



**Report of the East North East Area Manager**

**North East (Inner) Area Committee**

**Date: 21st June 2010**

**Subject: Inner North East Community Engagement Strategy**

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| <p><b>Electoral Wards Affected:</b><br/>All Inner East Wards</p><br><p><input type="checkbox"/> Ward members consulted<br/>(referred to in this report)</p> | <p><b>Specific Implications For:</b></p> <p>Equality and Diversity <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Community Cohesion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Narrowing the Gap <input type="checkbox"/></p> |
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| <p>Council Function <input type="checkbox"/></p> | <p>Delegated Executive Function available for Call In <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> | <p>Delegated Executive Function not available for Call In Details set out in the report <input type="checkbox"/></p> |
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**Executive Summary**

This report presents for approval a proposed new Community Engagement Strategy, "Working Together", for the Inner North East Area Committee for 2010/11.

The proposal has been updated following discussion at the previous Area Committee meeting. It better explains the role of the proposed Community Leadership Teams and how it is proposed to strengthen the links between residents and the business of the Area Committee.

The report asks the Area Committee to appoint chairs for each of the two new Community Leadership Teams, subject to approval by the Council's Member Management Committee.

## **Purpose of this report**

1. This report seeks Area Committee approval to implement the attached Community Engagement Strategy (appendix A). The strategy sets out the how the Area Committee will consult, engage and communicate with residents within the resources it has available and is able to lever in from partner organisations (such as the Police and East North East Homes).
2. The proposal has been updated following discussion at the March Area Committee meeting to better explain the role of proposed Community Leadership Teams and how it is proposed to strengthen links between residents and Area Committee business.
3. The strategy includes the establishment of new Community Leadership Teams (CLT) for each of the two priority neighbourhoods that fall fully within Inner North East. The Area Committee is asked to agree this element and give authority to the Area Management Team to work with each set of ward members on establishing a CLT for their priority neighbourhood(s) as set out in the strategy.
4. The report asks the Area Committee to appoint a chair for each of the CLTs for the 2010/11 municipal year (subject to approval from the Council Member Management Committee).

## **Background Information**

5. Community Engagement is one of the Area Committee's key delegated functions and as such it is important that there is a clear strategy in place for this to take place and be assessed against.
6. In 2009/10 the Area Committee's strategy was focussed on ward engagement events to fit in with the Area Delivery Plan cycle.
7. It is proposed that a new, more comprehensive community engagement strategy is put in place. The aim is to help:
  - improve everyday engagement and relationships between local staff and residents
  - improve residents influence on the planning and improvement of services to tackle local priorities
  - improve local accountability for promised actions
  - support the civic role of residents to help build stronger and more sustainable communities
8. The full background and draft strategy is attached at Appendix A.
9. It is hoped that the introduction of a more comprehensive strategy will assist in discussions with key partners and lead to proposals for a partnership strategy for the Area Committee in 2011/12. The ambition is to reduce duplication, reduce public confusion about consultation and to embed community engagement as something done as part of the day job rather than just through "meetings".
10. Progress had already been made in this regard, with details included in this report (see appendix B) on police proposals to connect the Police and Communities

Together (PACT) to the community engagement strategy. This has been agreed with partner agencies through the Divisional Community Safety Partnership who have committed to respond to non-police issues around crime and ASB raised at those public meetings.

## **Core Elements of the Strategy**

11. The strategy sets out how the Area Committee will work with partner organisations to ensure that in every ward the following minimum public engagement will take place with residents:
- ✓ Two community engagement events a year to fit in with the ADP planning cycle (formats to be agreed with relevant ward members)
  - ✓ Ad-hoc public meetings to be held to debate and discuss hot topic issues as the need arises. Including bespoke consultation as required (e.g. school places, major planning issues etc).
  - ✓ 4-6 weekly public Police and Communities Together (PACT) meetings to allow residents to focus on local policing, crime and ASB issues. Top 3 current priorities agreed and progress reported at next meeting (see appendix B for proposals from the Police, agreed at Divisional Community Partnership, to widen PACT meetings to involve partner organisations where appropriate).
  - ✓ Support for existing community events and summer galas, with attendance and information from local services where possible
12. In the priority neighbourhoods the following additional engagement will take place:
- ✓ Quarterly meetings of the Community Leadership Team held in public (split into a business meeting and open meeting incorporating a “have your say” item)
  - ✓ An annual community conference (incorporated into one of the CLT meetings) which brings the team of local services/front line staff together with residents to help plan improvements for the year ahead
13. These commitments will complement existing public engagement that is supported by partner organisations such as tenant and resident association meetings.

## **Community Leadership Teams**

14. The strategy sets out to create a more empowering role for local residents by establishing Community Leadership Teams (CLT) for each of the two priority neighbourhoods that fall wholly within the Inner North East area, namely:
- Chapeltown & Scott Hall
  - Meanwood
- (note – discussions with relevant ward members and the existing partnership arrangement will take place regarding the best approach for the Moor Allerton priority neighbourhood)
15. Although CLT meetings will be held in public, there will be a core membership who will be responsible through the business part of the meeting for discussing, debating and agreeing issues for which the CLT is responsible as set out in their terms of reference (see appendix C).

