

**Report of the Chair Outer North East Community Committee**

**Report to Full Council**

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

**Subject: Outer North East Community Committee**

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Alwoodley Harewood Wetherby	<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**

This report provides an overview of the progress, achievements and opportunities for the Outer North East Community Committee. Key achievements are partnership working, most notably around the Parish and Town Council and Neighbourhood Plans, supporting communities and local services, and infrastructure investment using available funding streams.

Opportunities for the community committee are to build on existing good relationships with Parish and Town Councils to maximise the benefits of new funding streams for local communities and to improve local services through reviewing the council's asset base in this area. Opportunities also exist for closer working with school clusters to improve outcomes for children and young people.

The community committee recognises that there are challenges ahead in enabling different localities to work collaboratively and in managing community concerns about the core strategy. The rural nature of much of the area presents challenges in terms of transport links and accessing services, particularly in those localities with pockets of deprivation.

**Recommendations**

1. Members are asked to note the content of this report and raise questions.

## **1 Purpose of this report**

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to report on the progress, achievements, opportunities and challenges of the community committee

## **2 Background information**

- 2.1** Area Committees were established in 2004 to improve service delivery at local level and deliver projects and programmes of work on priority issues in the locality. In 2014 Community Committees were established to build on the successes of Area Committees but to better engage with communities, and in particular increase the attendance and active involvement of local people at Community Committee meetings.

- 2.2** This report looks at the achievements of the community committee and former area committee over the past year, and highlights the opportunities and challenges for the future.

## **3 Main issues**

### **3.1 Progress and achievements**

#### **Partnership working**

- 3.1.1** A key achievement has been the progress made with parish and town councils over the years. This relationship has continued to develop, and was enhanced by work in 2011 to 2013 with parish and town councils to develop a localism post which facilitated the development of neighbourhood plans across Outer North East. Feedback from the parish and town councils indicated that the post holder was invaluable in supporting and empowering them to embark on producing neighbourhood plans. All the parish and town councils in Harewood and Wetherby wards now have neighbourhood planning areas designated by Leeds City Council and are at various stages of developing their plans.
- 3.1.2** The partnership with parish and town councils also extends to the program of volunteering in relation to planting schemes undertaken by 'In Bloom' groups across the whole of Outer North East.
- 3.1.3** The priority neighbourhood in Outer North East is Moor Allerton, which has a multi-agency partnership focused on delivering actions which meet the needs of local people. The main focus is around jobs, skills training and volunteering opportunities. Two key voluntary partners in the MAP area are Northcall and MAECare. Northcall offer a range of activities, training and support services for people of all ages. MAECare provide a range of services and volunteering opportunities to support older people in the local area. Both organisations receive support from the Community Committee to deliver local projects and activities.

#### **Supporting communities**

- 3.1.4** The community committee uses the well-being fund to further support local community activity and build local capacity. Key project highlights include

MAEcare's dementia awareness raising information sessions run in the Alwoodley, Moor Allerton and Shadwell area attended by over 130 people. MAECare also run a programme of intergenerational work where older people volunteer in local schools, this work was celebrated with a strawberry tea attended by 80 older people and a Christmas Party attended by 70 people at Allerton High School.

- 3.1.5 Older people in Wetherby and surrounding villages enjoy a variety of activities provided by Wetherby in Support of the Elderly (WISE). For example the 'Boston Spa Tea Party' memory café has between 35 and 40 people attending each month and an audience of 100 people enjoyed a Musical Matinee with local singers and entertainers in December.
- 3.1.6 There has been a range of community activities in the Wetherby area including the annual bonfire events with over 1500 people attending and the first Christmas lights switch on with over 600 people attending.
- 3.1.7 The Youth Activity Fund has been used to support local activities for young people; recent activities include a holiday activity programme run by Elmet Partnership of Schools, a voluntary youth club at North Call in Cranmer Bank, a residential for young people at Herd Farm, and Challenge 14 Scout Jamboree at Bramham Park.

### **Infrastructure investment**

- 3.1.8 The community committee continues to support the development of local community infrastructure. Recent investments include the playground at East Keswick, a new allotment site in Alwoodley and support for Walton Parish Council which is working hard to secure funding for a new cycle track linking Walton with Wetherby.

### **3.2 Opportunities**

- 3.2.1 Partnership working between the community committee and parish and town councils presents a real opportunity, particularly in the context of the localism act. Relationships have been developed through neighbourhood planning and all key parties come together regularly in the Outer North East Parish & Town Council Forum. This forum provides an opportunity for services and organisations to consult on issues and build relationships with all the parish and town councils in Outer North East. In particular, the forum also enables parish and town councils to work closely with Environmental Services to improve the flexibility and effectiveness of local service delivery. The forum was highlighted as a model of good practice by the Safer and Stronger Scrutiny Committee's review into the council's relationships with parish and town councils in 2013.
- 3.2.2 The next stage is for the community committee and parish and town councils to develop a working relationship around a framework for improving local services and the local infrastructure. This relates to areas of work such as maximising the potential of new funding opportunities and working closely to align the various funding streams at a local level. Going forward the delegation of more budgets and services to community committees is a real opportunity to be able to even further strengthen our working relationship with parish and town councils.

- 3.2.3 There are also opportunities for reviewing the public sector asset base in rural towns to maximise the use of local resources and deliver improved local services.
- 3.2.4 The Outer North East Community Committee has a good working relationship with the two local clusters, Elmet Partnership of Schools & Services and Alwoodley Cluster. The new working arrangements will help facilitate closer working between clusters and community committees and parish and town council to improving outcomes for children and young people.

### **3.3 Challenges**

- 3.3.1 Whilst neighbourhood planning remains a strong opportunity there are also challenges in ensuring that different localities are able to work collaboratively to maximise the benefits of a local planning infrastructure across the Outer North East.
- 3.3.2 Community concerns in relation to the core strategy are ongoing and the committee will continue to work closely with strategic planning colleagues to maximise the involvement of local people.
- 3.3.3 Access to services for residents in rural areas where transport links are limited continues to be an issue. More localised and flexible services are required to meet the needs of local residents and the committee will continue to challenge services to find a better way of delivering locally such as the increased use of mobile and 'pop up' provision.
- 3.3.4 The Outer North East area has smaller pockets of deprivation which are often unrecognised by services at ward level and the community committee will continue to highlight these areas to ensure they have appropriate access to service. Work looking at areas on a lower super output level is being taken by the community committee and Ward Members. Greater delegation of services to the community committee would enable more responsive local services to be developed.

## **4 Corporate Considerations**

### **4.1 Consultation and Engagement**

- 4.1.1 The Outer North East Community Committee has good working relationships with the communities it serves. It will continue to supporting and enable local people and communities to engage and interact with us on issues that are important to them.

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

- 4.2.1 The Outer North East Community Committee is committed to equality and cohesion. Specific equality impact assessments are undertaken on community engagement plans, specific initiatives and decisions as required.

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

4.3.1 The Best Council Plan 2013-17 includes the key outcome to make it easier for people to do business with us, and the move to community committees makes a significant contribution to the delivery of this.

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

4.4.1 There are no new resource implications detailed within this report.

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

4.4.1 There are no legal, access to information or call in implications arising from this report.

#### **4.5 Risk Management**

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

### **5 Conclusions**

5.1 The Community Committee already has good relationships with its local communities and utilises its available funding streams to support local projects. It recognises that there are challenges ahead, but will continue to strengthen its positive working relationships with the Parish and Town Councils to improve local services and facilities.

### **6 Recommendations**

6.1 Members are asked to note the content of this report and raise questions.

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

7.1 None.

---

<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.