a background to the current West Yorkshire police review and Chief Inspector Davison will be attending Area Committee to expand upon the impact any changes will have on the Inner North East.
2. The report also provides an update on work carried out to create Neighbourhood Improvement Plans for the Area Committees priority neighbourhoods for 2014/15.
3. And provides a structure for the new Community Committees work programme for 2014/15.

**Recommendations**

4. The Inner North East Area Committee is requested to note work carried out to create Neighbourhood Improvement Plans for 2014/15 and approve Ward Members taking an active role in shaping and monitoring the plans via ward member meetings.
5. The Area Committee is asked to note work carried out to create a new work programme structure and to approve its key priorities for focus in 2014/15.
6. The Area Committee is also asked to agree a name for its new Community Committee format to take affect from June 2014.

## **1 Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 This report gives members an update on work carried out to create Neighbourhood Improvement Plans for its priority neighbourhoods.
- 1.2 It advises the Area Committee on the form its future work programme and community engagement strategy is likely to take
- 1.3 And updates Members on the West Yorkshire police review and the changes that will impact on the Inner North East.

## **2.0 Main issues**

### **2.1 West Yorkshire Police review**

- 2.1.1 In June 2013 West Yorkshire Police initiated a Programme of Change strategy, to improve Force performance and transform the way services are delivered by reducing demand and thereby support the delivery of policing. Embedded within the strategy is a commitment from West Yorkshire Police to work more closely with Partners to deliver the outcomes set out in the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Plan.
- 2.1.2 The transformation programme aims to build on existing, and develop new working arrangements, through potential co-location opportunities for Police and Partner resources to deliver a more integrated service provision. At the heart of this is the goal of ensuring communities are safe and feel safer.
- 2.1.3 Chief Inspector Matt Davison will update the Area Committee on the progress of the Programme of Change and what this might look like for the North West Area.

### **2.2 Priority Neighbourhoods Update**

- 2.2.1 Key pieces of work undertaken by the Area Committee funded Neighbourhood Manager, on behalf of the Area Committee, in the Chapeltown and Meanwood priority neighbourhoods are as follows:

#### **1 Consultation on the future regeneration of the Beckhills estate.**

Consultation on the Beckhills estate has commenced, with events being well attended and producing good feedback from residents and partners on the future plans for the estate. A regeneration action day took place on the 7<sup>th</sup> February. This involved partners posting leaflets and knocking on doors on the estate and the surrounding areas, to discuss the plans with people and let them know when further consultation was taking place.

This day proved successful, with sixteen partners working together to cover the area. This included partners from housing, the youth service, Children's services, and the voluntary sector. Following this, the first consultation session was held at

Stainbeck Church on the 10<sup>th</sup> February. Twenty five people attended, and they were all broadly supportive of the initial proposals.

Local residents are in support of the retention and improvement of the playground at the top of Miles Hill. Support was given for the new road linking Beckhill Approach to Potternewton Lane, so long as it is designed in a way that does not encourage rat running. Concern was raised about lighting in some of the areas, the PFI contract manager is now looking into this to identify solutions. Separate consultation is planned with young people.

Feedback from young people so far has included the wish to keep the playground and MUGA (multi games area) separate and to have a kick around area/outdoor gym near the MUGA. A clean up action day on the estate is planned for the 14<sup>th</sup> March.

## **2 Employability and training in the Chapeltown and Meanwood areas.**

Dealing with employability and training continues. Work with partners to maximise employment and training for 16-24 year olds in the CHESS and NETWORKS areas is progressing. A successful meeting was held last month to further develop the action plan and meetings will continue once a term. One of the key priorities now being taken forward is the promotion of the work clubs that currently take place throughout the city to maximise attendance.

In addition investigation is underway into the possibility of having a job shop/workshop in Chapeltown and where it would best be situated in order to attract young people. Work is underway to look into whether it's feasible to share the list of young people who are NEET with partners who currently work with young people in the community. For example this would include sharing the information with partners who run youth sessions in the areas. With the aim being to capture and engage with young people while they are attending local activities, establish their employment status and take appropriate action to take them off the NEET list.

