

Report of the Chair Inner East Community Committee

Report to Full Council

Date: 16th September 2015

Subject: Inner East Community Committee

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Burmantofts & Richmond Hill Gipton & Harehills Killingbeck & Seacroft	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input 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

Summary of main issues

1. The purpose of this report is to outline the progress, achievements, opportunities and challenges of the Inner East Community Committee since the last update to Full Council in November 2014.
2. Members are asked to note the content of this report.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to outline the progress, achievements, opportunities and challenges of the East Community Committee over the period since the last update to Full Council in November 2014.

2 Background information

- 2.2 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 at Community Committee meetings.

3 Progress

- 3.1 Since November 2014, the Inner East Community has continued to see a significant attendance and participation in meetings from local residents, partners and representatives from the third sector.
- 3.2 This sustained 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 include greater public participation; later starting times; better publicity including Facebook and Twitter; and meetings taking place in locally accessible venues.
- 3.3 Workshop style sessions have been employed in all three of the Community Committee meetings that have taken place since the last update to Full Council (November 2014). Issues explored included:
- Social Isolation (January 2015 – held in Gipton)
 - Priorities Setting for 2015/16 (March 2015 – held in Burmantofts)
 - The Environment and Place (June 2015 – held in Harehills)
- 3.4 In January, the Inner East Community Committees held a workshop session on social isolation. The committee was attended by over 40 people including local councillors, residents, local organisations, council officers, third sector representatives and local GPs. During the workshop people spoke candidly about their experiences and views of social isolation. Following the workshop, partner agencies have worked more closely together, encouraged by the community champions, to explore the option of funding a community development worker to work with local people to build connections and networks, helping to restore a sense of neighbourliness. The local public health team also took action on reducing social isolation through its partnership working groups, commissions and campaigns.

3.5 At the March meeting of the Inner East Community Committee, Elected Members agreed their priorities for 2015/16 following a workshop session with local residents, partners and representatives from the voluntary and community sectors. These priorities, highlighted below, have helped inform the allocation of Community Committee resources for this financial year. The priorities include:

- Promoting diversity, encourage community cohesion and address language barriers
- Tackling issues associated with child poverty
- Supporting access to employment, training and volunteering opportunities and the acquisition of new skills
- Improving physical and mental health issues
- Improving the environment
- Reducing levels of domestic violence

3.6 At the June meeting of the Inner East Community Committee, a workshop was held where participants were asked to contribute towards the development of a service level agreement for environmental services on ward basis. The aim was to work with residents and partners to co-produce the service delivery priorities for each ward in the Inner East. The Environmental working group will then finalises the new annual arrangements.

3.7 Since September 2014 a dedicated Employment and Skills Board has been established for the East North East area to address issues of unemployment and skill deficits across the area. This board oversees the development and implementation of the Employment & Skills plan for the East North East area. The Inner East area is represented on that board by the community champion for Employment, Skills and Welfare, Councillor Ron Grahame. The Inner East Community Committee has worked hard with partners to:

- increase the take up of apprenticeships and the number of employers taking on a Headstart work placement;
- identify vulnerable groups who could benefit from engaging in the Community Learning Programme, specifically linked to opportunities at the Veolia Energy Recovery Facility, Aldi/Pure Gym development at Regent Street and other major developments
- improving the engagement between schools and businesses, with proactive work undertaken with Co-op Academy and John Smeaton Academy.
- Working with Job Centre Plus's Social Justice Team which sees more people being reached by this service over the last year

3.8 The Communities Team (East North East) have continued to use the Inner East Community Committee Facebook page to provide details of the work of the committee as well advertising community events such as Burmantofts and Seacroft Gala's, and employment and training opportunities in the area. The Facebook page continues to be an important communications tool between the council and local residents and services. Work is taking place to better link the pages to other local pages to widen the audience of the Community Committee pages.

4 Achievements

4.1 The Community Committee continues to drive improvements in the area using a framework of priorities and themed working groups to support greater service integration and allocate Wellbeing funding to a range of organisations. Examples of projects funded in the last 12 months include Opportunity Shops relating to jobs, skills and training, CCTV, welfare advice surgeries, the Money Buddies initiative and Haslewood West Subway improvements.

4.2 During the summer holiday period, several successful Wellbeing funded community fun day events have taken place in Inner East. Burmantofts Gala took place on 27th June on Oxtan Fields. Seacroft Gala took place on 4th July, followed by the Seacroft Children and Young People's Day on 13th August, both on Seacroft Village Green. Harehills Festival is due to take place in Banstead Park on 20th September.

