
Report of the Chair of the Outer West Community Committee

Report to Full Council

Date: 12th November 2014

Subject: Outer West Community Committee Update

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| Are specific electoral Wards affected? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Calverley & Farsley Farnley & Wortley Pudsey | | |
| 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 an update on the new Community Committee's progress so far including an update on the first themed Community Committee Meeting.

Recommendations

Members are asked to note the content of this report and receive a verbal presentation from the Chair of the Community Committee.

1 Purpose of this report

2 This report describes the early progress of the newly formed Outer West Community Committee.

3 Background information

4 Each Community Committee has unique features as a consequence of the communities it serves and the increasing social and financial challenges, including health inequalities, an ageing and more diverse population and poverty and financial exclusion that form a backdrop to these areas. The challenge and focus for the new Community Committees is to engage and involve the communities they represent in local developments and local decisions that affect them. This report describes progress of the Outer West Community Committee at this relatively early stage.

5 **The Outer West Community Committee** has identified a number of **topics** for greater focus and exploration. These are -

- Delivering actions which drive business enterprise, the local economy and quality learning, training and employment opportunities (held in October 2014)
- Social Isolation (January 2015)
- Activities for Children & Young People (February 2015)

6 The committee has appointed a number of **Community Committee Champions** to the following positions:

- Employment & Skills – Councillor **Rod Wood**
- Welfare Rights – Councillor **Terry Wilford**
- Children & Young People – Councillor **David Blackburn**
- Environment & Community Safety – Councillor **Mick Coulson**
- Health & Well Being and Adult Social Care – Councillor **Josephine Jarosz**

7 Main issues

First Themed meeting

8 The Outer West Community Committee held its first themed meeting on **delivering actions which drive business enterprise, the local economy, and quality learning and employment opportunities** with local businesses attending on Wednesday 8th October at Pudsey Civic Hall.

9 Councillor **Jarosz** opened the meeting by introducing the topic and invited Executive Board Members, Councillor **Andrew Carter** and Councillor **Richard Lewis** to set the scene for the workshop by providing a local and city wide perspective on the successes and challenges.

10 The discussions focused on how local businesses, Economic Development, Employment & Skills and the Community Committee - working together - could deliver practical, meaningful, realistic actions for the Outer West. The meeting

received valuable feedback from the local businesses that attended on how best to **attract new employers** to the area and **improve infrastructure** to grow existing businesses in the area. The meeting also explored how to **link local employment opportunities to local people** and the initiatives available to help businesses to grow and develop.

- 11 **Challenges** such as improvements in local transport links, resistance to change and doing things differently, and local business rates were explored, with frank open and honest discussions taking place between businesses and elected members.
- 12 **Opportunities** were identified to better promote the Outer West as a place to visit and encourage local and wider citizens to come to the area for leisure and recreational facilities. Suggestions were made to harness the area as a manufacturing base and to better utilise the diminishing skills that have been fondly recognised as part of the local heritage. Some important points were raised at the meeting around how businesses and Leeds City Council could have a better mutual understanding of each other's ways of working.
- 13 The **Business, Employment & Skills Sub Group** of the Community Committee will explore the report from the meeting and agree what and how to take forward meaningful action.

Wellbeing projects

- 14 The Outer West Community Committee have traditionally had a great interest in innovative local business engagement. The Committee have funded the **Ahead Partnership** to provide a range of services to support businesses in the local area for some time.
- 15 The Committee's most recent innovation - 'Business Support Local' - assists businesses by signposting them to useful support services such as business networks, training opportunities or funding organisations. The project has also assisted local businesses to work together to support the wider area in which they operate for mutual long-term benefits. Ahead Partnership has worked with the well-established **Business Forum in Farsley** and has recently supported the establishment of a new group, the **Pudsey Business Support Group**. This localised menu of opportunities has enabled businesses to play a full part in delivering local improvements.
- 16 The Community Committee uses the well-being fund to support a host of local community activity and build local capacity. A series of community-focussed events are funded by the Community Committee which allow members of the community to celebrate the place in which they live. Local events are increasingly being supported by local businesses to attract more visitors to the area.

Youth Activities Fund

- 17 The Youth Activity Fund has been used to support local activities for young people. The Community Committee have funded projects with various themes including **activities in sports, arts and crafts, music and dance**. A themed workshop will be held in February focusing on **activities for children and young people** with an aim to identify a programme of activities.

Engagement

- 18 The introduction of Facebook and Twitter has enabled the committee to engage with a wider audience by developing a **wider connection** with local residents and businesses who have not necessarily engaged with the committee previously. Social media has provided a platform to **build relationships** and to **share** useful and interesting information from local media, community groups and residents and to promote and advertise events.
- 19 The Community Committee have publicised a range of messages on Facebook around consultation, community events or improvements to an area, which have proven to be very popular, with some posts reaching up to **2000 views**. A recent post on proposed capital improvements to the Pudsey Park entrance asking residents to have their say had a post reach of just short of **1500 views**. With such a great response at a very early stage, the committee is encouraging further development of the use of social media to engage local residents and stakeholders.

20 Corporate Considerations

21 Consultation and Engagement

The Outer West Community Committee has two Community Forums, Citizens at Pudsey & Swinnow and Citizens @ Tyersal that meet quarterly. This is the main means of engagement with local people but it is also supported by ad hoc community events, galas and the Outer West Facebook page. The Committee will continue to support and enable local people and communities to engage and interact on issues that are important to them.

22 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

All projects funded from Well Being must have an equal opportunities policy and outline which equality group the project will work with, and how equality and cohesion issues have been considered. Internal and statutory partners are committed to equality and cohesion and all projects they are involved with will have considered these issues.

23 Council policies and City Priorities

The projects outlined in this report contribute to targets and priorities set out in the following council policies:

- Vision For Leeds
- Children and Young Peoples Plan
- Health and Well Being City Priority Plan
- Safer and Stronger Communities Plan
- Regeneration City Priority Plan

24 Resources and value for money

There is no new resource implications detailed within this report. In all requests for funding from Community Committee applicants are asked to consider value for money during the application process.

25 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

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

26 Risk Management

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

27 Conclusions

28 The Outer West Community Committee has built on the success of the previous Area Committee in its engagement and involvement of local communities and the investment of its financial resources.

29 The first themed meeting has engaged with local business owners to determine ways to strengthen the local business economy in a coordinated approach at a local level. The meeting was well received and the sub group will meet to agree a plan to take action.

30 The Community Committee already has good relationships with its local communities and utilises its available funding streams to support local projects that enhance the wellbeing of the Outer West. The committee recognises that there are challenges in deepening its engagement on a range of issues and is considering its communication and engagement approach. It will continue to strengthen its positive working relationships with local stakeholders to improve local services, facilities and outcomes for local people and will consider social isolation and activities for children and young people in the Outer West at future sessions.

31 Recommendations

Members are asked to note the content of this report and receive a verbal presentation from the Chair of the Community Committee.

32 Background documents¹

33 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.