

**Report of the East North East Area Leader**

**Report to Inner East Area Committee**

**Date: Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2014**

**Subject: Inner East Priority Neighbourhoods – Neighbourhood Improvement Plans 2014/15 and key achievements**

Are specific electoral Wards affected?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Burmantofts & Richmond Hill Gipton & Harehills Killingbeck & Seacroft		
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. A programme of neighbourhood improvement is being implemented across the priority neighbourhoods of Burmantofts & Richmond Hill, Gipton, Harehills and Seacroft. Work in these neighbourhoods is at a variety of stages due to the capacity of the communities that are being worked with.
2. To support this work, Neighbourhood Managers have been appointed and draft Neighbourhood Improvement Plans (NIPs) have been developed for 2014/15. The NIPs have outlined a set of priorities to be focussed on each neighbourhood. The priorities have been developed through consultation with Elected Members, partners and the community, underpinned by statistical analysis.
3. Along with the details of the new priorities, key achievements delivered in each of the neighbourhoods are highlighted. A more detailed breakdown of actions delivered in each of the priority neighbourhoods is included in the full NIPs, attached as appendices to this report.

**Recommendations**

4. Inner East Area Committee is requested to note the content of the report and comment as appropriate

## **1 Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Inner East Area Committee with an overview of the Neighbourhood Improvement Plan (NIP) priorities which have been outlined in the priority neighbourhoods, which will be focus for the Neighbourhood Managers for the next 12 months.
- 1.2 The report also highlights key achievements which have been delivered in the priority neighbourhoods between April 2013 and March 2014.

## **2 Background information**

- 2.1 A programme of neighbourhood improvement has been on-going in Inner East Leeds for some time now. A Neighbourhood Manager post for Gipton and Seacroft was established utilising Safer Stronger Communities over six years ago. Following the success of this pilot, the Gipton & Seacroft Neighbourhood Manager post has continued to be funded through Inner East Area Committee Wellbeing funds. Subsequently, it was decided to create Neighbourhood Manager posts for Burmantofts & Richmond Hill, in October 2010, and Harehills in March 2013. Again, these are funded through Inner East Area Committee Wellbeing budget.
- 2.2 The rationale behind the priority neighbourhood approach is to put in place a Team Neighbourhood ethos and get organisations, from the public, private and voluntary sector, working better together to avoid duplication of efforts and deliver quality services for local residents. This is underpinned by the Community Leadership Team (CLT), which provides a reality check from local people to ensure that services are meeting local needs. It is now more important than ever for Team Neighbourhood to be working effectively due to the current economic climate which has resulted in reduced service budgets and a lack of available grant funding opportunities.
- 2.3 A key role of the Neighbourhood Manager is to develop an annual Neighbourhood Improvement Plan. The priorities of the Neighbourhood Improvement Plan (NIP) are developed through use of statistical analysis and through consultation with Ward Councillors, the local community and partner organisations. It has been more difficult than usual to develop statistical profiles for the priority neighbourhoods, as the Neighbourhood Index hasn't been available this year. Therefore, for the 2014/15 NIPs, a range of statistics from the Leeds Observatory and partner organisations has been used to complement feedback provided by the community.

## **3.0 Inner East Priority Neighbourhoods – NIP priorities for 2014/15 and key achievements**

- 3.1 The section below highlights the priorities which have been developed through analysis of key statistics and community consultation undertaken by the Neighbourhood Managers. The priorities have been used to frame the NIP action plan for the coming year, therefore creating a focus for input of resources into the area.
- 3.2 A snapshot of some of the key achievements made in the priority neighbourhoods over the last 12 months is also highlighted below. The achievements showcase the broad range of activities which the neighbourhood managers have been involved with.

3.3 The Neighbourhood Improvement Plans are attached as appendices to this report and provide more in depth statistical analysis as well as a more detailed achievements round up from the last 12 months.

