

Report of Assistant Chief Executive (Citizens and Communities)

Report to North East (Outer) Area Committee

Date: 17 March 2014

Subject: Citizens@Leeds: what this means for Outer North East Leeds

Are specific electoral Wards affected?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Alwoodley, Harewood, Wetherby		
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

This report provides a brief outline of the Outer North East area, suggests key themes for the Area Committee in line with the new approach to area working arrangements and asks the committee to consider a place based name for the proposed community committee. It also seeks approval for the key actions for the Moor Allerton Priority Neighbourhood.

1.0 Purpose of this report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to prompt discussion with the area committee about what the proposed changes to area working arrangements, outlined in the report to the Council's December Executive Board, will look like for Outer North East Leeds.

2.0 Background information

2.1 As part of the Area Working Review, Executive Board received a paper in December 2013 on the discussions held at the Area Committee Chairs Forum to develop new principles to replace the current Area Committees with 'Community Committees' alongside a refreshed approach to community engagement.

2.2 This approach is intended to support greater resident involvement in decision making going forward and is part of a broader Citizens@Leeds approach that has been developed to ensure a focus on inclusive, locally provided citizen-based services delivered through a community hub approach.

3.0 Outer North East Leeds – the area

- 3.1 The area covers approximately 67 square miles covering a mix of residential and rural areas. Alwoodley ward is a geographically diverse ward, half residential, half rural, situated 5 miles north of the city centre. Harewood ward is mainly rural with several villages and extensive farm land. The villages include Scholes, Barwick-in-Elmet, Aberford, Thorer, Shadwell, Scarcroft, Bardsey, East Keswick, Collingham, Linton, and Harewood itself. Wetherby Ward is a mainly rural area situated on the outer north eastern edge of Leeds. The residential areas which make up the Wetherby Ward are Wetherby Town, Boston Spa, Clifford, Bramham, Thorp Arch and Walton. There are sixteen parish and town councils in the Outer North East area.
- 3.2 The 2011 Census figures shows that there are 61,108 people living in the area, broadly the same as in 2001. 13% of the population is from Black and Ethnic Minority (BME) communities compared to 8.3% in 2001.
- 3.3 There are 26,219 occupied households of which 76.7% are owner occupied. At the time of the 2011 census 2.8% of people aged 16-74 were unemployed compared to a city rate of 4.8%.
- 3.4 The area has a generally older and healthier population overall and fewer adults aged under 40 years than Leeds as a whole. Life expectancy for all persons at birth is 83 years, higher than the city rate of 80 years.
- 3.5 However there are small pockets of Outer North East Leeds requiring more attention. The Tynwalds/Deanswoods LSOA¹ in Moor Allerton (Alwoodley Ward) has 8.5% of the working age population claiming job seekers allowance and 29% claiming out of work benefits². These figures are similar for the Fir Trees, Lingfields and Cranmer Bank areas of Moor Allerton.
- 3.6 Life expectancy for all persons at birth in Moor Allerton is 78 years. For females this is 80 years, 2 years below the city rate and 4 years below the Outer North East rate of 84. For males it is 76 years, 2 years below the city rate, and 5 years below the Outer North East rate of 81.
- 3.7 In Wetherby Ward, the area with the highest percentage of working age population claiming out of work benefits is the Hallfield LSOA with 15.4%. Life expectancy for all persons at birth in Wetherby East, Thorp Arch, Walton MSOA³ is 79 years. For females it is 80 and for males, 78. (There is no health data available at LSOA level).
- 3.9 Detailed statistics for the area are available on the West Yorkshire Observatory website.

¹ LSOA – Lower level super output area, a geographical area with a population of about 1500;

² The Dept of Work and Pensions (DWP) packages all out of work benefits data into a single dataset called Working Age Client Group (WACG). This provides a complete count of all people claiming out of work benefits.

³ MSOA – Middle level super output area, a geographical area with a population of about 7200.

