

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

**Report to: Citizens & Communities Scrutiny Board**

**Date: 15<sup>th</sup> February 2016**

**Subject: The Development of Community Committees – Session 2 Report - Partnerships**

Are specific electoral Wards affected?	<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?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

### **Summary of main issues**

1. This report provides information on the range of community committee partnerships both strategic, thematic and local with regard to each of the three Community Team areas of the city: the south east (SE), the east north east (ENE) and the west north west (WNW).
2. The report outlines the extent of partnership working and demonstrates how community committees are at the very heart, if not leading, on the local partnership arrangements that seek to address shared local priorities and engage with local people.

### **Recommendations:**

3. That the information supplied in this report is noted and discussed.

## **1. Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide members of the Scrutiny Board with information relevant to their inquiry into the development of community committees with particular reference to the evidence called for by the terms of reference; specifically:
- To consider evidence in relation to the extent to which Community Committees are engaging with other established community forums/partnerships (i.e. Cluster Partnerships; Parish and Town Councils; CCGs).
- 1.2 The evidence provided in this report and its appendices can form the basis for the Scrutiny Board to work with the Citizens & Communities Directorate in evaluating the community committee model and its development to date.

## **2. Background information**

- 2.1 The move towards a more collaborative and inclusive approach to working locally began following a review of the council's area working arrangements. A number of recommendations were agreed by Executive Board in December 2012 and officers, working closely with area committee chairs, undertook further work to develop a set of principles to underpin a new approach to area working arrangements.
- 2.2 In December 2013, Executive Board endorsed the proposition to be more responsive to local communities and there followed a period of consultation on improving locality working arrangements. Outcomes of the consultation were as follows:
- A change in name from area committees to community committees to reflect the new approach to locality working;
  - An agreed set of design principles for community committees to create a framework that is consistent across the city but still responsive to local needs;
  - An agreed brand and identity for community committees to assist in communication and marketing activity, raising the profile of community committees and their work;
  - The need for greater delegation to community committees;
  - More locally focussed meetings with more freedom and flexibility in terms of the way they operate; and
  - More meaningful community engagement.
- 2.3 On the 9<sup>th</sup> June 2014 the Annual Council meeting approved the constitutional amendments relating to community committees and the very first meetings took place that July.
- 2.4 The Community Committees largely adopted the partnership arrangements inherited from the former Area Committees and have adapted and /or added to these arrangements in the light of changing circumstances and priorities.

### 3. Partnership arrangements

- 3.1 The Community Committee partnership arrangements are largely supported by the area based Communities Teams and this report reflects the information provided by each of these teams. The partnerships are either strategic in nature or very task and action focussed and some relate just to the locality whilst others have a route through to the city-wide strategic partnerships such as Leeds Health and Wellbeing Board.
- 3.2 The effectiveness of the partnerships is evident through the good levels of engagement, the shared agendas, shared resources and agreed outcomes. Detailed examples of the effectiveness of the community committee partnership arrangements are given in the Leeds Community Committees Annual Report 2014 to 2015 supplied to the Scrutiny Board at its first session on this topic on the 18<sup>th</sup> January 2016.
- 3.3 The partnerships that community committees are involved in, described below, largely fall into two categories. They are either:
- **Strategic partnerships** that cover the wider geography of the ENE, the WNW or SE of the city such as the Area Leadership Teams and thematic partnerships on issues such as community safety or health and wellbeing. Membership of these strategic partnerships is made up of local decision makers from services, partner agencies and the voluntary sector. Members of the community committees attend either in their role as Chair or champion portfolio holders.
  - **Action/delivery focussed partnerships** such as local neighbourhood business forums, neighbourhood partnerships and 'tasking' groups. Membership consists of multi-agency frontline delivery officers often with a ward member chairing or leading. Much of the facilitation and servicing of such partnerships is undertaken by the community teams.
- 3.4 It is also a moot point as to whether a particular arrangement that involves partners is a 'partnership' or simply a joined up way of 'getting the job done' – the distinctions never having been articulated.
- 3.5 Appended to this report are documents for each area that provide an accessible overview of all the various partnership arrangements operating in conjunction with the community committees. In the sections below each area describes in some detail the nature of their respective partnership arrangements.

### 4. South East Partnerships:

#### 4.1 Community Safety

Engaging with councillors on issues of concern in the area and working with Police, Council and other local services to develop responses, or make a contribution to the actions which are taking place. Examples include:-

- Child sexual exploitation, bringing responsible services to the community committee. Providing assurance that this important issue is being dealt with by the Council. Influencing services to engage with relevant third sector partners.