## **3 Chapeltown Cultural Quarter:**

Work continues with the plans to develop a cultural quarter in the Chapeltown area. A press release is being drafted to communicate the project to partners and residents and an application for feasibility funding is being pulled together in order to progress the project.

## **4 Gym in Norma Hutchinson Park**

Work is due to commence on the gym in Norma Hutchinson Park. The installation is split into two phases with work on the first phase due to commence on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March, with a target turnaround of seven days.

### **2.2.2 Key priorities for the next quarter for the Neighbourhood Manager are as follows:**

## **1 Regeneration**

Undertake further consultation with local residents on the Beckhills estate regarding the regeneration, including targeted engagement with young people. This will include briefing sessions at assembly at the local school and at youth activity sessions at Stainbeck Church, in order to attract a good audience.

## **2 Environmental issues**

Continue the monitoring of the EIZ areas and address any issues identified including tackling environmental waste and fly tipping, continue to progress and escalate surrounding derelict sites in the Chapeltown area and undertake a clean-up day on the Beckhills estate.

## **3 Community safety and provision of positive activities for young people**

Maintain and improve community safety, in particular relating to acquisitive crime and community disorders. In the next quarter this will include carrying out an action day on the Stonegates estate and in the Sholebrooks area, to identify and deal with key perpetrators of crime, establish where targeted outreach and mobile provision for young people needs to take place and identify which families need further intensive support.

## **4 Employment, training and anti-poverty strategy**

Continue the work on employment, training and the reduction of NEETS. This includes the work on the CRESS and NETWORKS areas already highlighted in this report. Work is also going to be undertaken to identify resources to provide practical and emotional support to adults who either unemployed or on a low income.

## **5 Health and Wellbeing**

Continue to maintain the mental and physical health and wellbeing of residents of all ages. This includes continuing the work of the alcohol awareness and monitoring its impact, looking at the feasibility of having a more local food bank in the priority neighbourhood areas, identifying and tackling any other health issues brought to light as a consequence of the reduction in income through cuts in benefits, progression of the outdoor gym in the Norma Hutchinson park and planning a programme of physical activities with Leeds Let Get Active to take place in the spring and summer in the priority neighbourhood areas.

## **6 Community Engagement**

Continue to develop the Meanwood Community Leadership team, diversify the work of the Meanwood management team to include focussed work on other Meanwood areas as well as continuing the work on the Beckhills estate and commence the drop in for local residents at Stainbeck Church and the Methodist Church every other Thursday in order to take a pro-active approach to engaging with local residents and get their feedback on priority issues in their neighbourhood. Further

develop the Chapeltown Management team and look at the feasibility of setting up a community leadership team in the Chapeltown area, or investigate other methods of community engagement within the Chapeltown area that may prove to be a more productive to meet the needs of the area.

**2.2.3 Brackenwoods & Queenshills**

During 2013/14 work has been carried out to ensure that the Brackenwoods & Queenshills receive appropriate support as Priority Neighbourhoods.

2.2.4 In 2013/14 a new youth club has been established at Brackenwood Community centre to try to engage local young people in positive activities; this was funded using the Area Committees Youth Activity Fund. There has been a multi-agency day of action on the estate to advise residents on how to prevent themselves from being victims of crime, to carry out home fire safety risk assessments and to look at ways in which the estates environment could be improved.

2.2.5 The former Open Door Community Centre has been leased to St Vincent's charity shop who will keep it open as a public venue for meetings and for the PCSO's to hold drop in sessions with residents.

2.2.6 As part of the Moor Allerton Partnership the Queenshills will benefit from a scheme on the Moor Allerton shopping complex due for completion in summer 2014, to create a pop up park, monthly craft market and the painting of all of the shutters so that this area doesn't fall into decline now that a large number of the shops have closed down.

