

## **Communities Board**

### **Terms of Reference – September 2015**

#### **Purpose**

To understand, articulate and agree what needs to be done to make a reality of the ambition to make Leeds the ‘best city for communities’. To build a joint understanding of what we can achieve together with communities in Leeds and the principles and values that can underpin how we fulfil our ambition.

The Communities Board will provide a framework for relationships to be developed and work to take place across partners. It will consist of a small core group of people which may be added to as appropriate to take forward specific themed work.

#### **Accountability**

The Communities Board is not a separate legal entity. Each partner on the Board retains its own functions and responsibilities, for example for Leeds City Council – its role in the Board is accountable to the Leeds City Council Executive Board.

Strategic direction for the Board will be derived from the Leeds 2030 plan.

#### **Roles**

The chair will be the Leeds City Council Executive Board Member for Communities.

The vice-chair will be selected from the third sector members.

Executive accountability will be with Leeds City Council via the Assistant Chief Executive, Citizens and Communities.

Servicing and support will be the responsibility of Leeds City Council.

#### **Guidance on functions:**

- Provide leadership for our joint ambition to make Leeds the ‘best city for communities’ and to actively promote and communicate this ambition;
- develop, deliver and report on an agreed programme of action;
- act as an advocate for the contribution, culture and practice of partnership working;
- jointly develop, innovate or sponsor new activities, which support the ambition for Leeds to become the ‘best city for communities’;
- jointly identify and agree the guiding principles and values of partners work with communities;
- agree the quantitative and qualitative indicators that will help monitor and track impact;

- provide a framework within which partners may agree to commission services together, with pooled or aligned budgets; and
- evaluate the impact of the Board's work, capture learning and disseminate good practice across partners in city.

### **Linkages**

The Communities Board is one of a number of Strategic Partnership Boards in Leeds which together are responsible for oversight of the Leeds 2030 plan.

At a local level the Communities Board has an important link with the Community Committees and their local leadership and engagement role.

### **Membership**

The membership of the Board will reflect a cross sector balance of expertise and knowledge in working with communities pertinent to the Board's programme of action. The membership may be supplemented to facilitate discussion and action on various work strands as they develop. It is envisaged that fluid arrangements will enable more productive engagement and promote greater understanding of the challenges facing people and communities and take different approaches as appropriate to the issues in hand.

### **Officers in attendance**

Officers (in addition to James Rogers) from Leeds City Council and other partners will be invited to attend the board at the discretion of the Chair. Their role will include advising the group, preparing agendas, minutes, reports and briefings for the Board, and following up actions arising from discussions and decisions made by the board.

### **Openness**

Meetings are not open to the public, but papers, agendas and minutes will be published on the Leeds City Council website promptly, and through any other relevant partner website. A forward plan of meetings will be published on the Leeds City Council website.

These Terms of Reference were agreed:

**Date:           September 2015**

**Signed:**

**Cllr Debra Coupar, Chair, Communities Board**