



Report of the North East Area Manager

North East (Outer) Area Committee

Date: 21st March 2011

Subject: Community Engagement Update

Electoral Wards Affected:

Alwoodley
Harewood
Wetherby

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Council
Function

Delegated Executive
Function available
for Call In

Delegated Executive
Function not available for
Call In Details set out in the
report

Executive Summary

This report provides ward members with an update on local community engagement activity carried out by the Area Management officers in the winter/spring 2011 period. It also includes feedback from the community engagement events.

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to provide feedback from the community engagement events which took place during winter and spring 2011. The events provide a mechanism to consult with the community on their priorities, needs and aspirations. This information is used to inform the development of the Area Delivery Plan (ADP).

Background information

2. Area Committees have a particular role in promoting community engagement and a responsibility for overseeing and monitoring the work of the Area Management Team in relation to local engagement activities.
3. In Outer North East Leeds an annual cycle of community engagement is in place. In order to consult with residents Area Management officers attend partnership and community meetings taking place in the area. The summer round of events is celebratory and brings communities together and the winter/spring events are designed to inform residents of how services are working locally to meet their needs and to start the process of consulting on the following year's Area Delivery Plan (ADP) priorities.

4. It is suggested that the same annual cycle of community engagement takes place in 2011/12.

Main Issues

5. Since January 2011 four events have been held within the Outer North East area covering all 3 wards as well as a postal survey addressed to residents across the area. Appendix 1 gives a summary of the engagement programme and presents the Area Committee with the results of the consultation.
6. The events formed part of the programme of community engagement activity taking place as an annual cycle. Their purpose was, on the one hand, to share with local residents the Area Committee's priorities and to inform them about the services and actions being delivered locally to support these priorities. On the other hand, it was to consult with the communities on the priorities for the new ADP for 2011-12. In order to carry out this work officers targeted specific groups and visited places where groups could be engaged in discussions.
7. Partners involved in the events were: Area Management; West Yorkshire Police; Children Centres, voluntary organisations – Maecare, Northcall, Open House, Town and Parish Council Forum, extended services and others.

Implications for Council Policy and Governance

8. Area Committees have an enhanced role in community engagement as outlined in the Area Functions Schedule agreed by the Executive Board.

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 has a specific role in relation to community engagement and a programme of community engagement activity has been put in place to support this function. Information gained in this way contributes to service improvement and Area Delivery Plan priorities. The engagement programme allows residents to feel more engaged in the local decision making.

Recommendations

11. Area Committee is asked:
 - to note the content of this report;
 - agree to repeat the same consultation cycle in 2011/12.

Background documents:

Area committees' Area Functions Schedule.