

Report of the Chief Officer Customer Access

Report to Environment, Housing and Communities Scrutiny Board

Date 11th September 2017

Subject: Community Hubs – General update

Are specific electoral Wards affected?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Armley, Bramley & Stanningley, Pudsey, Gipton & Harehills, Headingley, Hyde Park & Woodhouse, Otley and Yeadon, Horsforth, Chapel Allerton, Alwoodley/Moortown, Middleton Park, Killingbeck & Seacroft, Kippax & Methley, City & Hunslet, Morley South, Rothwell,		
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input 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
If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number:		

Summary of Main Issues

This report details the ongoing building progress to create Community Hubs and also how the services are being developed within the Community Hub.

Recommendations

The Environment, Housing and Communities Scrutiny board is asked to:

1. Note the progress on the roll out of Community Hubs
2. Provide any feedback on the roll out, design and direction of the programme.

Purpose of this report

- 1 To update the Environment, Housing and Communities Scrutiny Board on the progress of rolling out Community Hubs across the city.

Background Information

- 2 The delivery of the Community Hubs has been split into three phases due to the scale of the programme and to accelerate delivery, as follows:
 - **Phase 1 Pathfinder sites** - Armley, Compton Centre and St George's Centre. These opened in April 2014.
 - **Phase 2 Sites** – 14 sites across the city, the development of which was agreed by Executive Board in June 2016.
 - **Phase 3 Sites** – in development. Business Case planned for approval at Executive Board prior to Christmas 2017.
- 3 Progress on Phase 2 sites is as follows:

Community Hub	Location	Description
Rothwell	Rothwell Library	Open
Horsforth	Horsforth Library	Open
Pudsey	Pudsey Library	Open
Moor Allerton	Moor Allerton Library	Open
Kippax	Kippax Library	Open
Seacroft	Deacon House	Open
Beeston	Dewsbury Road OSC	Opens 4th September 2017
Bramley	Bramley Library	Opens 16th October 2017
Headingley	Headingley Library	To start during Q3 2017
Morley	Morley Library	To start during Q3 2017
Otley	Otley Library	Refresh in 2018
Garforth	Garforth Library	Refresh in 2018
Harehills	Compton Centre	Refurbishment in 2018
Middleton	St George's Centre	Refurbishment in 2018

BOLD – INDICATES OPEN SINCE LAST REPORT

- In addition an opportunity to develop a Community Hub at Hawksworth Wood in Kirkstall arose and was added to Phase 2. This is a council shop in the shopping area of the estate. The shop has been refurbished but extra fire checks have been recommended before opening.

Main issues

- 4 The next Community Hubs being worked on are at Morley and Headingley Libraries. These are complex schemes as Morley Library is a listed building and needs changes to bring the fire safety arrangements up to date which affect the listed building status. Headingley Library is a rented building and negotiations are ongoing with the landlord on the changes as the lease specifies this building can only be used as a Library.

- 5 The co-location of the Post Office at Seacroft Community Hub has raised interest with the Post Office about co-location in future Community Hubs. This would generate income for the Council and also safeguard Post Offices in our communities.
- 6 An application for funding has been made to Sport England Families Fund – supporting families to be active together. This will enable Community Hubs to extend the range of services they offer and use the building on an evening. This model has been piloted at the Reginald Centre with the introduction of games clubs, exercise and community gardening.
- 7 We are looking to extend the provision of community cafes in Hubs. This is following the success of the cafe at the Reginald Centre run by Leeds Black Elders. Leeds Black Elders are also setting up a community cafe at Moor Allerton. LS14 have been approached regarding running a community cafe at Seacroft. The community cafe at the Reginald Centre has brought different people into the Hub and has also brought a focus of friendship and company in a non-stigmatised way. The provision of cafes run by the community is a feature we would like to see extended across the city.
- 8 On 9th October Community Hubs are holding a public event on Briggate. The theme is awareness around Christmas spending and the debt this creates for the rest of the year. This will also cover a campaign to expose loan sharks. This supports the work we are doing in Community Hubs around helping residents with debt. This is a high profile location and will provide an opportunity to talk to far more people than the restraints of a building.
- 9 The Bike Libraries (borrow a book, borrow a bike) continue to be expanded. This is a scheme jointly sponsored by Welcome to Yorkshire and Yorkshire Bank. Residents can loan a bike free of charge using their library card. The bike library is up and running in Armley, St George's Centre, Moor Allerton, Dewsbury Road and the Compton Centre. It will also be available shortly at Seacroft and Bramley Community Hubs.

Progress on Phase 3

- 10 Whilst delivery of Phase 2 is ongoing, development work has now shifted to focus on the Phase 3 Community Hub programme which will culminate in the delivery of the remaining Community Hubs within the city, further asset rationalisation and staff reorganisation to deliver a sustainable Hub workforce.
- 11 In working to develop the Phase 3 programme, a report was presented to the former Citizens and Communities Scrutiny Board in April 2017 seeking approval to the following set of principles that would be used to determine options for sites to be included within phase 3:
 - Community Hubs should be close to local shopping zones.
 - The identification of a potential Community Hub will be based on an analysis of existing and future demand and proximity to other Hub sites.
 - Each potential Community Hub will be assessed on the basis of whether it demonstrates Value for Money. VFM to be determined through a demand v cost assessment.

- As well as individual site assessments, geographical assessments based on a VFM analysis will be undertaken to ensure no over-provision of community hub services within a given geography.
 - There is an expectation that the service review saving of £420k will be delivered.
 - That there isn't a 'one size fits all approach' to the provision of Community Hubs and that services offered within Phase 3 sites will be dependent on the space available.
 - The Phase 3 programme will have a focus on asset rationalisation and service integration in delivering a sustainable network within the city.
- 12 Following agreement by the Citizens and Communities Scrutiny Board to these principles, work has been ongoing to assess proposed buildings.
- 13 At the beginning of this municipal year, the Environment, Housing and Communities Scrutiny Board agreed to hold a working group meeting over the summer to consider the implications of applying the agreed principles to sites considered for inclusion within the Phase 3 programme. This working group meeting took place on 16th August 2017 and all members of the Scrutiny Board were invited to attend.
- 14 The working group accepted that the agreed principles had been applied accordingly to initial proposals and acknowledged that further consultation and engagement work would follow with local ward members around the various options to firm up such proposals. Linked to the consultation process, the working group did raise the following points which have been taken into consideration:
- That polygon maps are used during the consultation process to clearly show the accessibility of community hubs for residents. Linked to this, consideration should also be given to the terrain around locations of potential community hubs.
 - That Neighbourhood Forums are also engaged in the consultation process where appropriate.
 - That potential safeguarding implications are factored into any proposals involving collaboration with schools or other community facilities involving vulnerable people.
15. Following the consultation process, the business case for the Phase 3 programme will be developed and reported to Executive Board for approval. The intention is for this to take place prior to Christmas 2017.

Recommendations

16. The Environment, Housing and Communities Scrutiny board is asked to:
- a) Note the progress of the roll out of Community Hubs and how they are developing.
 - b) Provide any feedback on the roll out, design and direction of the programme.

Background documents¹

17. None used

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.