

**Report of: Assistant Chief Executive (Citizens and Communities)**

**Report to: Council**

**Date: 16 September 2015**

**Subject: Community Committee Annual Report**

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
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? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

## 1. Summary of main issues

This report brings the Community Committees' Annual Report to the attention of council. It looks at progress over the last twelve months, outlines the changes which have taken place during 2014 to 2015 and gives a flavour of some of the work the community committees have carried out within their communities to improve the lives of local people.

The community committees were set up to improve the way the council works locally and form part of our commitment to involving our residents more closely with the priorities for their local area and decision-making on funding and services. They play an important part in our ambition to bring place, people and resources together by:

- ensuring that we spend money and work more intelligently and flexibly than before;
- making it easier for people to do business with us; and
- improving the way we make decisions locally with residents.

The report looks at wellbeing and youth activities funding, the role played by the community committee champions, the communications and social media work carried out and the role the community committees undertake in bringing communities together.

Finally, the report looks ahead to the challenges and next steps to be taken, including:

- focussing on 'local', making sure that services join up effectively and really meet the needs of local people;
- developing their quality improvement and assurance role, acting as the eyes and ears for the delivery of local services, and making recommendations back to the Executive Board where necessary;

- improving their work and decision making with better intelligence gathered at the local level;
- using communications and social media more strategically, moving from broadcast to conversation and engagement; and
- introducing a robust system of performance management through the development of an action tracker, which shows where the positive discussions with residents has led to services changing and projects delivered to meet needs.

## **2. Recommendations**

Members of council are asked to:

- receive the annual report; and
- agree the work now being progressed to further improve the effectiveness, profile and community engagement role of community committees.