- Engaging with Councillors and local people on action planning on domestic violence. Involving police and community safety colleagues.
- Organising local multi-agency operations which tackle identified problems in neighbourhoods
- Engaging locally with Councillors and residents on the issue of street sex work, and supporting the development of the Managed Area as a city-wide response to a local issue.
- Tasking meetings take place across the area

#### 4.2 Health and Wellbeing

Working with Public Health and the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) on the planning and commissioning of social prescribing. Discussed in the area wide Health and Wellbeing Core Group (with CCG and Public health colleagues). It sponsored a area wide discussion at the Heath Forum where local councillors and stakeholders were able to influence this approach, for example opening the service to self-referral and supporting the need for local grants to support additional local community provision.

We have engaged with health and wellbeing colleagues providing a local (Outer South) perspective on priorities to be adopted in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and on the proposed 'Best start Zone', working to improve outcomes for infants in Inner south. These specific examples have influenced decisions on local interventions by the CCG and public health.

#### 4.3 Older People

Each community committee has sub groups which engage with older people, and seek to involve community committees and local stakeholders in the agendas of social isolation and positive local activity. This has led to Councillors supporting programmes of work with wellbeing funding investment and supporting applications to city wide programmes such as 'Time to Shine'.

#### 4.4 Children and Young People.

Community Committees have a close relationship with the Youth Service, working with councillors to shape mainstream provision and the delivery of the Youth Activity Fund (YAF). All Committees have directly engaged with young people to seek their views on local provision and their neighbourhoods. This has influenced the delivery of the YAF. We have a relationship through children's services, and our Champions with the clusters in the area. □

#### 4.5 Housing.

Community committees engage with housing colleagues and colleagues in housing associations relevant to their areas. There has been productive work to align the funding decisions of the community committees with those of the Housing Advisory Panels. This has meant a number of joint schemes have been supported, for example on local environmental projects. Strong links with housing partners (Housing Leeds and RSLs) involved in tenant and resident involvement has assisted

with engaging residents at community committees and developing local projects to address needs.

#### 4.6 Employment and Skills

An Employment skills and welfare partnership is convened in the Inner South area tackling a wide range of local issues relating to accessing local employment, skills and training and attainment. Work has included a local roadshow of advice sessions on welfare benefit changes, and work to encourage local people to access local jobs including the new Asda supermarket in Middleton and Aldi supermarket in Beeston. Outer East committee has a close focus on the skills and employment opportunities which will be generated by the Thopre Park development, including work with local schools, and the Outer South Committee has had a focus on issues related to disabled employment.

#### 4.7 Neighbourhood Improvement Boards (NIBs)

The NIBs have provided the vehicle to work on key issues at ward level, or below, engaging with local residents. We have developed the local use of the Open Space methodology to properly hear the voice of residents and the problems or issues which concern them. This allows working groups to quickly engage on the issues of concern. Examples include:-

Hearing about some serious crime and disorder worries in some local neighbourhoods and feeding those concerns directly to tasking for action;

Responding to concerns about speeding and giving Highways colleagues the opportunity to discuss potential solutions directly with residents.

We also engage directly with residents through Community Forums in the Outer East area

### **5. East North East Partnerships:**

#### 5.1 ENE Employment & Skills Board

An ENE Employment and Skills Board is well established. This includes the Employment and Skills champions for Inner East, Outer North East and is chaired by the champion for Inner North East. Regular reports are submitted to the Community Committees and the champions take an active role in ensuring that local issues are considered by the Board. Draft priorities have been set for the 2016/17 municipal year to be approved by the Board in February. These reflect discussions at Community Committee workshops and local partnership discussions.

#### 5.2 Housing Advisory Panels (HAP)

Since the transition from the ALMO structure to an in-house service, we have an improved relationship with Housing Leeds and in particular the HAP panels. Links are primarily between Tenant & Community Support Officers and Area Officers on finance matters. An Area Officer has been to Inner East HAP to present on work of Community Committees to foster relationships and aid mutual understanding. Also

plans to do this in INE and ONE. Community Committee Members are appointed annually to sit on the HAP as non-voting members.

### 5.3 Moor Allerton Partnership

Meets every six weeks. Essentially an information sharing forum. Attempts have been made to focus the work of partnership by the Communities Team but the dynamism of the group is limited due to issues of attendance and the cross boundary nature of the area (Moor Allerton straddles both Alwoodley and Moortown Wards). Community Committee Members from both the ONE and INE Community Committees attend these meetings. The minutes are currently reported to the ONE CC as part of the Community Committee update report, it is planned that INE does the same in future.

