

Report of the East North East Area Leader

Report to East Inner Area Committee

Date: 20th March 2014

Subject: Area Update Report – 2014/15 Priorities and a new way forward

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Burmantofts & Richmond Hill, Gipton & Harehills, Killingbeck & Seacroft	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
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? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. This report provides the Inner East Area Committee with a draft list of area-wide priorities for 2014/15.
2. Elected Members are also asked to consider three key themes to inform the work of the Inner East Area Committee for 2014/15 as well as a new name for the committee moving forward.
3. This report further provides members of the Inner East Area Committee with updates from its five Sub Groups and has minutes attached.

Recommendations

1. That Members of the Inner East Area Committee are asked to agreed their area-wide priorities for 2014/15
2. That Members identify three key themes for 2014/15 to inform a community engagement strategy/plan to come back to the Community Committee in July.
3. That Members consider and agree on a place-based name for their new community committee so that the new committees can be formally constituted at the council's AGM on 9 June 2014.
4. That Members note the contents of the report and make comment where appropriate.

Purpose of this report

1.1 This report provides Elected Members with:

- An overview of the key issues currently facing the communities of Inner East Leeds.
- A list of area-wide priorities to guide the future spend of Wellbeing Revenue and Wellbeing Capital monies.
- Suggested key themes to inform the work of the Area Committee moving forward.
- A prompt for the discussion around the naming of the new community committee.

2 Inner East Area Committee Priorities for 2014/15

2.1 As part of the forward plan for the Inner East Area Committee, a list of annual priorities is produced to guide the spending of Wellbeing money, both revenue and capital. The priorities for 2014/15 are presented to Elected Members, as in previous years, at the March meeting of the Area Committee.

2.2 Analysis of key data sets and a number of community engagement activities have been undertaken to inform these priorities. As a result of this work, a comprehensive narrative of the Inner East Area Committee area has been created.

2.3 Central to the creation of the narrative are the Neighbourhood Improvements Plans that cover the priority neighbourhoods that make up the Inner East Area Committee area – Burmantofts & Richmond Hill, Gipton, Harehills and Killingbeck & Seacroft.

2.4 Each Neighbourhood Improvement Plan (NIP), provides a detailed analysis of the issues facing local residents as well as an action plan for achieving improvements against key indicators such as unemployment, community safety, the local environment and health.

2.5 It is not the aim of this report to duplicate the work of the Neighbourhood Improvement Plans; however it is useful to highlight some of the main issues affecting each priority neighbourhood:

2.6 Burmantofts & Richmond Hill

- The number of residents born outside the UK has increased significantly since the 2001 Census - an increase of 4,000 were highlighted in the 2011 Census data. This could have an impact on services if new residents don't speak or understand very little English.
- Levels of Job Seekers Allowance claimants and NEETs are significantly higher than other parts of the City and the Leeds average rate.
- Burglary rates have reduced significantly but it is acknowledged that there cannot be complacency in relation to this and work needs to continue to lower levels further.
- Highest numbers of calls for service to the Locality Team relate to fly tipping, waste in gardens and litter.

- There are a significant number of households in the area living in fuel poverty – one of the highest levels in the city.
- Respondents to the BRH Neighbourhood survey have indicated their priorities are to tackle dog fouling, run programmes to support young people into employment and training and provide more activities for young people.

2.7 Gipton

- Gipton is densely populated when compared to city average per person per hectare and has a large population of children aged 15 and under.
- Part of the area – Gipton North – is very ethnically diverse with nearly half of the population classing themselves as Asian or Asian British and Black African. Gipton South has treble the city average of Black African population (13.5%) but also has a White British population of 75.1%.
- Feedback from a resident survey revealed a desire for more parks and play areas, more educational courses to be delivered locally (including IT, careers advice and debt advice sessions) and more sports activities.
- Other issues highlighted in the resident's survey were flytipping, dog fouling and the condition of the local bin yards.
- A Police Perception Survey revealed that fear of burglary; drug dealing and nuisance caused by young people were key concerns of local residents.
- The percentage of adults seeking work in Gipton is double that of the Leeds average, whilst the number of JSA claimants between 16 -24 years is major cause for concern. School attainment remains amongst the lowest ranking in the city and absenteeism is a problem.
- Smoking, which remains a habit of over 30% of Gipton residents, is the cause of serious illnesses including heart and lung cancer as well as Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease. Childhood Obesity is also an issue.