16. A role of the CLT is to support and develop civic roles within the priority neighbourhood and to broaden influence beyond the traditional meeting attendees that have hitherto dominated discussions.
17. The Area Committee is asked give authority for the Area Management Team to work with ward members on establishing a CLT for their priority neighbourhood(s) based on the framework set out in the strategy. Core membership is proposed to be drawn from:
- ✓ local Governing Bodies to nominate a parent or community governor resident in the area
  - ✓ local tenant and resident associations to nominate a local resident
  - ✓ Community Champions – selection to cover a range of skills and background
  - ✓ youth councils and/or school councils to nominate local young people
  - ✓ Good Neighbour and Elderly Action groups to nominate local older people
  - ✓ Local Children Centres to nominate a local parent from their advisory boards
  - ✓ Further places will be filled by local residents to bring contributions from the business sector, disabled residents and other significant elements of the community not represented through the above.
18. The first meetings of the CLTs are anticipated for September/October 2010.
19. To ensure consistency across the CLTs it is proposed that the core agenda for every meeting will be:

*Business Meeting (45mins)*

- Neighbourhood Improvement Plan (NIP) – to receive an update from the Neighbourhood Manager on progress against the agreed priorities, to identify where key priorities/ADP promises are at risk of not being delivered and agree what actions should be taken. To report concerns back to the Area Committee.
- Community Relations/Engagement – to share, plan and agree support for engagement activity over the coming quarter
- Team Neighbourhood - to receive quarterly highlight reports from Crime and Grime Tasking meetings and other partnership activity not covered by the NIP. To provide opportunity to refer concerns in the community back through the Neighbourhood Manager to the relevant tasking team/service.

*Open Meeting (45 mins)*

- To focus discussion and debate on one of the key priorities in the NIP with relevant organisations present to take part.
- “Have Your Say” session at the end of the meeting – 15 minutes for residents to raise issues that haven’t been covered for which they would like responses.

20. The above proposals for the CLTs were modified following discussion at the now dissolved Impact Partnership (set up to help oversee the development of neighbourhood management in Chapeltown & Harehills and use of Safer Stronger Communities Fund monies) and with representatives of the Impact Residents Network. The partnership was supportive of the revised proposals and welcomed the opportunity being provided by the Area Committee to evolve local arrangements now that SSCF had finished. The Impact Residents Network continued to have concerns around that the proposed approach is still too “paternal”, “top-down” and not as inclusive as they would like.

**Improving Every Day Engagement**

21. A key aim of the strategy is to improve everyday engagement and relationships between frontline services and residents. There should be fewer residents who feel they have to raise issues at public meetings in order for them to be listened to and resolved.
22. The strategy therefore emphasises development and support for Team Neighbourhood as a mechanism for empowering front-line staff to be able to build trust and good relationships with each other and residents alike.
23. As part of the engagement strategy, Team Neighbourhood will be rolled out across the priority neighbourhoods with an increasing emphasis on preventative working and community relations.
24. Team Neighbourhood aims to create a sense of dual accountability for front-line staff – both to their organisation and to the neighbourhood in which they work.
25. Examples of work that will take place in 2010/11 to help develop this include:
  - neighbourhood extranets to help frontline staff (teachers, youth workers, tenant officers, pcso's, health visitors etc) share ideas, request help and build local contacts
  - neighbourhood training – to ensure all local staff have basic awareness in cross cutting issues such as safeguarding, offender management and housing allocation policies.

### **Working Better With Existing Networks**

26. A further core element of the strategy is to work better with what is already out there. This includes where groups of residents are already being brought together either as part of an association, resident network or by a particular organisation/service as a user or advisory group.
27. As part of an annual programme for engagement in each priority neighbourhood, the Area Management Team will work with local ward members to identify where there are significant gaps in who is being engaged and where opportunities are greatest for reaching more numbers. Within the resources available, Area Management or partners will seek to factor in engagement with these groups/opportunities at the appropriate stage in the ADP planning cycle.
28. For example, this may involve staff (and perhaps local councillors) getting a slot on the local school council meeting, a luncheon club meeting, a childrens centre advisory group or a "friends of" group. The purpose would be to raise awareness of the work and role of the Area Committee, the Area Delivery Plan and to consult on future priorities.

### **Implementation**

29. If approved, work will begin on establishing the 2 Community Leadership Teams with the first meetings to be scheduled for September/October.

30. Discussions will take place over the summer with ward members from Moortown and Alwoodley together with stakeholders on the existing Moor Allerton Partnership (MAP) as to how best to develop work in that priority neighbourhood.

### **Election of Chairs**

31. The Area Committee is asked to elect a chair for each of the new Community Leadership Teams for the 2010/11 municipal year. The appointments may need to be confirmed through the Council Member Management Committee. The elections are for the priority neighbourhoods of:

- Chapeltown and Scott Hall
- Meanwood

32. Area Committee Procedure Rules state that “where an Area Committee establishes a ward based Community Forum, the Chair of that Forum must be appointed by the Area Committee. In making that appointment however the Area Committee must ensure that Chairs are appointed with regard to the political balance of the ward to which a forum relates and having regard to the number of ward based Community Forums. Where a political group has the majority of members within a ward, the chair will be appointed from those Members. Where no political group has a majority, the chair will be appointed by the Area Committee from Members of the ward to which the forum relates”.

### **Recommendations**

33. The Area Committee is asked to:
- (a) note the contents of this report, including the agreement between partner agencies to provide greater support and attendance at public Police and Community Together (PACT) meetings (as set out in appendix B).
  - (b) approve the “Working Together” community engagement strategy for 2010/11
  - (c) to appoint chairs for the priority neighbourhoods of Chapeltown/Scott Hall and Meanwood for the new Community Leadership Teams to cover the 2010/11 municipal year. Subject to approval by Council Member Management Committee.
  - (d) give authority for the Area Management Team to work with relevant ward members on establishing the CLTs for priority neighbourhood(s) as set out in the strategy.
  - (e) to agree that Area Management work with Moortown ward members on the best approach to managing partnership and community engagement activity in the Moor Allerton priority neighbourhood and bring back recommendations to Area Committee as appropriate.