

Report of: Jane Maxwell, East North East Area Leader

Report to: Inner North East Community Committee – Chapel Allerton, Moortown and Roundhay

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Area Update Report

Purpose of report

1. This report provides Members with an update on the work programme of Inner North East Community Committee.

Main issues

2. Following on from the March meeting of the Inner North East Community Committee (priority setting for 2015/16), Members are asked to consider how to best ensure progress against their identified priorities:
 - Support projects, organisations and activities that tackle Social Isolation.
 - Support projects, organisations and activities that work towards reducing health inequalities with a focus on reducing diabetes and improving cancer awareness.
 - Support projects, organisations and activities with a focus on dementia.
 - Support projects, organisations and activities that focus on community led environmental activities.
 - Support projects, organisations and activities that provide Community reassurance.
 - Support projects and organisations and activities that work towards reducing burglary.
 - Support projects, organisations and activities the reduce child poverty and its causes.

- Support projects, organisations and activities relating to debt advice and welfare of local communities.
 - Support projects, organisations and activities that are new and innovative and tackle poverty.
 - Support projects, organisations and activities that raise awareness of/and/or reduce domestic violence and support.
 - Support projects, organisations and activities that work towards reducing language barriers for new communities.
 - Support projects, organisations and activities that increase community cohesion.
 - Support projects, organisations and activities that strengthening grassroots community projects and activities.
3. Whilst tangible progress has been made in the first year of the Community Committees, most notably increasing resident and partner involvement in the decision making process and giving specific focus to key themes such as employment in the Queenshill and Brackenwood Estates and social isolation, it is clear that there is still more work to do.
 4. One of the key issues for Community Committees in the coming year is having an identified mechanism to drive forward its priorities and achieve defined outputs that can be measured and RAG rated by Elected Members and in turn partners and stakeholders.
 5. This step change from the Community Committee being a vehicle for articulating local concerns to being a driver for change is a challenge common to all ten Community Committees.
 6. It is proposed that is that a cross Ward working group is established to explore options and best practice for how the Community Committee can achieve this aim.
 7. A possible option to explore is the establishment of a Neighbourhood Improvement Board (NIB) for Inner NorthEast Leeds that along with the locally developed Neighbourhood Improvement Plans (NIPs) would be the driver for progress against the Community Committees identified priorities.
 8. The Neighbourhood Improvement Board option is one that is already being employed by both the West North West and South East Area Support Teams. The key elements underpinning this approach are the buy-in and involvement of council services and partners at a senior level, creating an accountable body for measuring and delivering progress against agreed outcomes.
 9. This work would be supported by the new Area Officer, Meanwood and Chapeltown that is currently being recruited. It is proposed that the work of the new Area Officer is informed by local intelligence and data sets and is aligned to the priorities of the

Community Committee. This in turn would lead to the creation of annually produced Neighborhood Improvement Plans.

10. At the time of writing, the Area Officer for Meanwood and Chapeltown, funded by the Inner North East Community Committee is in the process of being recruited with the aspiration of being in post by mid-July.
11. Members should also note that the new three point pricing policy for community centres within the citizens and communities portfolio was implemented for new bookings on 1st May 2015. This was agreed by Executive Board in July 2014. The new policy sets prices at commercial and community rates and allows Community Committees to agree free lettings in their community centres. In order to improve accountability for these decisions, free lettings now need to be agreed for each individual letting. Each Community Committee is able to agree the delegated approval process that best suits their needs.
12. A second stage review will look at developing the community centre delegation arrangements to increase accountability at a local level. Initial discussions will take place with Community Committee Chairs to scope this work including the possibility of greater budget delegation. The implementation of the pricing review has uncovered a number of deficiencies in the availability of management information relating to the usage and financial performance of community centres, which is needed to underpin an improved Community Committee delegation. This will be addressed during review of lettings processes, including the move towards online transactions.
13. A major review is commencing of the service level agreement between Citizens and Communities and Civic Enterprise Leeds covering caretaking, cleaning, repairs, programmed maintenance and building management. Community Committees will be involved in this process as it takes shape.
14. Subject to Member approval it is proposed that on a case-by-case basis Ward Members are emailed the details of each request for a free let. It is then for the Ward Members to approve or decline this request on a majority basis i.e. two out of the three Ward Members are in agreement. Once these decisions are made, the Area Officer will communicate this to the Communities Team.
15. The rationale behind this approach is that in order to get through the anticipated volume of requests generated by the new letting procedures, Ward Members will have the flexibility to respond electronically rather than via their monthly Ward Member meetings which could cause delays and, in turn, uncertainty for applicants.
16. The Communities Team is currently undertaking engagement around Meanwood Community Centre as part of the consultation about the future of ten community centres across the city. A public meeting took place on 3rd June, asking attendees for their thoughts on the future of the centre and for ideas around increasing its usage and sustainability.
17. A group of community centre users have expressed an interest in setting up a management committee to potentially take over the running of Meanwood Community