4 Moor Allerton Partnership priorities

- 4.1 The Moor Allerton Priority Neighbourhood includes the Lingfields, Firtrees, and Cranmer areas in Outer North East Leeds bounded by Harrogate Road to the east, Nursery Lane to the north, and Black Moor Road to the east. To the south it extends over the ring road to Stonegate Road to include the Queenhills/Leafields area which is in Inner North East Leeds.
- 4.2 It includes the Moor Allerton Shopping Centre, owned by Sainsbury's which currently has a number of empty units due to retailers closing. Efforts are ongoing to liaise with the owners to improve the appearance of the centre, most recently a competition to paint the shutters on the empty units.
- 4.3 Delivery of the Neighbourhood Improvement Plan (NIP) is the responsibility of the Moor Allerton Partnership (MAP), a partnership of statutory and voluntary organisations. The MAP partners, include Leeds City Council, ward councillors, Leeds Jewish Housing Association, West Yorkshire Police, Job Centre Plus, MAECare, Northcall, IGEN⁴, Churches Together and Groundwork Leeds.
- 4.4 For 2014, the focus of MAP will continue to be on the following priorities:
- Reduce the % of working age people in receipt of benefits;
 - Reduce health inequalities;
 - Increase opportunities for young people;
 - Reduce crime and anti-social behaviour;
 - Ensure vulnerable people have access to the services and support they need;
 - Improve communication and community cohesion.
- 4.5 Subject to Area Committee approval, these priorities will form the basis of a new NIP action plan for Moor Allerton for 2014 which will be developed with MAP partners.

5. Key themes 2014

- 5.1 The Area Committee agreed its priorities for 2014/15 at the February Area Committee. As part of the new approach to area working the area committee is asked to consider key themes or issues for the area which can be explored further by the committee. The following suggestions for themes have emerged from discussions with the Chair and feedback from ward members – Wetherby car parking, Wetherby Master Plan, Housing Developments in Alwoodley, Harewood and Wetherby wards, and the number of people claiming out of work benefits in Moor Allerton.
- 5.2 The Area Leader will develop a detailed plan of engagement in conjunction with the Area Committee chair, appropriate area leads and partners which will be presented to the first meeting of the Community Committee in July.
- 5.3 The Area Committee is also asked to consider and agree on a place-based name for their new community committee, so that the new committees can be formerly

⁴ Careers and Personal Development Service for young people and adults

constituted at the Council's AGM on 9 June 2014. Having consulted with the Chair of the Area Committee the following suggestions have been made to stimulate discussion:

- Elmet and Alwoodley Community Committee;
- Wetherby, Harewood and Alwoodley Community Committee;
- Outer North East Community Committee;

6.0 Corporate Considerations

6.1 Consultation and Engagement

6.1.2 A workshop has been arranged for all councillors in East North East Leeds to further explore the new area working arrangements.

6.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

6.2.1 The new approach is part of the focus on reducing inequalities, and measures will be developed to gauge the extent to which they are impacting on poverty and inequality across the city.

6.3 Council policies and City Priorities

6.3.1 The proposals in this report are intended to contribute to the delivery of our best council outcomes.

6.4 Resources and value for money

6.4.1 The Well-Being Fund is used to finance projects which support the Area Business Plan priorities. The Area Support Team 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.

6.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

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

6.5.2 There are no legal implications relating to this report.

7.0 Risk Management

7.1 There are no risk management issues of any significance arising from this report.

8.0 Conclusions

8.1 The proposals for the new approach to area working seek to strengthen democratic engagement and increase community engagement in decision making. The priority neighbourhood for this area is Moor Allerton, priority actions for this area will continue from last year.

9.0 Recommendations

- 9.1 Approve the priorities for MAP.
- 9.2 Recommend the key themes for 2014; the Area Leader will report back with a proposed engagement plan around the agreed priority themes at the first new community committee meeting in July.
- 9.3 Recommend a place-based name for their new community committee.

10.0 Background documents⁵

- 10.1 Area Committee Roles and Functions June 2011
- 10.2 Report of Assistant Chief Executive (Citizens and Communities), Citizens@Leeds: Responsive to the Needs of Local Communities, 18th December 2013.

⁵ 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.