
Report of the Chair Inner East Community Committee

Report to Full Council

Date: 1st April 2015

Subject: Inner North East Community Committee

Are specific electoral Wards affected?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Chapel Allerton Moortown Roundhay		
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 North East Community Committee.
2. Members are asked to note the content of this report.

1.0 Purpose of this report

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

2.0 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 in improving their communities.

3.0 Progress

- 3.1 Since the inaugural meeting in July 2014, the Inner North East Community Committee has seen a significant increase in attendance (over 70 cumulatively to date) and participation of local residents, partners and representatives from the voluntary 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 promote greater public participation; later starting times; better publicity including Facebook and Twitter; meetings taking place in locally accessible venues.
- 3.3 A workshop style session has been employed in all of the Community Committee meetings to enable local Elected Members and residents to explore particular issues including:
- Employment in the Queenshills and Brackenwood estates
 - Tackling social Isolation
 - Setting Community Committee priorities and informing associated Well-being Fund spend for 2015/16
- 3.4 In addition to a workshop session at the social isolation themed meeting local community testifiers were invited to share their story. This set the scene for the meeting, presenting attendees with the real life implications of social isolation faced by community members in Inner North East Leeds.
- 3.5 Since July, both a Facebook and Twitter presence has been established for the Inner North East Community Committee, as an additional means of communicating with partners, third sector organisations and local residents. The Inner North East Facebook page currently has 132 Likes and over 273 items of local interest have been posted.

- 3.6 Following the July 2014 priority setting meeting, Community Champions have led the new approach of theming Community Committees. This has been achieved by taking a lead on the design and delivery of the community committee workshop sessions and corresponding report.
- 3.7 The Community Champion for Employment and Skills, Cllr Ghulam Hussain played an instrumental role in leading the development and research for October's Community Committee meeting, which was themed around employment and skills in the Queenshills and Brackenwood estates. A report was written after a period of extensive research and engagement in the locality, which explored service provision and the needs of the community. During workshop sessions at the Community Committee meeting attendees reviewed report recommendations and highlighted the recommendations which were deemed of highest priority. These are now being reviewed through the East North East Employment and Skills Board.
- 3.8 In the run up to the January 2015 Community Committee, the Community Champion for Health & Wellbeing, Cllr Eileen Taylor led on the development of a report which explored social isolation across the Inner North East. This report was produced in partnership with officers from Public Health and North Leeds Clinical Commissioning Group. During the workshop session at the Community Committee, the report findings were discussed and attendees advised; who they understood the social isolated members of the Inner North East community to be, what support they need and how their needs could be better addressed.
- 3.9 The most recent Inner North East Community Committee (March) looked to develop on progress earlier in the year, with a workshop session being delivered around the priorities for the Inner North East Community Committee's Well-being budget spend. The aim was to actively engage community members and partners in the financial decision making process – ultimately influencing the priorities for the Well-being budget spend in 2015/16. These same priorities are also to set the agenda for the 2015/16 Community Committee themes.

4.0 Achievements

- 4.1 The Community Committee continues to drive improvements in the area within a framework of priorities and themed advisory groups to support greater service integration and allocate resources more effectively. Recommendations from the themed Community Committee meetings and the corresponding workshops have directly fed in to the East North East Employment and Skills Board action plan and been compiled into a report to be presented to the North Leeds Clinical Commissioning Group to inform its commissioning of social prescribing. Social prescribing is when primary care providers refer patients with social, emotional or practical needs to a range of local, non-clinical services, often provided by the voluntary and community sector.

- 4.2 The Committee have also received a number of deputations under the open forum element of the meeting. There are a number of deputations which have directly resulted in services undertaking scoping and investigative work. For example, Highways are exploring the possibility of creating a new crossing on Meanwood Road to improve pedestrian safety and links between Woodhouse Ridge/ Meanwood Urban Farm. Officers from Highways, Parks & Countryside and Regeneration are drawing up outline proposals to create a new community space at Moortown Corner, in partnership with Moortown Community Group. It is hoped this will be the catalyst for further improvements and the active engagement of businesses and the development of a Town Team.
- 4.3 The Wellbeing fund has also been utilised to drive improvements in the area along the Community Committee's priority themes. Examples of projects funded through the Community Committee include; a security upgrade to the Mandela Centre, Chapel Allerton Arts Festival , CCTV and a comprehensive summer holiday programme in addition to projects supported through the Youth Activity Fund.
- 4.2 Investment in community buildings has been a considerable priority for the Community Committee to date. The Committee have utilised Wellbeing Funds , Ward Based Initiative Funding and the Capital Receipts Incentive Scheme Fund to improve community facilities across all three wards.
- 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 the development of a Community Leadership Team (CLT) for Meanwood. Formal structures such as the CLT are complimented by informal discussions at events such as Chapeltown Conversation Dinner and bespoke drop-in sessions held in local venues such as Stainbeck Church.

5.0 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, the use of social media could be enhanced further by utilising the Committee's community engagement budget to deliver targeted campaigns in the run up to Committee meetings. This would provide the Committee with an opportunity to communicate with members of the electorate who may not be actively engaged in civic life.
- 5.2 There are opportunities to engage young people in the wider decision making process of the Community Committee. Work is already underway to improve the links between young people and the allocation of the Youth Activity Fund. A future aspiration may be to provide young people with an opportunity to influence the wider Community Committee agenda.

- 5.3 As the Committee looks towards the new municipal year, Members have already highlighted potential opportunities for members of the community to have greater input into the delivery of Service Level Agreements (SLAs). In particular there are opportunities to foster greater involvement with the Environmental Service SLA and the planned Parks and Countryside SLA.
- 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, to help drive local service improvements.

6.0 Challenges

- 6.1 The Inner North East Community Committee includes communities with a range of challenges such as unemployment / NEETs, child poverty 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 across all areas within Inner North East Leeds. 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.

7.0 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 North East Community Committee area is to ensure that local people are involved with and consulted on the activities taking place where they live. There is a Community Leadership Teams (CLT) established and operational for Meanwood. Work to engage people more effectively in Chapeltown is currently underway.

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 North East Leeds. The Inner North 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.