2.2.7 The Area Committee funded a project worker with MAEcare who has worked in the area throughout the year to reduce the isolation of older people in the Queenshills. An above average number of older people live on this estate due to a number of sheltered complexes being established here and research has found that due to changing family dynamics a large number of older people are becoming isolated and depressed. The project worker has recruited volunteers from the area who have worked with the older people and encouraged them to start attending clubs and activities.

2.2.8 in depth analysis of statistics on both of these estates show that 28.1% (Queenshills) and 24% (Brackenwoods) of working age residents are in receipt of benefits; this is double the Leeds average and a similar figure to that in the most deprived MSOA's in Leeds.

2.2.9 Work in 2014/15 needs to focus on identifying why this figure is so high and looking at ways to reduce it. One explanation is the disproportionality high number of people claiming benefits for incapacity in these areas; 3 times the city average on the Queenshills and more than twice the city average on the Brackenwoods.

2.2.10 Services to assist residents in these areas to access employment and improve their health are available, but they are not on the actual estates. This could provide a barrier to the large number of people suffering from incapacity who are living in these areas. The main focus of work in 2014/15 needs to be on

accurately identifying the barriers to these residents accessing services and supporting them to overcome them.

- 2.2.11 The full Neighbourhood Improvement Plans for all areas will be brought to Ward Member meetings for consideration and input.

### **2.3 2014/15 Work programme**

- 2.3.1 At its meeting in January the Area Committee agreed to its outline priorities, these are based on local community consultation and statistics and are what the Area Committee will focus its work on in 2014/15 to try to ensure that Inner North East Leeds is achieving the goal of being Best City for its residents
- 2.3.2 Following the Executive Board report received in December and Area Chair discussions regarding the future of Area Committees and the move towards a Community Committee way of working, further work has been done to analyse which of these are the most prominent priorities for the Community Committee to focus its investigations on.
- 2.3.3 In 2014/15 Area Committee Wellbeing fund spend should continue to benefit all residents in the INE by funding resident informed priorities such as cycling and walking promotion, but it is recommended that the Community Committees investigations should be focussed on some of the key issues that will most greatly improve the life chances of residents. Below are two suggestions for Community Committee investigations that it is recommended form the basis of the Community Committees 2014/15 work programme.
- 2.3.4 As mentioned earlier in this report (2.2.8), statistics show that the number of benefit claimants in the Queenshills and Brackenwoods is comparable with that of the most deprived MSOA's in Leeds. For comparison, 28.6% of those of working age living in Chapeltown are claiming some form of benefit; the figure is 28.1% in the Queenshills. Both the Queenshills & Brackenwoods also have a significantly higher than average number of people claiming incapacity benefit, this is a higher figure than in Chapeltown. The surrounding areas to these estates are relatively affluent so this leads to a number of questions regarding why the residents of these estates are not benefiting from the same affluence as their neighbours.
- 2.3.5 It is suggested that a community committee investigation should be launched, involving in-depth resident engagement, to identify why this is the case and to create actions to improve it which the Community Committee can drive through the necessary channels. This would support the Area Committees agreed priority 'Best City for Health & Wellbeing: Tackle Poverty'
- 2.3.6 Statistical analysis of the Inner North East also shows that the level of young people aged 16-24 claiming Job Seekers allowance is 9.6% in Chapeltown, which is more than twice the city average and 6.3% on Meanwood 6 estates, 6.6% Brackenwoods and 6.5% on the Queenshills which are all significantly above the city 4.4% average.
- 2.3.7 When Area Committee received a report in December of the Head of Employment & Skills a discussion was had regarding the number of

apprenticeship vacancies that remain unfilled, including the Area Committee funded apprenticeship post which was difficult to recruit to. Unemployed young people do not seem to be accessing these vacant opportunities.