3.4 **Burmantofts & Richmond Hill** (NIP attached at Appendix A)

Priorities for 2014/2015

- Increase community confidence and build community cohesion
- Reduce the levels of worklessness and Not in Education, Employment and Training (NEETs)
- Create a safer neighbourhood by reducing levels of crime and Anti-Social Behaviour
- Improve the local environment, including housing conditions
- Address health inequalities by promoting community health and wellbeing

Highlights from 2013/14

- Darker Nights Initiative: The activities which have taken place between September and March have led to a reduction of burglaries by approximately 30% compared to this time last year. Over 700 properties have been visited across the Ward and provided with crime prevention advice and target hardening materials.
- Leeds Neighbourhood Approach: The private rented sector housing project, as part of the Burmantofts Neighbourhood Improvement Board (NIB), has been extremely successful since coming into force in May 2013. 150 properties were targeted as part of this initiative; with 123 of these properties being privately rented and four publicly rented, with 44 were empty. 39% (17 out of 44) of empty properties have already been brought back into use to date. Over 94% (119 out of 127) properties inspected so far. As part of the Leeds Neighbourhood Approach, a number of referrals to other agencies have been made, including 58 fire prevention visits, 16 residents being referred to LCC Employment & Skills and 11 Credit Union referrals.
- Nowells Family Support: As part of the Burmantofts Neighbourhood Improvement Board, work has been carried out to support families and individuals identified on the Families First list back into work. There were 10 people identified who have not all been allocated with a Job Centre Plus outreach worker and are at different stages of now getting back into work and training.
- Burmantofts Gala: The inaugural Burmantofts Gala took place on 30th June 2013. The first gala was hailed as a success with over 1000 local residents in attendance. The event also acted as the finale to Leeds Refugee Week. A resident led committee has now been established to take forward gala preparations for 2014.
- Haselwood Bin Solution: A new refuse and recycling system has been installed in Haselwood Mews and Haselwood Green. This scheme has addressed over 10 years of refuse collection issues due to bins being stolen and not the correct capacity of refuse bins being available.
- Parks Plans: Master plans have been created for parks, play areas and green spaces cross Burmantofts & Richmond Hill. The master plans will direct future investment into these areas and bring them up to Leeds Quality Parks standard.

3.5 **Gipton** (NIP attached at Appendix B)

Priorities for 2014/2015

- Reduce Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour
- Increase Employability, reduce persistent absenteeism and NEET young people

- Promote emotional wellbeing, physical health incl. lung health, COPD/stopping smoking
- Increase resident's influence and community cohesion
- Improve the Environment

#### Highlights from 2013/14

- 1900 Neighbourhood surveys were distributed to residents in Gipton area through the primary schools and local community venues. In all 131 responses were received. The outcomes of the survey highlighted residents would like to see more youth clubs for young people, more programmes to support young people into employment and more sport sessions. Residents also feel that youth nuisance and burglary are still a problem in the area.
- Opportunity Shops' have been running weekly in Gipton since June 2013. The morning sessions are traditional work clubs, offering internet access and support with job search, applications and CV writing. Afternoon sessions and other activities offer attendees access to other opportunities such as volunteering, work experience, training and sports.
- A bespoke multi-agency employment course named "Get Ready" commenced in January 2014. This is a six week course for two hours, two days per week tailored to 18-24 years olds who have been out of work for an extended period. Get Ready will support to increase self-confidence, skills & knowledge in order to improve their employability.
- A newly established Gipton Health improvement group is now in operation to assess the needs of the Gipton community, including obesity levels and impacts on Diabetes & CHD, Promotion of the Health Trainer Service to work around all lifestyle changes to increase health and confidence, Promotion of the Stop Smoking Service, Stoptober and Know It, Check It, Treat It (for COPD) Campaign, oral health of children, Cancers that are prevalent in the community and mental health
- By working in partnership, the Neighbourhood Manager can evidence match funding brought into the community of approximately £23,430. This includes Opportunity Shop, Get ready project and cluster match funding for summer holidays activities.