### 5.4 Neighbourhood Improvements Partnerships – Harehills, Burmantofts & Richmond Hill, Gipton, Seacroft & Chapeltown

The neighbourhood improvement partnerships (NIPs) are a new approach in ENE, effectively replacing and broadening the previous Local Management Team approach. NIPS, whilst still in their infancy, are currently being embedded in all the ENE's priority neighbourhoods. The driver behind these partnerships are the need to identify local interventions and create collaborative action plans with tangible outcomes. Allied to this is a East Leeds Neighbourhood Board is to be established that will seek to address more strategic and cross cutting issues for the whole of the ENE area. This NIB approach is already working in West and South. We will be leaning on both of those models for guidance. The Communities Team currently reports on the work of the NIPs via both the IE and INE Community Committee update reports.

### 5.5 Clusters – Alwoodley/Next, Inner East, Seacroft Manston, EPOSS, CHESS, Networks

In some instances members of the Communities Team do attend JCC meetings (EPOSS, CHESS, NETWORKS) and as a result the relationship between the Communities Team and the Cluster is enhanced. Members of the Community Committee are also annually appointed to sit on the Clusters. There are also examples of a strong working relationships being forged outside of the formalised partnership structure (i.e. Inner East and the co-production of the summer holiday programme with the Communities Team) but this is an area with scope for improvement. There is currently no formal reporting mechanism between the Clusters and the Community Committees (ONE are looking to remedy this). Perhaps under the new proposed Cluster model of engagement with young people this could be a lever for change.

### 5.6 Outer North East Parish and Town Council Forum

Meets quarterly in a venue in an ONE Ward. Chaired by local Ward councillors on a rotating basis. The Outer North East Community Committee has continued to develop productive working relationships through the Outer North East Parish and Town Council Forum which provides a mechanism for regular engagement and opportunities for discussion and collaborative working on issues of common interest

to the parishes. The forum was highlighted as a model of good practice by the Safer and Stronger Scrutiny Board's review into the council's relationships with parish and town councils in 2013. Partnership working between the Community Committee and parish and town councils presents a real opportunity, particularly in the context of the localism act. Relationships have been developed through neighbourhood planning and all key parties come together regularly through the Forum. In particular, the forum enables parish and town councils to work closely with the Locality Team to improve the flexibility and effectiveness of the local delivery of environmental services. Other issues of interest that have been focused on include; community safety, CIL and highways improvements.

#### 5.7 Community Leadership Teams (CLT) – Burmantofts & Richmond Hill & Seacroft

Meets every two months. Made up of local residents and chaired by local councillors who also sit on the IE Community Committee. The CLT is an opportunity for resident engagement and information sharing. This meeting is facilitated and supported by the Communities Team. The work of the CLT is being realigned to dovetail with the work of the emerging neighbourhood improvement partnerships.

#### 5.8 Health & Wellbeing Partnerships (eg Harehills, Chapeltown)

A number of local partnerships are in place and are delivering effectively against the health improvement agenda. These partnerships feed into the ENE Health & Wellbeing Executive with good involvement from each of the three Health and Wellbeing Community Champions (appointed by the Community Committees). Community Champion involvement ensures they have a good understanding of public health and CCG priorities, challenges and actions. Recently, health colleagues (including those in public health and the CCG) helped in delivering Community Committee workshops in both IE and INE on social isolation. As a result social prescribing models are being developed.

#### 5.9 ENE Locality Community Safety Partnership

The East North East Community Safety partnership is chaired by the local Chief Inspector with support from the community safety co-ordinator. The purpose of the partnership is to reduce crime and disorder and improve quality of lives by translating strategic objectives and Safer Leeds priorities into operational activity in local neighbourhoods. The partnership works alongside the Area Leadership Team on cross cutting issues in a bid to avoid duplication of effort. Recently, the partnership has developed a focus on domestic violence which has in turn informed the work of the Community Committees in ENE. A working group has been set-up to look at this issue in more detail.

#### 5.10 Tasking meetings – B&RH, Chapel Allerton, Gipton, Harehills, Seacroft, Wetherby & Harewood, Roundhay & Moortown, Alwoodley

These meetings take place on a regular cycle, every 4 weeks in some cases. 6-8 weeks in others. The Communities Team has a co-chairing role in this partnership which also involves colleagues in the Police, LASBAT, Locality Team, Targeted Services, Housing Leeds and Youth Services.

## 5.11 Tenant & Resident Associations

Engagement with tenants and residents associations is done on an ad-hoc basis and usually in a capacity to support elected Members with a specific issue.

## 6. West North West Partnerships:

### 6.1 Community Safety

Engaged recently with Councillors on a range of community safety issues, including raising awareness of human trafficking and community cohesion activity, bringing responsible services to the locality community safety partnership and community committees where appropriate.

Engaging with councillors and local people on action planning on domestic violence, cohesion and development of cumulative impact policy to tackle alcohol concerns.

