

Report of the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods

Inner West Area Committee

Date: 12th February 2009

Subject: Community Engagement: Calendar of Events

Electoral Wards Affected:

Armley
Bramley and Stanningley

Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Council Function	<input type="checkbox"/>	Delegated Executive Function available for Call In	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Delegated Executive Function not available for Call In Details set out in the report	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Executive Summary

In December 2008, the Area Committee approved a framework for community engagement activities for Inner West Leeds in 2009. This report sets out a proposed calendar of neighbourhood and community based events for the approval of the Area Committee. The calendar aims to build on the successful events over the last year and introduce new ideas for reaching a wider sector of the community, particularly in priority neighbourhoods.

Purpose of this report

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the approval of Members for a timetable of events which will enable the Area Committee, with the support of the Area Management Team, to implement a calendar of wide-ranging communication and engagement activities throughout 2009.

Background

2. The Council's Executive Board has delegated responsibility for community engagement to the Area Committees through the Area Function Schedule. Part of this responsibility requires the production of a local plan which includes a **calendar of planned communication and engagement activities**.
3. At its December 2008 meeting, the Area Committee agreed the forms of community engagement activity that it would like to organise for Inner West Leeds in 2009. On one specific aspect of community engagement, **Participatory Budgeting (PB)**, Members have requested that they await the evaluation report for the pilot PB work that was undertaken in the Broadleas in 2008 to help them make an informed decision about its inclusion in the programme of events for 2009.

Calendar of Planned Engagement Events in Inner West Leeds

4. The Area Committee has approved a set of engagement activities which will provide a balanced range of events across the year, including: Area Committee Partnership Events, Community Forums in Armley and Bramley, 'What's the Big Idea?' consultation events, community festivals and the 'I Love West Leeds' arts festival.
5. A programme of **Partnership Events** held immediately prior to each of the Area Committee meetings began in September 2008. Each event takes the form of a discussion between Members, Area Delivery Plan partners, local residents and businesses. The current programme of discussions is themed by the following ADP priorities: Extended Services; Community Safety; Business, Enterprise & Economy; Health & Well-being; Environment. The success of these events will be evaluated in early 2009, and in view of that the next themed meeting has been postponed pending the completion of the evaluation. If it is decided to continue with the events, a new programme of theme topics will be proposed for the 2009-10 municipal year.
6. The existing **Community Forums** held in Armley and Bramley will be held on a four weekly and eight weekly basis in their respective localities. It is proposed to make the agendas more relevant to community interests by looking at specific issues and discreet projects, such as mobile youth provision, community greenspace, community centres or public transport provision, which past experience suggests will attract greater numbers of attendees and involvement by residents.
7. In 2008, the ward-based '**What's The Big Idea?**' events were a new approach to engagement which led to increased public involvement. A wide range of issues were raised through discussions between residents, Ward members and service delivery partners. These helped to shape the first year of the 2008-11 Area Delivery Plan. It is proposed to hold two more events in Spring 2009, one for each of the Wards, repeating the successful format employed in 2008. However the

purpose of the events needs to be developed to reflect the progress made in the last year and be relevant to the future years of the ADP.