2.8 Harehills

- Harehills has a higher than average number of children and young people compared to the rest of Leeds, is very densely populated and ethnically is as diverse as any urban neighbourhood in the UK.
- Burglary rates remain amongst the highest in the city and there is a widely-held perception amongst local residents that teenagers hanging around the streets are a problem.
- Tobacco use, particularly niche tobacco such as Shisha, remains alarmingly high. Heart disease is above the city average and diabetes is a major cause for concern as Harehills records the worst rates in Leeds.
- Feedback from the neighbourhood survey has highlighted that more women only activities would be welcomed, reflecting the cultural needs of females within the community. Survey results also highlighted the desire for activities catering to older people.
- Unemployment is significantly higher in Harehills than the rest of the city. The number of NEET young people also far exceeds the Leeds average. School attainment remains lower than the city average and persistent absenteeism is significant cause for concern.

- Harehills is a city hotspot for flytipping. Other environmental issues such as derelict bin yards and dog fouling remain concerns for local people.
- Community cohesion remains a focus given the transient and diverse nature of the communities in Harehills. There is also an acknowledged lack of community facilities such as gyms, accessible greenspaces and community centres in the area.

2.9 Killingbeck & Seacroft

- Killingbeck & Seacroft are densely populated when compared to the city average. The population of the area is largely static with 86.5% classing themselves as White British though the BME community has more than doubled in the last decade.
- Almost three quarters of households in Seacroft are classed as being deprived according to the 2011 Census.
- Crime remains a key issue in this area, with drugs, burglary dwelling and teenagers hanging around on the street being perceived as major issues from local residents.
- JSA claimants are more than double the city average, whilst young people who are NEET stands at around 10.4% compared to Leeds average of 7%.
- Persistent absenteeism is an issue, particularly in Seacroft North and Seacroft South where the figures are nearly double the city average.
- Smoking remains a key factor in the high cancer mortality rate amongst some sections of the community.

2.10 Whilst the headlines arising from this narrative are perhaps expected given the scale of the challenges facing the communities of Inner East Leeds, they have allowed for a more informed approach to priority setting, which given the current financial climate in local government, is more vital than ever.

2.11 Outlined below are the suggested area wide priorities for 2014/15 aligned to the Council's own Vision for Leeds 2011 to 2030 and City Priority Plan 2013 -15:

Best city... for health and wellbeing

- § Fund projects in our neighbourhoods to support and empower those affected by child sexual exploitation, domestic violence and mental health issues
- § Provide opportunities for people to take part in physical activity locally and support campaigns which promote healthy lifestyles
- § Support work to reduce drug/alcohol abuse and drug/alcohol related anti-social behaviour in our neighbourhoods
- § Support work to reduce smoking, including niche tobaccos, in our neighbourhoods

Best city... for children and young people

- § Provide a range of activities such as; school holiday activities, sports and art activities for young people to enjoy in their local neighbourhood, at local venues
- § Provide targeted support to young people to reduce the risk of them not being in education, employment or training (NEET)

- § Promote the representation of young people on the Community Leadership Teams and establish a dedicated Inner East Youth Panel so that their voices are heard by major decision making bodies

Best city... for business

- § Where possible ensure that IT facilities are available at our community venues to allow people to access job search facilities, and support the provision of job search assistance in our community buildings
- § Ensure that the impact of welfare reform changes on local people is minimised by offering support, advice and assistance
- § Provide access to and information about training and employment opportunities for local people regardless of their age, gender or economic situation

Best city... for communities

- § Work as a team with all council departments, statutory partners and other organisations to tackle the problems identified in our communities and support residents groups who want to improve their local environment
- § Promote restorative practices in the way we do business with our partners and residents
- § Provide advice and practical help with home security to reduce the risk of burglary and continue to provide CCTV in areas that are hotspots for crime and anti-social behaviour
- § Support local communities to put on events, galas and festivals throughout the year for the whole community to enjoy

Best city... to live

- § Support local communities to develop an effective engagement mechanism to allow them to influence development in their area
- § As funding becomes available undertake works to improve our community parks, play areas, allotments, sports pitches and community centres
- § Work with partners to bring about the physical regeneration of Inner East Leeds

2.12 Allied to the work undertaken to produce the Neighbourhood Improvement Plans, a number of consultation exercises have helped inform these priorities:

1. Neighbourhood surveys distributed throughout local networks such as residents groups, voluntary organisations and schools, for completion and return
2. Consultation with residents at the four Community Leadership Teams (CLTs); Burmantofts & Richmond Hill, Gipton, Harehills and Seacroft
3. Attending existing community events to speak to residents about their key priorities
4. Discussions with partners at partnership meetings in each neighbourhood to incorporate professional opinions and local knowledge
5. Specific community engagement activities covering Burmantofts & Richmond Hill priority neighbourhood

2.13 The research used to help shape these priorities include:

- Neighbourhood Index 2012;
- 2011 Census;
- Job seekers allowance (JSA) data;
- NEET figures from the Clusters;
- Police perception surveys;
- Environmental Improvement Zone perception surveys;
- Joint Strategic Needs Assessment data (JSNA) relating to health

These data sets can be found at the West Leeds Observatory:

www.westyorkshireobservatory.org or can be requested from the East North East Area Support Team at east.north.east@leeds.gov.uk.

3 Key themes for 2014/15

- 3.1 As part of the Area Working Review, the council's Executive Board received a paper in December 2013 – Citizens@Leeds: Responsive to the Needs of Local Communities – on discussions held at the Area Committee Chair's Forum to develop new principles to replace Area Committees with 'Community Committees' alongside a refreshed approach to community engagement.
- 3.2 This approach is intended to support greater resident involvement in decision making going forward and is part of the broader Citizens@Leeds approach that has been developed to ensure focus on inclusive, locally provided citizen-based services.
- 3.3 The four propositions underpinning this new Citizens@ Leeds approach are:
 - The need to **provide accessible and integrated services**;
 - The need to **help people out of financial hardship**;
 - The need to **help people into work**;
 - The need to be **responsive to needs of local communities**.
- 3.4 Within this context Elected Members have been involved in a number of conversations about the future direction of Area Committees in the form of briefings and workshop sessions.
- 3.5 As a result, it has become evident that there is an appetite to focus future business meetings on one theme, with the meeting effectively split into two parts between procedural business and the main themed agenda item.
- 3.6 This main theme would see a report coming back to Area Committee on a specific issue or campaign, describing the engagement activity, research and analysis that has led to the recommendations suggested to go forward to the Council's Executive Board, council service, partner agency or, in some cases, to government office.
- 3.7 The Area Support Team will work-up a bespoke engagement plan for each theme identified by Elected Members. This engagement plan will be both research based as well as informed by conversations with service providers, partners and most crucially with local communities themselves.

- 3.8 A working example might be the employment of local young people which continues to be an issue in Inner East Leeds. This campaign could take the form of a number of conversations with local unemployed people to identify current barriers to employment opportunities, an analysis of employment trends, interviews with both local and national businesses to hear what they want from local young people, as well as an analysis what support is currently on offer to young people seeking employment and how this could be better targeted.
- 3.9 Any engagement activity could seek to utilise social media and local communications outlets. Community engagement events could be held in places with the highest footfall such as galas, supermarkets and schools.
- 3.10 The outcomes of any campaign must be tangible and demonstrate added value. By the time any recommendations come to the Area Committee for debate and sign-off there should be a clear and achievable set of outcomes, mindful of the resource implication of any agreed course of action.
- 3.11 Elected Members are asked to consider what they might want to have as their three key themes for the coming municipal year. As stated above, each theme will have a bespoke campaign worked up in conjunction with the Area Leader, Area Lead Member and main stakeholders. Outlined below are a number of potential themes for consideration:
- Young People – Investigate ways to reduce youth related ASB across the Inner East area and re-engage young people in constructive activity
 - Health – Investigate ways to address and reduce high cancer mortality and diabetes rates in Inner East Leeds
 - Creating community pride – What do our communities want and need to feel better about their neighbourhood
 - NEET Young People – What more can be done to help get young people into education, employment or training
 - Environment – What can be done to improve the state of the environment in Inner East Leeds
 - Women in our community – What needs to happen to ensure that the needs of women are met in our communities
 - Health – A campaign to reduce the smoking of tobacco across the Inner East area
 - Community Cohesion – What can be done to integrate new communities and make our neighbourhoods more welcoming
- 3.12 Members are also asked to consider and agree on a place-based name for their new community committee at their Area Committee meeting, so that the new committees can be formally constituted at the council's AGM on 9 June 2014. Having consulted with the Chair of the Area Committee and East North East Area Leader, the following suggestions have been made to stimulate discussion:
- Community Committee for Inner East Leeds
 - Inner East Leeds Community Committee
 - Community Committee for East Leeds (Inner)

