

Report of: Jane Maxwell, East North East Area Leader

Report to: Inner East Community Committee – Burmantofts & Richmond Hill, Gipton & Harehills. Killingbeck & Seacroft wards

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For Decision

Community Committee Update Report

Purpose of report

This report provides an update on the work programme of the Inner East Community Committee, its recent successes and current challenges.

Main issues

1. Since the last Community Committee, work has progressed in a number of areas, including via ward member meetings and the local Neighbourhood Improvement Partnerships.

Neighbourhood Improvement Partnerships

2. Across the East North East area, a more robust neighbourhood improvement framework is being established. This includes the formation of local Neighbourhood Improvement Partnerships, building on the previous neighbourhood management model and providing the opportunity to target smaller neighbourhoods where there is a need to accelerate progress.
3. Each of the three Neighbourhood Improvement Partnerships (NIPs) has met since the last community committee to finalise their respective action plans and to agree some key priorities to pursue going forward. Each of the meetings have been well attended with key contributions being made by partners. Those meetings conclude the priority setting stage of the NIP process and the next phase will focus on the implementation of the priorities of the action plans to deliver tangible outcomes.
4. The inaugural meeting of the Inner East Neighbourhood Improvement Board - which oversees the work of the various Neighbourhood Improvement Partnerships - took

place on 8th March. At that meeting, terms of reference were agreed for the board going forward. Also agreed were three over-arching priorities for the board, which are; the “Where I live” agenda and civic pride, to improve communications around issues like language barriers, signposting and engagement with young people, and private sector housing. The board also agreed to support the work programmes of the Neighbourhood Improvement Partnerships.

5. The second meeting of the Inner East Neighbourhood Improvement Board is anticipated to take place in June. Details of this meeting will be reported to the next Inner East Community Committee in September.

Community Champions

6. Work is ongoing to develop the role of the Community Champions for Inner East. Community Champions support the work of the sub groups as well as working with their parent department to support work within their portfolio.
7. One of the pieces of work that has been created and consolidated since the last community committee is the Children and Young People’s subgroup, chaired by the community champion for children and young people. The group has met on two occasions since the last community committee, primarily to consider and make decisions regarding applications for Youth Activity Funding for projects to be delivered during the school summer holidays this year.
8. The group was tasked with assessing 18 funding applications that were received and managing their £83,000 combined value within the £61,000 Youth Activity Fund budget for the year. The task was a challenging one, given the disparity between the funding available and the demand. However, there were significant positives to report regarding this process, including the ability of the group to be able to make decisions on activities across ward boundaries to ensure that there is an equal spread of activities and activity type across the Inner East. Information about the applications received can be found in the Wellbeing Report. Terms of reference for the the subgroup will be drafted and the group will continue to meet throughout the year to discuss key themes within the portfolio.

Community Committee Performance Management Framework

9. A new performance management framework has been developed to help drive forward the priorities and achieve defined and measurable outputs from the community committee meetings. An action tracker document has been created for this purpose and is attached at Appendix 1. It provides a review of all agreed community committee actions, including those established in the community committee workshop sessions.

Community Events

10. Plans for the second phase of the Town and District Centre improvements for Harehills are developing well with elected members having recently been consulted

on plans for two 'Welcome to Harehills' signs, hanging baskets and the proposed art sculpture for which is currently being considered for the grounds of the Compton Centre. In consultation with elected members, a mini launch event will be planned to coincide with the unveiling of the first set of lamppost banners which have been designed by children from three local primary schools. 16 lamppost banners will be displayed in the first phase of the rollout, with the remaining 16 to be put up later in the year to mark the completion of the project. It is anticipated that the launch event will take place in June or July.

11. On the evening of 2nd June, the Communities Team and Inner East elected members hosted a Community Heroes event at the Banqueting Hall in the Civic Hall. The event was an invitation-only occasion bringing together community groups and third sector organisations operating in Inner East Leeds in celebration of the invaluable work that the groups contribute to. Over 120 guests from over 50 different organisations were treated to a buffet dinner and speeches from the community committee chair and the Lord Mayor. The event was an important way for the community committee to express its thanks and appreciation for the role the third sector play in the local community.



Communications & Social Media

12. The Communities Team ENE have continued to use the Inner East Community Committee Facebook pages to promote the work of the committee as well as advertising community events and local opportunities. At the time of writing, the Inner East Community Committee Facebook pages had been "liked" by 304 people, an

increase from 251 at the time of the last Community Committee in March 2016. The Facebook pages continue to be an important communications tool between the council and local residents and services and work is ongoing as to how this resource can be further utilised.

Challenges and Opportunities

13. As part of the Council's programme of events and activities to mark the centenary of the First World War there are plans for buglers from the Pals Battalions to play the "Last Stand" at various location across the city in unison at 7:30am on 1st July. There is an opportunity for the Inner East to share in the occasion and to have the Pals Battalion perform in a location within the Inner East boundary. Members have been approached to make suggestions about where this location could be and these have been fed back to the Communities Team (Central) who are coordinating the events.
14. Previous reports of this type have made reference to an Inner East Leeds European funding bid around Community Led Local Development (CLLD). The bid is for the ESIF and ESF funding strands which are primarily used to support employment growth and the creation of small to medium-sized enterprise. It was reported to a previous meeting of the community committee, and also the Neighbourhood Improvement Partnerships, that a preparatory stage bid had been successful, paving the way for a full bid to submitted by the deadline of 31st August 2016. The main thrust of the bid will be a Local Development Strategy which will be shaped by an appointed Local Action Group (LAG), comprising of public sector, private sector and third sector representatives. This group will be brought together in the coming weeks and will have elected member representation. A further update on the final bid will be brought to the September meeting of the community committee.
15. Given the current pressures on public and third sector funding, it is becoming ever more important to be able to better coordinate the allocation of local funding and assess match funding opportunities. Aligned closely to this is the fledgling neighbourhood improvement agenda in Inner East and the need to be able to prioritise resource towards this in the future to maximise its effectiveness. It is proposed that an Inner East members working group is set up to this effect to guide this process. The Communities Team will be coordinating setting up this working group in the coming weeks.

Conclusion

16. The work of the Communities Team in partnership with council departments, external partners and with elected members is working towards the priorities of the Community Committee and the aspirations of the new neighbourhood improvement approach. This programme of work should be seen as a work in progress which is consolidating the Community Committee's role as a local decision-making body by strengthening the links between the local authority and the communities it serves.

Recommendations

1. That members note the contents of the report and make comment where appropriate.
2. That members agree to the formulation of an Inner East working group to guide local funding and assess other funding opportunities.