4.3 In total, events funded by the Inner East Community Committee were attended by approximately 4,500 children, young people and families and played a key role in bringing local communities together.

4.4 Investment in the areas parks and greenspaces continues to be a priority for the Community Committee and it has worked closely with colleagues in the Parks and Countryside service to ensure that Section 106 monies are spent in line with local priorities. Many of the community events have made the most of the improving parks in the Inner East. The Community Committee welcomes the Parks and Countryside delegation as a real opportunity to work with local people to agree the priorities for on-going investment and park developments.

4.5 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 a formal Community Leadership Teams (CLTs) in Seacroft and Burmantofts & Richmond Hill, and informal conversation dinners and bespoke drop-in sessions held in local venues.

4.6 Partnership working between the Community Committee, Safer Leeds Partnership, West Yorkshire Police and other local partners has also seen a number of initiatives take place such as Operation Boy Park which led to the successful prosecution of

local drug dealers and civil injunctions in Seacroft; increased partnership working to tackle hate crime in South Seacroft; installation of CCTV cameras in ASB and crime hot spots in the Sandhursts and Dorsets in Harehills and a series of diversionary activities for young people on Bonfire night.

5 Opportunities

- 5.1 Over the last 12 months members have given their views on the Community Committee champion role and how their work in this capacity can be further embedded. The Community Committee Chair has committed to bi-monthly Community Champion meetings to ensure that champions in post are able to share their key areas of work and identify any areas of overlap. The meetings are also an opportunity to share good practice and address any challenging issues collectively.
- 5.2 Inner East Community Committee champions seek to work closely with local service leads to identify and develop local improvement priorities and hope to use the opportunity of the Community Committee workshops to strengthen community involvement.
- 5.3 A new performance management framework for Community Committees is now in place and will improve the transparency of the accountability arrangements for taking forward local actions. Each of the community champions will then be able to review and monitor progress against key actions within their local portfolio and discussion issues, good practice and challenges through their Executive Member discussions.
- 5.4 Allied to this, the Community Committee will develop an approach to neighbourhood improvement in the priority neighbourhoods of Burmantofts & Richmond Hill, Gipton, Harehills and Seacroft. This builds on the previous neighbourhood management model but takes the opportunity to focus in on smaller neighbourhoods where progress needs to be accelerated.
- 5.5 The neighbourhood improvement approach will bring together a wide range of partners from the area along with council officers and other statutory services to improve the way partners integrate their services at local level to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery in the community. The neighbourhood improvement partnerships will focus on how to increase community engagement in each of the priority neighbourhoods.
- 5.6 The new arrangement will seek to work with citywide and local stakeholders to:
 - develop a measurable neighbourhood improvement programme across identified priorities;
 - increase collaborative working and integration to support sustainable local improvement;
 - enable strong community engagement and increased civic enterprise.

6 Challenges

- 6.1 The Inner East Community Committee covers communities which experience significant challenges associated with poverty. These cover a wide range of issues including high unemployment, high level of young people not in education, employment and training, low educational attainment, crime and ASB, quality of living standards and health issues. Responding to these issues remains a priority for both the Council and the Inner East Community Committee as we seek to realise the aspiration that Leeds is a compassionate city where all people benefit from a strong local economy. The new neighbourhood improvement arrangements will provide a platform for integrated working, targeting resources and developing creative responses which build on the strength and resilience of communities.
- 6.2 Language barriers remain a key issue in Inner East Leeds, with such a wide demographic of people living in the area. The Council needs to continue to respond to this changing demographic and work with key partners such as the Leeds City College and Job Centre Plus to address language barriers.
- 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 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 East Community Committee area is to ensure that local people are involved with and consulted on the activities taking place where they live. There are two Community Leadership Teams (CLTs) established and operational for Burmantofts & Richmond Hill and Seacroft. Work to establish similar forums in Harehills and Gipton is currently underway. The Community committee uses the open access workshop approach to Community Committees and has regular community conversation focused on local priorities.

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 Tangible progress has been made by the Community Committee, most notably increasing resident and partner involvement in the local decision making process and giving specific focus to key themes such as social isolation, employment and skills and the environment. The Community Committee looks forward to continuing to work with residents, services and partners to address issues of poverty and improve community outcomes.

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.