- Community Committee for Burmantofts & Richmond Hill, Gipton & Harehills and Killingbeck & Seacroft
- Community Committee for East Leeds (Burmantofts & Richmond Hill, Gipton & Harehills, Killingbeck & Seacroft)

4 Sub Groups

- 4.1 At its meeting in June 2012 the Inner East Area Committee agreed to establish number of sub groups to make recommendations for progress against key headings in the Area Committee Business Plan.
- 4.2 At its meeting in June 2013, the membership of these sub groups was renewed by the Inner East Area Committee with the agreement that they meet six times a year coinciding with the Area Committee cycle. The headings below contain updates on the work carried out by these sub groups.
- 4.3 On 3rd September 2013, the Inner East Area Committee agreed to establish a fifth sub group to engage with issues relating to Children and Young People and specifically the allocation of the newly delegated Youth Activity Fund.
- 4.4 Health & Wellbeing Sub Group
The Health and Wellbeing Sub Group met on 11th March 2014 and discussed issues relating to childhood obesity, niche tobacco, diabetes, alcohol misuse and mental health. Minutes will be attached in full at the next meeting of the Area Committee.
- 4.5 Planning Sub Group
The Planning Sub Group met on 14th March 2014 and discussed issues relating to the Town & District Centre scheme proposed for Harehills Lane and significant projects in the Inner East area. Minutes will be attached in full at the next meeting of the Area Committee.
- 4.6 Communities Centres Working Group
The Community Centres Working Group last met on 27th June 2013 and is scheduled to meet again in the New Year. Time and date to be advised.
- 4.7 Environmental Sub Group
The Environmental Sub Group met on 27th January 2014 and discussed issues relating to the new 'One Environmental Service', EIZs and refuse. The minutes of this meeting are attached in full at **Appendix A**.
- 4.8 Children & Young People's Sub Group
The Children & Young People's Sub Group met on the 4th March 2014 and discussed issues relating to newly delegated Youth Activity Fund. The minutes of this meeting are attached in full at **Appendix B**.

5 Corporate Considerations

5.1 Consultation and Engagement

5.1.1 An integral part of the work in the priority neighbourhoods that make up the Inner East Area Committee is to ensure that local people are involved with and consulted on the activities taking place where they live. There are now four Community Leadership Teams (CLTs) established and operational for Burmantofts & Richmond Hill, Gipton, Harehills and Seacroft. A representative of three of these CLTs currently sits as co-optee on the Inner East Area Committee. Work is underway to select a representative from the Harehills CLT to act as a co-optee on the Area Committee.

5.1.2 The above mentioned collectives have been directly involved in setting the current priorities we are working towards as part of the Neighbourhood Improvement Plans, which in turn link into the Inner East Area Committee Business Plan and Community Charter priorities.

5.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

5.2.1 An equality screening document was completed as part of project planning process for the development of the Neighbourhood Improvement Plans.

5.3 Council policies and City Priorities

5.3.1 The priorities of the Inner East Area Committee Business Plan, Community Charter and Neighbourhood Improvement Plans directly link into the Council's 'Best City' priorities for Leeds, the City Priority Plan for 2011 – 2015 and the Vision for Leeds 2011 – 2030.

5.4 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

5.4.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report.

5.4.2 There is no exempt or confidential information

5.4.3 In line with the Council's Executive and Decision Making Procedure Rules, agreed at Full Council May 2012, all decisions taken by Area Committees are not eligible for Call In

5.5 Risk Management

5.5.1 There are no major risks associated with the content of this report.

6 Conclusions

6.1 There are a number of actions on-going to achieve the Inner East Area Committees' priorities and fulfil its work programme - including the work of the five Sub Groups - but despite this, the Area Support Team recognises that there is still a significant amount of work to be done.

7 Recommendations

7.1 That Members of the Inner East Area Committee are asked to agreed their area-wide priorities for 2014/15.

- 7.2. That Members identify three key themes for 2014/15 to inform a community engagement strategy/plan to come back to the Community Committee in July.
- 7.3 That Members consider and agree on a place-based name for their new community committee so that the new committees can be formally constituted at the council's AGM on 9 June 2014.
- 7.4. That Members note the contents of the report and make comment where appropriate.

8 Background documents¹

- 8.1 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.