### 3.6 **Harehills** (NIP attached at Appendix C)

#### Priorities for 2014/2015

- Reduce Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour.
- Health and Wellbeing.
- Reduce Worklessness, NEETs. Improve Economic Viability of Harehills, education attainment and attendance.
- Improve the Local Environment
- Improve community confidence, and create a more cohesive community.

#### Highlights from 2013/14

- A Community Leadership Team (CLT) has been created for the Harehills Neighbourhood and consists of active residents from across the area who are interested in driving improvements for the area. The CLT is currently chaired by Councillor Arif Hussain. The CLT is supported by the creation of the Local Management Team, consisting of local managers from services across the Neighbourhood.

- Harehills Lane Shopping area has been awarded £200,000 for capital improvements to make the area a more sustainable and attractive shopping district. This is being supported by improvements to the Highways and the 'Flats above Shops' scheme to further strengthen the area.
- Community Action to Change Harehills (CATCH) have taken a lease from Leeds City Council of derelict wasteland which was subject to problems with Anti-Social Behaviour and environmental crimes. The land is currently being developed in partnership with Groundworks to make an outdoor community sports area to provide valuable green space to the neighbourhood.
- A partnership has been created between GISPIL and the ECHO centre to run an Opportunity Shop in Harehills, weekly support sessions are offering community members support with job searches, CV writing skills and volunteering opportunities.
- A series of events were held for young people in the area over the Bonfire Night period to provide positive diversionary opportunities to prevent young people engaging in anti-social behaviour. All three nights events were exceptionally well attended with positive feedback from the young people that attended.

### **3.7 Seacroft** (NIP attached at Appendix D) Priorities for 2014/2015

- Reduce Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour.
- Increase Employability, reduce persistent absenteeism and NEET young people
- Promote emotional wellbeing, physical health incl. lung health, COPD/stopping smoking
- Increase resident's influence and community cohesion
- Improve the Environment

#### Highlights from 2013/14

- Frontline workers have completed training in October 2013 to help increase skills and knowledge to support families and children to manage weight. Local people have been encouraged to sign up to Leeds Let's Get Active to increase physical activity levels. Schools and local agencies have engaged with smart Swapathon to help families make healthy choices.
- Opportunity Shops' have been running on a weekly basis since June 2013. The morning sessions are traditional work clubs, offering internet access, support with job search, applications and CV writing. Afternoon sessions offer attendees access to other opportunities such as volunteering, work experience, training and sports.
- Barncroft resident association donated £1,250 to fund Christmas presents for children known to social services and SMART team who otherwise wouldn't have got anything. Social Services and the SMART team identified vulnerable children from our ward who would not receive any presents (or very little) for Christmas.
- ON Street project, a joint initiative funded by Seacroft Manston Cluster, Wellbeing funding, Community Safety, NHS and West Yorkshire Police to address Attendance, NEET, Crime and ASB. The "On Street" team have worked with 130 pupils to increase attendance. 157 young people have accessed the health bus and 142 young people have engaged in detached work in hot spot areas.
- By working in partnership, the Neighbourhood Manager can evidence match funding brought into the community of approximately £53,700. This includes the OIL project that was successful in gaining £40,000 from JIMBO's Fund, Cluster match

funding of £10,000 for summer holidays activities, public health match funding of £3,700 for Cooking on Budget courses.

#### **4 Corporate Considerations**

##### **4.1 Consultation and Engagement**

- 4.1.1 An integral part of the work in the priority neighbourhoods is to ensure that local people are involved with and consulted on the activities taking place where they live. Community Leadership Teams (CLTs) are established and operational in all of the priority neighbourhoods and provide local people the opportunity to be involved in this process.
- 4.1.2 Annual Neighbourhood Surveys were undertaken across all of the priority neighbourhoods to inform the development of the NIP priorities. The Neighbourhood Survey received more responses across all areas than in previous years and allows the views of residents to be reviewed on a year on year basis.
- 4.1.3 Other community engagement activity has also been undertaken in the priority neighbourhoods such as two community priority setting events in Burmantofts and Richmond Hill, as well as a community consultation in Seacroft linked to the development of the Neighbourhood Plan.