Centre. Members of five different groups who are currently either based at the centre, or use the centre on a regular basis have expressed that they would be interested in helping to form this new management committee.

18. This proposed management committee would like to explore options to take on more of the costs and processes associated with the upkeep and running of the centre, with the building still remaining under Leeds City Council ownership. Users felt confident that they would be able to encourage more people to use the centre and develop the activities that are currently on offer there.
19. The group would like to enter a formal submission of interest to both the Inner North East Community Committee, and then the Executive Board, that they wish to explore the option of creating a new management committee for the building. They would then advance with the development of some terms of reference to take on more of the responsibility for the running of the Centre.
20. On 7th July 2014, the Community Committee considered a report entitled “Your new Community Committee” (minute 8 refers). Members considered whether it was appropriate for the newly established Inner North East CC to recruit non-voting co-optees from the locality to help with the committees’ work. At that time, the CC resolved to defer consideration of the matter to allow time for further consideration of the necessary recruitment and selection mechanism and to continue to focus on engagement through workshop sessions
21. Article 10 of the Constitution states that by resolution, Community Committees may appoint or remove non-voting Co-opted Members who may participate in the business of the Community Committee. The relevant Community Committee Procedure Rules state that “Co-opted members may participate in the debate in the same way as Elected Members, but will be non-voting members of the Committee.
22. No co-opted member shall be appointed for a period beyond the next Annual Meeting of the Council.
23. With regard to participation on financial matters, in line with Section 102(3) of the Local Government Act 1972, the procedure rules state that, ‘Co-optees will not ...participate in (the) business of the committee which regulates or controls the finance of the area’. This would preclude co-optees participating on matters such as Wellbeing funding applications for example.
24. As this is the first meeting of the 2015/16 Municipal Year, Members are requested to review the success of the operating mechanisms established for the Inner North East CC during 2014/15 and to consider whether to appoint co-optees to the Inner North East CC for 2015/16
25. In doing so, Members are asked to note that, at the time of writing this report, no selection mechanism is in place and, should the Community Committee confirm that it wishes to appoint co-optees, a further report will need to be presented to the September meeting to formally approve any nominations received for co-opted members for the remainder of the 2015/16 Municipal Year.

Conclusion

26. There are a number of actions on-going to achieve the Community Committees' priorities and fulfil its work programme but despite this, the Community Committee recognises that there is still a significant amount of work to be done.

Recommendations

27. That Members note the contents of the report and make comment where appropriate.

28. That Members agree to the formation of a cross Ward working group to explore the options of how to best ensure that progress against the priorities for the Community Committee is achieved.

29. That Members agree to process for deciding upon Community Centre lets in light of the new arrangements as approved by the council's Executive Board.

30. That Members note the formal submission from users of Meanwood Community Centre and the same submission is sent to the Executive Board.

31. That Members to consider whether to appoint co-optees to the Inner North East CC for 2015/16.

Background information

- Link to the Facebook Page for the Inner East Community Committee:
<https://www.facebook.com/LCCInnerNE>
- Link to the Priority Setting report that was approved by the Inner East Community Committee in March 2015:
<http://democracy.leeds.gov.uk/documents/g6868/Public%20reports%20pack%2009th-Mar-2015%2018.30%20Inner%20North%20East%20Community%20Committee.pdf?T=10>