

Scrutiny Recommendations	Directorate response
<p>Desired Outcome – That all directorates are committed to providing a dedicated resource in supporting Community Committee Champions to undertake their role effectively.</p>	
<p>Recommendation 1 – That the Assistant Chief Executive (Citizens and Communities) takes the lead in working with Directors to secure a dedicated resource across directorates in supporting Community Committee Champions to undertake their role effectively.</p>	<p>Accept the recommendation. Good progress has been made over the previous municipal year. Nevertheless, inconsistencies remain and the Executive Member for Communities and Chief Officer Communities have met with Executive Members to discuss this matter. As a consequence of the feedback they have received, the role description for champions has been simplified and Community Committee Chairs Forum is scheduled to discuss the matter at a forthcoming meeting with invitations to the Chief Officers of key services to attend the meeting. It is recognised that not all services are distributed in a way that allows for geographic responsibilities and also that as services have reduced and continue to reduce their workforce, that changes in personnel have had an impact. Following the forthcoming Chairs Forum meeting we will develop a paper to Corporate Leadership Team inviting Directors to put arrangements in place.</p>

<p>Desired Outcome – That Community Committee Champions undertake an appropriate level of challenge towards their relevant service areas on behalf of their Community Committees.</p>	
<p>Recommendation 2 – That the Assistant Chief Executive (Citizens and Communities) takes the lead in working closely with Area Leaders in providing key tools that will assist in encouraging and supporting Community Committee Champions to undertake an appropriate level of challenge towards their relevant service areas.</p>	<p>Accept the recommendation. We will work with services to ensure that Community Committee Champions are well positioned to provide challenge and support to those services.</p>
<p>Desired Outcome – That Community Committees are given the authority to take lead sponsoring roles for commissioning projects and funding bids.</p>	
<p>Recommendation 3 – That the Assistant Chief Executive (Citizens and Communities) explores the feasibility of extending the authority of Community Committees to take a lead sponsoring role for commissioning projects and funding bids.</p>	<p>It is recognised that Community Committees derive their authority from full council and also from the Leader of Council through the delegation of specific community committee executive delegations. As a consequence Community Committees can directly make bids which are open to applications from local authorities provided those bids relate to the functions within their remit. Increasingly though, funding streams are becoming available to the Third Sector directly or to consortia of mixed sectors and this means that the Council cannot itself apply directly. However in these circumstances Community Committees have a potential role in facilitating, or taking a lead sponsoring role, on external funding bids or commissioning projects, provided of course that these roles are undertaken in accordance with the Council’s risk and financial accountability arrangements.</p>

<p>Desired Outcome – There is transparency and accountability of the funding allocated by Community Committees in addressing local priorities set out in the Community Plan.</p>	
<p>Recommendation 4 – That the Assistant Chief Executive (Citizens and Communities) ensures that a mid-year and end of year audit of the funding allocated by Community Committees against the priorities set out the Community Plan is undertaken at a formal meeting of the Community Committees.</p>	<p>Accept the recommendation. This financial information is already reported through the year to the committee. We will review this documentation and prepare an audit style document for half and full year reporting.</p>
<p>Desired Outcome – That Community Committees are made fully aware of how relevant ward based initiative funding and capital monies are being spent within their localities.</p>	
<p>Recommendation 5 – That the Assistant Chief Executive (Citizens and Communities) develops an information sharing mechanism which allows Community Committees to be kept fully aware of how relevant ward based initiative funding and capital monies are being spent within their localities.</p>	<p>Work has been advanced on a mechanism to share information on a range of funding being spent in localities so that Community Committees are aware of the range of funding available to promote local working. A paper will be taken to the Community Committee Chairs Forum for discussion.</p>

<p>Desired Outcome – That Highways and Transportation services actively engage with Community Committees and Community Committee Champions to share information and gather Member intelligence to help inform service delivery.</p>	
<p>Recommendation 6 – That the Assistant Chief Executive (Citizens and Communities) works closely with the Director of City Development to promote the mutual benefits of engaging closely with Community Committees and Community Committee Champions in gathering local Member intelligence and experience to help inform service delivery within Highways and Transportation. In particular, the development and delivery of local traffic management schemes and the development of local flood management schemes.</p>	<p>Accept the recommendation. Discussions have taken place with the Chief Officer Highways and Transportation and Chief Officer Communities to explore how this might best be delivered. The Community Committee contribution to the consultation on the Transport Strategy following the recent Transport Summit is scheduled for September and will highlight the important role of Community Committees in Highways and Transportation issues. We will seek to build on this opportunity to inform service delivery and provide for improved ward level and regular community committee level reporting.</p>
<p>Desired Outcome – That there is an effective action tracker system in place that includes the involvement of relevant service areas and external partners.</p>	
<p>Recommendation 7 – That the Assistant Chief Executive (Citizens and Communities) ensures that relevant service areas and external partners are also made accountable for actions agreed by Community Committees through robust monitoring of their actions as part of the new action tracker and performance management framework.</p>	<p>Accept the recommendation. The action tracker and performance management system has been rolled out across community committees in Leeds. We will put in place arrangements through a paper to Corporate Leadership Team where Directors will be invited to put those arrangements in place. Area Leaders will work with the leadership of local external partners to ensure that their contribution is valued, recognised and delivered through local neighbourhood improvement programmes and reported through to Community Committees.</p>

<p>Desired Outcome – That reporting mechanisms are put in place to assist in strengthening links between Cluster Partnerships and the Community Committees.</p>	
<p>Recommendation 8 – That the Assistant Chief Executive (Citizens and Communities) works closely with the Director of Children’s Services to explore opportunities for strengthening links between the Cluster Partnerships and Community Committees.</p>	<p>Accept the recommendation. Much progress has already been made in this area particularly in relation to the engagement of elected members in local cluster arrangements. Nevertheless, it’s recognised that there is more to do and we will explore opportunities with Children’s Services to strengthen links even further.</p>
<p>Desired Outcome – That there are robust communication mechanisms between Community Committees and local Parish and Town Councils.</p>	
<p>Recommendation 9 – That the Assistant Chief Executive (Citizens and Communities) works with the Area Leaders to ensure that robust communication mechanisms between Community Committees and local Parish and Town Councils are put in place in accordance with recommendations made previously by Scrutiny and in ensuring that Community Committees are complying with the Parish and Town Council Charter.</p>	<p>Accept the recommendation Scrutiny developed strong recommendations in its inquiry into relationships with Parish and Town Council’s that were welcomed by Community Committees and Officers and promoted strengthened arrangements in Leeds. Good links have been formed between PTCs and community committees in line with both the Charter and scrutiny recommendations with the development of engagement forums for discussion on items of mutual interest. It is timely to review our progress and contribution to the Charter principles.</p>

Desired Outcome – That residents are actively encouraged and supported to engage with Community Committees.	
Recommendation 10 – That the Assistant Chief Executive (Citizens and Communities) works with the Area Leaders to ensure there are consistent processes in place for publicising details of Community Committee events and meetings and responding to public requests for feedback or to be kept regularly updated on the work of their Community Committee.	Accept the recommendation A cross locality communication action plan is in place and is monitored and reviewed. We will confirm that all committees are following best practice and that each committee has an effective approach to capturing resident contact information, in line with the Council’s best practice for handling personal information.