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

- 4.2.1 As part of the project planning process for the Neighbourhood Improvement Plan (NIP), a light touch equality impact assessment has been undertaken. This highlights any potential equality implications linked to the implementation of the NIP allowing actions to be built in to avoid any negative impacts on the community.
- 4.2.2 Work has been undertaken through the Community Leadership Team to ensure membership is as representative as possible covering all aspects of the local community. Information about the CLTs and the NIPs has also been distributed via the Leeds City Council Equality Hubs.

##### **4.3 Council policies and City Priorities**

- 4.3.1 Activities undertaken through the Neighbourhood Improvement Plans in the priority neighbourhoods go towards meeting all the priorities outlined in the City Priority Plan of:
- Best City.....for Health & Wellbeing
  - Best City.....for Children & Young People
  - Best City.....for Business
  - Best City.....for Communities
  - Best City.....to Live
- 4.3.2 Activities delivered through the Neighbourhood Improvement Plans also contribute towards achieving priorities outlined in the Council Business Plan 2011 – 2015 and the ambition of becoming the best City Council in the UK. The priorities and actions being delivered through the NIPs will also contribute towards the four propositions of Citizens@Leeds.
- 4.3.3 Work undertaken via the Neighbourhood Improvement Plans is an integral part delivering the Inner East Area Committee Business Plan. This is produced on an

annual basis and outlines what the Area Committee aims to achieve over the next 12 months. Overall priority setting for the Area Committee has been developed in conjunction with the NIPs to ensure that there is an integrated approach to tackling local priorities.

#### **4.4 Resources and value for money**

- 4.4.1 The Inner East Area Committee invest funding each year to employ three Neighbourhood Managers to develop and implement the Neighbourhood Improvement Plans for the priority neighbourhoods. This is an additional resource and without this investment, a limited amount of activity would take place in the priority neighbourhoods. The agreement to fund the Neighbourhood Manager posts is currently in place until March 2015. Six monthly feedback reports, in March and September, have been agreed to be provided to the Area Committee to demonstrate the value for money of this investment.
- 4.4.2 Area Committees provide funding support to priorities identified through the Neighbourhood Improvement Plan from Wellbeing funds. Neighbourhood Managers try to secure funding from other sources to maximise the Wellbeing investment. It is acknowledged that this is becoming increasingly difficult due to the reduced number of grant programmes and increased demands on these resources. Additional resources which have been levered in over the past year are highlighted in the NIPs.

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

- 4.5.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report.
- 4.5.2 There is no exempt or confidential information contained in this report.
- 4.5.3 There are no key decisions associated with this report, so it is not subject to call in.

#### **4.6 Risk Management**

- 4.6.1 Any potential risks in relation to activities being undertaken by the Neighbourhood Managers as part of delivering the NIPs are identified through the project plans which are produced prior to implementation of activities. The project planning process allows contingency plans to be considered to mitigate any potential risks.

#### **5 Conclusions**

- 5.1 The neighbourhoods within Inner East still remain challenging even though progress has been made to address key indicators and resident priorities. Neighbourhood Managers continue to work on putting in place sustainable solutions for on-going issues in the priority neighbourhoods. As funding resources continue to be reduced, it's more important than ever to ensure that effective partnership working and effective communication methods are in place. This way of working underpins the actions outlined in the NIPs and further embeds the Team Neighbourhood ethos.

#### **6 Recommendations**

- 6.1 Inner East Area Committee are requested to note this report and comment as appropriate.

## 7 Background documents<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 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



- 7.1 Inner East Area Committee NIP Report – March 2013
- 7.2 Inner East Area Committee NIP Update Report – September 2013