

## STRONGER COMMUNITIES – CITIZENS AND COMMUNITIES

Performance Area	Strategic Links	Summary Comments
Locality Projects	Communities Board	The Communities Board is continuing to develop projects that are a practical expression of how to increase dialogue between communities and public bodies. The primary aim of the 3 locality projects is the shared learning which can be taken from developing a model of how LCC (and the wider public sector) can work more collaboratively with communities in a way that increases community voice and influence and results in more empowered communities. The transfer of learning from this will inform future strategy.
City wide project	Communities Board	This focusses on community development; understanding what and where this is currently taking place, and considering different integrated models which lead to better use of existing resources. The intention is that this initially is a council perspective and then may be taken more widely. The final aspect of this work is to articulate the role of the Communities Board in future developments around community development. This will ensure that there is clear and shared understanding of best practice and provide a city wide perspective.
Communities Together (cohesion and resilience)	Communities Board	The Board is currently exploring its role in relation to cohesion and resilience. This is a complex area that cuts across a range of work that is taking place in other arenas e.g. Migration Partnership Board, Safer Leeds, safeguarding. It is therefore particularly important to ensure that the role of the Communities Board adds value to, and works with other work strands, and to understand how to respond to ripples created by incidents/tensions within communities.
Tackling Poverty and Deprivation	Communities Board	There is considerable work taking place under the citizens@leeds banner and the Communities Board has received updates on the 4 propositions. It is interested in making links and supporting these propositions and in order to provide an interface of the work of the council and the impact on communities. The Communities Board priorities play into the community hubs concept to provide local services to local people in the way in which local people want.

Migration work	Communities Board	<p>Work has taken place based on feedback from CLT, work with the Cross Council Migration Group and the Migration Partnership, which has resulted in the following key deliverables being agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Human Trafficking - This is one of the key issues that impacts on migrant communities and the work is led by the council's Resilience and Emergencies Team to develop a Human Trafficking Strategy and other associated work.</li> <li>• Female Genital Mutilation – this has previously been part of the scrutiny inquiry on domestic violence. The council is committed to work jointly with Black Health Initiative, Health and the police to end female genital mutilation in Leeds.</li> <li>• Forced Labour - Further work is needed to understand the issues of forced labour for council services and to implement the appropriate recommendations from the University Of Leeds Research on Forced Labour.</li> <li>• Advice Service Provision - Following changes to advice provision in Leeds this is now carried out via the telephone, and there is no face to face service. This has resulted in additional pressure on other advice providers in the City and there is anecdotal evidence that this is also impacting on providers in other parts of West Yorkshire. Work will take place to understand need and existing provision, and how to use this differently and more effectively.</li> <li>• Understanding Demographics - Leeds, is one of the fastest growing cities in the UK, and currently home to over 140 ethnic groups – making Leeds' black and minority ethnic population to most diverse outside of London. Work will be undertaken to identify and understand the numbers, geography and economic circumstances of migrant populations around the City. In particular, what migrant cohorts exist, where they are located and what their priority service needs are.</li> <li>• Destitution – Following from the Executive Board report in July 2013, the Migration Partnership is working to highlight current issues, numbers and impacts, and take action to address these.</li> <li>• Managing and Understanding Perception of Migration - There is still a general negative perception of migration and its impact on Leeds. Migration Yorkshire have been successful in getting further funding from the European Integration Fund to run another one year Integration Up North programme in 2014 – 15 which will help to address this area. In addition the council have signed up to the work on 'Enhancing public perception on diversity and migration'; this will provide support and advice to help with our strategic approach to migration and draw up an appropriate action plan.</li> <li>• Co-Location - Explore the feasibility of co-locating some of the migration organisations and services to increase co-operation and partnership working and to minimise back office costs by sharing premises. This could help free up resources to support advice and advocacy work.</li> </ul>
Poverty Truth Challenge	Communities Board	<p>Work has continued to take place following the launch to 200 people held at the Civic Hall in February 2014. The following 3 work strands have been established:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Young people achieving potential.</li> <li>• Stigma and the perception of poverty.</li> <li>• Mental Health and Poverty.</li> </ul>

