
Report of the Chair Inner East Community Committee

Report to Full Council

Date: 12th November 2014

Subject: Inner East Community Committee

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 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

1. The purpose of this report is to outline the progress, achievements, opportunities and challenges of the newly formed Inner East Community Committee.
2. Members are asked to note the content of this report.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to outline the progress, achievements, opportunities and challenges of the newly formed Inner East Community Committee.

2 Background information

- 2.1 Area Committees were established in 2004 to improve service delivery at a 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 and to better engage with communities, in particular increase the attendance and active involvement of local people at Community Committee meetings.

3 Progress

- 3.1 Since the inaugural meeting in July 2014, the Inner East Community has seen a significant increase in attendance and participation from local residents, partners and representatives from the third sector.
- 3.2 This renewed interest in Community Committee business has been achieved by: the theming of meetings on topics of interest to the local community; a changing of the format of the meeting to include greater public participation; later starting times; better publicity including Facebook and Twitter; meetings are taking place in locally accessible venues.
- 3.3 A workshop style session has been employed in both of the Community Committee meetings to enable local Elected Members and residents to explore particular issues related to the themes of:
- Setting local priorities
 - Re-engaging young people
- 3.4 Future themed discussions will focus on: mental health, specifically social isolation; the environment and jobs & skills.
- 3.5 Since July, both a Facebook and Twitter page has been established for the Inner East Community Committee as a new means for communicating with partners, third sector organisations and local residents. The Inner East Facebook page currently has 109 Likes. Over 75 items have been posted which have had total reach of over 3,500 people.
- 3.6 The meeting in July also saw the appointment of six Elected Member Community Champions for the Inner East area. Each Community Champion has been actively involved in shaping the local work programme and leading on the development of the themed Community Committee meetings.

- 3.7 The Community Champion for Children & Young People led the new approach with a piece of work over the summer that focused on re-engaging young people in Inner East Leeds. This saw a wide range of young people involved in local conversations to better understand their views. The findings from this activity were presented to the Community Committee in October by the Community Champion for Children & Young People as part of a themed workshop session. This approach seeks to expand Community Committee engagement using the Citizens@ brand and by working with local community groups.

4 Achievements

- 4.1 The Community Committee continues to drive improvements in the area using a framework of priorities and themed sub-groups to support greater service integration and allocate Wellbeing funding to a range of organisations. Examples of projects funded so far include an Opportunity Shop relating to jobs, skills and training, the Seacroft and Burmantofts Galas, Lark in Park and the Harehills Festival, CCTV and a comprehensive summer holiday programme supported by the Youth Activity Fund and broader local activities.
- 4.2 Investment in the areas parks and greenspaces continues to be a priority for the Community Committee and it has worked closely with colleagues in the Parks and Countryside service to ensure that 106 monies are spent in line with local priorities. Greenspaces earmarked for improvements in the coming year include Banstead Park in Harehills, Seacroft Park MUGA and East End Park.
- 4.3 The Community Committee has strong local partnerships which see key stakeholders coming together to address local challenges. These have good involvement from residents and include different models of engagement such as a formal Community Leadership Teams (CLTs) in Seacroft and Burmantofts & Richmond Hill, and informal conversation dinners and bespoke drop-in sessions held in local venues.
- 4.4. Partnership working between the Community Committee, Safer Leeds Partnership, West Yorkshire Police and other local partners has also seen a reduction in crime in the Inner East area over the last twelve months, most notably a 43% reduction in burglary in Burmantofts & Richmond Hill Ward.

5 Opportunities

- 5.1 The initial meetings and use of Facebook/Twitter have shown that local people want to get involved in improving outcomes in their neighbourhoods by working with the Council and local partners. Whilst positive initial steps have been made, particularly in terms of conversations with young people, there is still more to do to increase local participation and ensure the Council is able to better respond to the issues they raise.

- 5.2 This issue is particularly acute when considering the need to involve young people in the decision making process around the allocation of the Youth Activity Fund as well as the need to ensure that Wellbeing funding is maximised to ensure the best outcomes for local people. The Community Committee can build on the work over the summer with young people to improve how they allocate youth activity funding.
- 5.3 There is also the opportunity to forge better links between the new Community Champions and the relevant Council departments as the local roles develop.

6 Challenges

- 6.1 The Inner East Community Committee covers communities with a high number of challenges such as unemployment/NEETs, levels of educational attainment, crime and ASB, quality of living standards and health issues. Responding to these issues remains challenging but there are good local partnerships in place to drive improvements forward.
- 6.2 Language barriers remain a key issue in Inner East Leeds, with such a wide demographic of people living in the area. The Council needs to continue to respond to this changing demographic.
- 6.3 The Community Committee will continue to build on the positive steps made so far and seek to sustain the momentum around engaging with residents. The Council's approach to integrated locality working provides an opportunity to deliver better services locally.

7 Corporate Considerations

7.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 7.1.1 An integral part of the work in the priority neighbourhoods that make up the Inner East Community Committee area is to ensure that local people are involved with and consulted on the activities taking place where they live. There are now three Community Leadership Teams (CLTs) established and operational for Burmantofts & Richmond Hill, Gipton and Seacroft. Work to establish a similar forum in Harehills is currently underway.
- 7.1.2 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 priorities for Community Committee approved in March 2014.

7.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

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

7.3 Council policies and City Priorities

7.3.1 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

7.4 Resources and value for money

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

7.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

7.5.1 There are no legal implications and this report is not subject to call in.

7.6 Risk Management

7.6.1 There are no significant risk management issues contained within the report.

8 Conclusions

8.1 Community Committees will further develop the involvement of local communities in the decision making process by actively involving residents in themed Community Committee meetings and other engagement activity in Inner East Leeds. The Inner East Community Committee will continue to work in partnership and support projects and programmes of work that improve service delivery and continue to address local priorities.

9 Recommendations

9.1 Members are asked to note the content of this report.

10 Background documents¹

10.1 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.