- 2.3.8 A second Community Committee suggestion is for the Committee to investigate why young people in the Inner North East are not accessing apprenticeships. This would again involve intensive community engagement to better understand the reasons for this and then Community Committee Lead Member brokered conversations with appropriate officers and agencies to drive improvements.
- 2.3.9 This supports the Area Committee priority 'Best City for Children & Young people: Increase the number of young people in employment, education and training' and 'Best City for Business'
- 2.3.10 A Community Committee would have four meetings a year, one per quarter, to carry out council business and decision making, but focus its proactive work on driving change to three or four key priorities, approximately one per quarter.
- 2.3.11 This work would be tailored to the particular priority but would involve intensive community engagement using new methods such as Twitter or more in-depth case studies on the issue, and action focussed meetings with key partners and the Area Committee Lead Member resulting in solid action being taken to drive change.
- 2.3.12 This investigatory work would replace a large amount of the Area Committee's current Community Engagement Strategy and this is currently under development.
- 2.3.13 Community Committee name  
Since the decision was taken to change the area-based workshops on the new community committees to be open to all members in order to maximise take-up, they will no longer be appropriate forums within which to consult on the new names of individual community committees. Members are asked to consider and decide on a recommended place-based name for their new community committee at this Area Committee meeting, so that the new committees can be formally constituted at the council's AGM. Having consulted with the Chair of the Area Committee the following suggestions have been made to stimulate discussion
- Community Committee for Chapel Allerton, Moortown, Roundhay
  - Chapel Allerton, Moortown & Roundhay Community Committee

### **3 Corporate Considerations**

#### **3.1 Consultation and Engagement**

- 3.1.1 Neighbourhood Improvement Plan priorities have been set using Neighbourhood Survey and public meeting feedback from local residents.

#### **3.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration**

- 3.2.1 Consideration is given to the equality impact of projects to deliver the priorities within the Neighbourhood Improvement Plans and in funding projects to local groups through light touch equality impact assessments and the completion of project planning documentation.
- 3.2.2 Where a negative equality impact is identified action will be taken to mitigate the impact or risk. Currently work is being progressed to ensure that groups reflective of the whole community attend the PACT meetings.

### **3.3 Council policies and City Priorities**

- 3.3.1 The Area Committee's priority themes mirror the themes and priority outcomes at a city wide level and also reflect the delegated functions and priority advisory functions.

### **3.4 Resources and value for money**

- 3.4.1 The Well-Being Fund is used to finance projects which support the priorities of the Area Committee. Area Support Team staff work with Council services, partner agencies and local communities to take a strategic approach to Well-Being Fund expenditure to ensure best use of this funding.

### **3.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In**

- 3.5.2 In line with the Council's Executive and Decision Making Procedure Rules, all decisions taken by Area Committees are not eligible for Call In.
- 3.5.3 There are no key or major decisions included in this report.
- 3.5.4 There are no legal implications relating to this report.

### **3.6 Risk Management**

- 3.6.1 Not applicable under this section.

## **4 Conclusions**

- 4.7 In 2014/15 Area Committees are expected to take the form of Community Councils spearheading investigatory work into 3 or 4 key topics. This report invites members to identify which of its agreed priorities it would like to focus its work on.
- 4.8 Alongside that, intensive work will continue to be carried out in the Area Committee's four priority neighbourhoods, Neighbourhood Improvement Plans(NIPs) for these have been created and will be monitored at ward member meetings.
- 4.9 Changes to the Police ways of working will put their boundaries and structure in line with that of Area Committees, allowing for even greater partnership working going forward.

## **5 Recommendations**



- 5.1 The Inner North East Area Committee is requested to note work carried out to create Neighbourhood Improvement Plans for 2014/15 and approve Ward Members taking an active role in shaping and monitoring the plans via ward member meetings.
  - 5.2 The Area Committee is asked to note work carried out to create a new work programme structure and to approve its key priorities for focus in 2014/15.
  - 5.3 The Area Committee is also asked to agree a name for its new Community Committee format to take affect from June 2014.
- 6 Background documents<sup>1</sup>**
- 6.1 [www.leedsobservatory.org.uk](http://www.leedsobservatory.org.uk)

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<sup>1</sup> The background documents listed in this section are available for inspection on request for a period of four years following the date of the relevant meeting. Accordingly this list does not include documents containing exempt or confidential information, or any published works. Requests to inspect any background documents should be submitted to the report author.