		<p>The aim for each of these work strands is to learn more about the area and begin to highlight potential opportunities to stimulate changes. The groups are currently considering next steps and how/when to communicate their findings and outcomes.</p>
<p>Strengthening local accountability and being more responsive to the needs of local communities</p>	<p>Best Council Plan Priority</p>	<p>Put in place community committees which help develop a strong local identity - All the community committees have now completed their first round of meetings and the second round will be completed by the end of November. The new Community Committee brand is being widely used for report covers, agendas, wellbeing fund recipients (publicity 'cheques') and promotional material including pull-up banners, flyers and posters. Eight of the ten community committees are regularly using their Facebook accounts, which now have 1,099 page likes, to increase their profile by posting good news stories (reposted by the council's corporate page, which has over 3,000 'likes'). Importantly, this has enabled the committees to engage with a new and younger demographic. Work is beginning to more formally evaluate and understand the impact the changes have made.</p> <p>Deliver engagement plans in each locality, resulting in increased involvement – all community committees have developed and are delivering against their engagement plans. A summary of the plans is at Appendix 1. Involvement by residents is being actively encouraged in a range of ways as well as through the formal engagement mechanism e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing involvement by direct contact with the business community, and through business networks.</li> <li>• Wellbeing funds are well distributed, with work taking place to improve quality, length and reach of the projects funded. The increased involvement by the local community is supporting more vulnerable people and engaging in activities which promote active citizenship.</li> <li>• Engage with both wider and new audiences. Social media (as above) has provided a platform to build relationships and to share useful and interesting information to stimulate local conversations and promote activities, events, services and facilities. It is being used to publicise consultation, community events and environmental improvements.</li> <li>• Forum Meetings in addition to the community committees a range of Forums exist across the authority and these are a further way of involving a wide range of stakeholders.</li> <li>• The use of the 'citizens@' brand in relation to engagement opportunities is helping to further link and join the work together so that it is seen as part of a one city approach.</li> </ul> <p>Develop our approach to a social contract - The idea that there is a balance of rights and responsibilities between council services, other providers, service users and citizens is well understood within the council. There is also an understanding that this has to be redesigned to suit the council's operating context and to manage increasing demands on services. The council's role in taking forward the social contract concept is to help unlock local capacity: the capacity of individuals, the capacity of communities and, in support of those, the capacity of the council itself (staff, members, physical assets and</p>

		<p>financial resources). A report to CLT on 2 September 2014 explored some of the different ways social contracts can be used. Work is ongoing to provide a framework within which to address the changing rights and responsibilities on all sides, which comes with working in the current times of austerity.</p> <p>Increase the community use of and interactions with community hubs - A report to Executive Board in October 2014 outlined progress in this area, and Executive Board agreed the proposals to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bring together all existing community based one stop centres, libraries and housing management offices to be managed as a single set of front-of house services, to enable the development of a city-wide network of community hubs.</li> <li>• Develop the city-wide network of community hubs in partnership with Community Committees' and local ward councillors, and supported by a city centre community hub.</li> </ul> <p>A further update will be given to Executive Board in March 2015, when information in relation to measuring the use and interactions with community hubs will be addressed.</p>
Resilience		<p>Community resilience' is seen as the ability of individuals, households and communities to negotiate adverse conditions rather than be overcome by them. The term can apply to financial and social and environmental challenges and response to incidents. It can include developing new, better responses to changed circumstances. Key, linked, factors in community resilience include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individuals' resilience levels within community ('healthy, engaged people')</li> <li>• How isolated or networked people are</li> <li>• What community assets exist (skills/qualifications, physical, social, cultural, leadership)</li> <li>• Economics (disposable income, employment etc)</li> </ul> <p>In order to more fully understand communities and to encourage/promote civic responsibility and the social contract concept work is taking place to try to ascertain a method of understanding/measuring resilience.</p>