



Report of the East North East Area Manager

Outer North East Area Committee

Date: 5th July 2010

Subject: Community Engagement Update

<p>Electoral Wards Affected: Alwoodley, Harewood, Wetherby</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ward Members consulted (referred to in report)</p>	<p>Specific Implications For:</p> <p>Equality and Diversity <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Community Cohesion <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Narrowing the Gap <input type="checkbox"/></p>	
<p>Council Function <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Delegated Executive Function available for Call In <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Delegated Executive Function not available for Call In Details set out in the report <input type="checkbox"/></p>

Executive Summary

The Area Committee has an enhanced role in community engagement with responsibility for overseeing the work of the Area Management Team in relation to community engagement activity in the Outer North East area.

This report presents the various means of consulting and engaging with the communities in the Outer North East area as a formal community engagement and communication strategy. It also provides information on a recent review of the PACT¹ meetings.

The Area Committee is asked to note and endorse the communication strategy, including the revised arrangements for PACT meetings.

Purpose of This Report

1. The purpose of this report is to present the various means of consulting and engaging with the communities in the Outer North East area as a formal community engagement and communication strategy and seek the Area Committee's endorsement of this and the revised arrangements for PACT meetings.

¹ Police and Communities together

Background Information

2. Community Engagement is one of the Area Committee's key delegated functions. As such it is important that there is a clear strategy in place for this to take place and be assessed against.
3. The introduction of the Policing Pledge formalised the provision of public meetings by undertaking to arrange a PACT meeting at least once per month in order to agree priorities and provide an opportunity to meet local officers.

Core Elements of the Strategy

4. The strategy in Appendix 1 to this report sets out how the Area Committee will engage and communicate with Town and Parish Councils and local residents in the Outer North East area. It includes:
 - One community engagement event per ward per year to fit in with the Area Delivery Plan cycle;
 - Ad-hoc public meetings and events to be held to debate and discuss issues that may arise;
 - Support for existing community events and summer galas, with attendance and information from local services where possible;
 - Support for Town and Parish Councils;

Parish and Town Councils

5. The outer north east area contains Wetherby Town Council and fifteen parish councils, which provides a sophisticated form of democracy at a local level. Town and Parish councils are a useful resource which communicate with their local residents on a regular basis and can assist in disseminating information to their communities.
6. A number of Town and Parish Councils undertake their own consultation, and in many cases have prepared Parish Plans, or a Town Plan in the case of Wetherby. The intention is not to duplicate any of this activity. The priorities for parish and town councils will be reflected in the Area Delivery Plan, and any community events in their localities will be carried out in conjunction with Parish and Town Councils.

PACT meetings

4-6 weekly PACT meetings to allow residents to focus on local policing, crime and anti-social behaviour issues. A review of PACT meetings has recently taken place. Details of this and the proposed changes to meetings are contained in Appendix B to this report.

Implications for Council Policy and Governance

7. Area Committees have an enhanced role in community engagement as outlined in the Area Functions scheduled agreed at Executive Board.

8. The police are required to hold PACT meetings as part of the Policing Pledge.

Legal and Resource Implications

9. Area Management is responsible for organising and co-ordinating community engagement activity. This is undertaken in conjunction with other council services, and partners.

Conclusions

10. The Area Committee now has a specific role in relation Community Engagement, and a programme of community engagement activity has been put in place to support this which will link to service improvement and Area Delivery Plan priorities.
11. A recent review of PACT meetings has taken place and the meeting arrangements will be revised in accordance with the findings of this review.

Recommendation

12. The Area Committee is asked to:

Note and endorse the communication strategy, including the revised arrangements for PACT meetings.

Background Papers

Area Committee Function Schedule.