### 6.2 Health and Wellbeing and ASC

Working with Public Health and the CCG on the planning and commissioning of PEP work and establishment of wellbeing centres, both of which are targeted to areas of high need with significant health inequalities.

Community committee champions have engaged with Health and Wellbeing and ASC colleagues to develop approaches to tackle social isolation. Workshops have been held engaging local residents and an example of a key action being progressed following Outer North West community committee session is the development of a mobile app to be trialled in a ward in ONW.

### 6.3 Children and Young People.

Community Committees have a close relationship with the Youth Service, working with Councillors to shape mainstream provision and the delivery of the Youth Activity fund. All Committees have directly engaged with young people to seek their views on local provision and their neighbourhoods. This has influenced the delivery of the YAF.

Two children and young people sessions run this month in INW (60) and ONW (90) engaged over 150 young people to inform and influence priorities for commissioning.

### 6.4 Housing

Community Committees engage with Housing colleagues, and colleagues in Housing associations relevant to their areas.

There has been productive work to align the funding decisions of the Community Committees with those of the Housing Advisory Panels. This has meant a number of joint schemes have been supported, for example on local environmental projects.

Strong links with housing partners involved in tenant and resident involvement has assisted with engaging residents at Community Committee and developing local projects to address needs.



## 6.5 Neighbourhood Improvement Boards

The NIBs have provided the vehicle to work on key issues at ward level, or below, engaging with local residents.

The communities' team working with ward members have established a number of local neighbourhood improvement partnerships in areas of high deprivation. These include active engagement and in some cases are led by local residents or third sector organisations to discuss local challenges and develop local actions including influencing service provision such as a mobile pop up hub where no community facilities are present.

The West Neighbourhood Improvement Board has a clear focus on employment and financial inclusion. A range of activities have run over the past year including; 'Get into retail' workshops linked to the new Kirkstall Bridge development, job search advice for new Eastern European migrants and supporting job shops and IT access within community centres.

## 6.6 Outer North West Parish and Town Council forums

The Outer North West Community Committee continues to host a Parish and Town Council Forum three times a year, which enables the committee to engage with the six local Parish and Town Councils in outer North West Leeds. A number of joint priorities between the community committee and the local councils are being progressed, including highway issues and links to Leeds Bradford airport, both of which were discussed at the last forum meeting in October 2015.

## 6.7 Employment and Skills

The WNW Employment Skills and Welfare board is a strategic partnership. Partners contribute to an action plan which tracks the contributions and progress made over the year. The partnership decides on the priorities they want to focus on resolving. One of the main contributions this year was supporting Leeds City College to find suitable premises for adult community learning to enable provision to continue following the closure of provision at Strawberry Lane Community Centre. Current priorities focus on new business development and securing employment opportunities for local people, along with attainment levels and destinations for school leavers.

## 7. Third Sector goes Local (TSL)

- 7.1 The locality teams have worked in partnership with Voluntary Action Leeds over the last 18 months to deliver a number of events in each of the three areas under the 'Third Sector Goes Local' brand. The aim of these events is for the community teams to support TSL in its ambition to reach and engage the very local charities and voluntary groups, who may they not otherwise be aware of or get to offer support. To date the events have been based around local priorities and issues of local concern. They also provide an opportunity for local groups and charities to showcase their work in two-minute presentations as well networking opportunities. A team of officers from across the community teams are due to review the successes and challenges of these events in March 2016.

## **8. Corporate Considerations**

### **8.1 Consultation and Engagement**

The improvement agenda for community committees is a dynamic process and continues to be part of an on-going process of consultation and engagement with our partners, elected members, the community chairs forum and the executive member for communities. Local residents have the opportunity to engage in the development of community committees through the local engagement arrangements and in the process of approving any formal improvement programme by community committees.

### **8.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration**

The community committees have a significant role to play in promoting community cohesion and equality. With all community committee developments due consideration must be given to the potential positive or negative impact on equality and community cohesion.

### **8.3 Council policies and Best Council Plan**

The developing role of community committees fits with the Best Council objective of 'supporting communities and tackling poverty' and is directly aligned to the ambition for Leeds to be 'the best city for communities'.

### **8.4 Resources and value for money**

In considering the development of community committees due consideration will always need to be taken to ensure the development ambitions can be matched with appropriate levels of resources. There are no resources issues to consider directly as a consequence of this report.

### **8.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In**

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

### **8.6 Risk Management**

There are no significant risk management issues arising from this report.

## **9. Recommendations**

9.1 That the information supplied in this report is noted and discussed.

## **10. Background documents<sup>1</sup>**

None

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<sup>1</sup> 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.