

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. Conversations are continuing to take place to negotiate entry into 3 areas (one in each locality), and 2 community facilitators have been appointed to provide light touch facilitation over the year
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. Work has begun to map the supply of various community development activities by Housing Leeds and Area Support Teams so that there is a full understanding of levels of activity.
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. Specific work under the Integration Up North project is currently being considered
Tackling Poverty and Deprivation	Communities Board	The Communities Board is reviewing its priorities and how it takes these forward over the coming year. A separate report is available to Scrutiny which outlines work over the last year and approach to the next year.

Migration work	Communities Board	<p>Work with the Cross Council Migration Group and the Migration Partnership, continues in relation to the agreed deliverables.</p> <p>A Migration Update report was received at Scrutiny on 16 February 2015. This highlighted the strength of partnership work in Leeds, and some of the benefits of migration to Leeds. A wide ranging discussion followed and Scrutiny recommends that its successor board prioritises this inquiry</p> <p>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 has been explored. Space has been identified at Great George Street and most of the groups involved have expressed an interest in this. Negotiations are currently taking place around the practical aspects of taking this forward including costs involved.</p>
Poverty Truth Challenge	Communities Board	<p>Work continues on the 3 work strands:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people achieving potential. • Stigma and the perception of poverty. • Mental Health and Poverty. <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 challenge will be completed in Summer, with a closing event aiming to take place in June. Consideration is currently being given to what a further iteration could look like.</p>
	Best Council Plan Priority	<p>Community committees have completed their third round of meetings and the final round for this financial year will be completed in March. Discussions at the meetings have focussed on themes such as; social Isolation and loneliness, domestic violence, youth activities, local employment opportunities, health and wellbeing and childhood obesity.</p> <p>The online audience continues to increase with over 1600 page likes collectively across the 10 pages. With some posts particularly around local consultation having an audience reach of over 4,000 people. The Social media pages are providing a useful mechanism in building stronger connections with residents, who may not otherwise engage with the council. The challenge now is how the committees develop two-way communications and generate conversation with their audiences. Raising awareness of the committees is on-going with lots of promotional activity taking place by the area support teams such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal invites from the chairs • Targeted invites through partners, community groups and residents • Promotional activity on social media

<p>Strengthening local accountability and being more responsive to the needs of local communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Posters distributed in key areas and buildings • Articles through various media channels, newsletters, press releases and attendance from Made in Leeds TV at events and meetings. <p>Deliver engagement plans in each locality, resulting in increased involvement – all community committees are continuing to deliver against their engagement plans.</p> <p>Design in the Public Sector is a programme run by the Design Council that supports local authorities wanting to increase their user-focus and mainstream co-design/co-production practice. We have used this support to tackle the question ‘how might local people get more involved in local decision-making?’ and continue to collaborate with residents and partners to design, test and evaluate new ways of engaging local communities and informing community committee decision-making. The work started in Inner South, and the principles of ‘service design’ are being applied to a range of other projects across the council. The formal DIPS programme provides a ‘service design’ method and tools, it is similar to other service design approaches being used elsewhere in Leeds, and positive relationships are being formed with local practitioners</p> <p>Work is ongoing to develop our approach to a social contract and to provide an outline of the future shape and responsibilities of the council, within a social contract context</p> <p>Increase the community use of and interactions with community hubs In October 2014 Executive Board agreed the proposals to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • 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. <p>Work is continuing with the integration of services; libraries and job shops coming under the management of community hubs from 1 April, registrars transferring over at a date to be agreed, and housing front of office staff to be transferred in October. Mobile library service is also in scope for transfer on 1 October. Staff engagement events are scheduled to take place in Feb/March 2015</p> <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>
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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">• Individuals' resilience levels within community ('healthy, engaged people')• How isolated or networked people are• What community assets exist (skills/qualifications, physical, social, cultural, leadership)• Economics (disposable income, employment etc) <p>A cross-council Graduate Scheme project is taking place in order to more fully understand methods of measuring resilience.</p>
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