8. The events will be held from 3.30pm -8.00pm in accessible venues on dates when there would normally have been a community forum. The marketplace style layout will include stands reflecting the ADP themes, including Jobs and Skills, Environment, Community Safety, Older People & Health, Children and Young People. Key partners will be invited to display information about what they did in response to last year's community feedback, in 'You Said...We're Doing...' displays. Each service will be able to consult visitors on their key priorities to implement the Leeds Strategic Plan and Inner West Area Delivery Plan in 2009/10.
9. The Area Management Team will prepare a stand which displays information about projects that have been funded by the Area Committee and with which the Area Management Team have been closely involved. Attendees will be able to leave comments using a Post-it board or face-to-face discussions at the themed stands. It is also proposed to trial a system of theme prioritisation which has worked successfully elsewhere. It works by providing attendees with tokens which they distribute between the themes to indicate their views on where the Area Committee's funding priorities should lay. This will not take resources from other ADP actions but inform the Area Committee about community views on the balance of expenditure across the year.
10. It is important to attract as many people as possible to the 'What's the Big Idea?' events to ensure a representative range of views are heard from all parts of the community especially, for instance, young people. The events will be promoted well in advance and enhanced with extra attractions, including refreshments, a raffle, children's play activities and locally provided entertainment.
11. The Interplay community arts group are in the process of organising the Summer 2009 '**I Love West Leeds' arts festival** and have already started working in partnership with community and statutory organisations, including schools, older people's groups, Parks and Countryside, Museums and Galleries and local businesses.
12. The following table summarises the planned calendar of events for 2009 and is followed by explanatory notes. Specific dates will be confirmed as the year progresses.

January - March	April - June	July - September	October - December
Area Committee Themed Partnership Event			
Feb:	Apr: Health & Well Being	July: Environment Sept: Housing & Regeneration	Nov: tbc Dec: tbc
Community Forums			
January: 20 th Jan Armley Forum and 29 th Jan Bramley Forum Feb: 17 th Feb Armley Forum March: 17 th March Armley Forum and 26 th March Bramley Forum	April: 21 st April Armley Forum May: 19 th May Armley Forum and 28 th May Bramley Forum Jun: 16 th June Armley Forum	July: 21 st July Armley Forum and 30 th July Bramley Forum August: 18 th Aug Armley Forum Sept: 15 th Sept Armley Forum and 24 th Sept Bramley Forum	Oct: 20 th Oct Armley Forum Nov: 17 th Nov Armley Forum and 26 th November Bramley Forum Dec: 15 th Dec Armley Forum
What's the Big Idea? Engagement Events			
26th March: Bramley & Stanningley	21st Apr: Armley		
I Love West Leeds Arts Festival			
		First 2 weeks in July	
Community Festivals and Other Engagement Events			
Jan: Armley Business Forum Feb/Mar: 21 st March Spring Together	May:	Jul: 22 nd July Armley Fun Day and Summer Band Aug: Sep:	

Implications for Council policy and governance

Member consultation

13. Members considered the framework for the 2009 community engagement plan in December 2008 and have provided comments on the way forward. Further information on proposals for Participatory Budgeting will be brought to a future Area Committee meeting.
14. Member Champions are leading the themed discussions which take place prior to each Area Committee and which are based on the Strategic Plan and ADP themes.

Equality and diversity considerations

15. A key element of the Council's Equality and Diversity Scheme 2008 – 2011 states that Leeds is a city that values the contributions of all the people of Leeds and actively engages with all our diverse communities.
16. Equality monitoring, designed to ensure that we are reaching all sectors of the community and that barriers to participation in engagement activities are addressed, will include:
 - ensuring that effective promotion of community engagement activities targets all equality groups, plus other socially excluded communities, e.g. people reliant on state benefits or excluded because of education or skills levels;
 - assessing what barriers people may face in, for example, accessing services or getting their opinions heard;
 - annual monitoring of regular forums and networks through a standard monitoring form for completion by attendees;
 - use of a standard voluntary feedback and equality monitoring form at public events.

Legal and resource implications

17. There are no legal implications arising from this report.
18. The Area Management Team will be responsible for organising and co-ordinating community engagement activities and equality monitoring under the direction of the Area Committee. Costs associated with holding forums, individual community events, and the 'What's the Big Idea?' events budgets will be met from the Well-being Fund.

Conclusion

19. The Area Committee has indicated its support for a number of community engagement events in 2009. A calendar of activities is now proposed for the consideration of the Area Committee.

Recommendations

The Area Committee is:

20. requested to comment on and approve the calendar of communications and engagement activities for Inner West Leeds in 2009

Background Papers

None