

Report of : East North East Area Leader

Report to: Inner North East Area Committee

Date: 30th January 2012

Subject: Inner North East Priorities and Consultation report

Are specific electoral Wards affected?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Chapel Allerton, Moortown and Roundhay		
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: Appendix number:		

Summary of main issues

1. The report provides members with feedback on Community Engagement undertaken during 2011/12.
2. It provides draft new priorities for Inner North East 2012/13 for approval.
3. Key priorities are recommended for approval for the coming year based on community consultation and the data profile for the area. The priorities will form the basis for the next Community Charter.
4. A draft consultation strategy for Inner North East Area Committee is included for discussion and approval.

Recommendations

5. The Area Committee is recommended to note the community engagement that has taken place, to agree the draft priorities and charter production for 2012/13.
6. The Area Committee is requested to advise on the elements they would like including in the new consultation strategy.
7. The Area Committee is also asked to approve the movement of the Volunteer Thank You event to the summer and the suggested events for Summer consultation.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 This report provides Members with an update on work to refresh the Area Committee Business Plan priorities as expressed through the public Community Charter promises for 2011/12.
- 1.2 The report also provides an update on related community engagement activity and invites Members' views and ideas for new promises to help inform the final version of the revised Business Plan and Charter which will be presented for approval in March.
- 1.3 This report seeks Area Committee approval of the refreshed Community Engagement Strategy for 2012/13. The strategy sets out the how the Area Committee will consult, engage and communicate with residents, within the resources it has available, or is able to lever in from partner organisations (such as the Police and East North East Homes).

2 Background information

- 2.1 In 2008 the Area Committee approved the first Area Delivery Plan (ADP), each year the ADP is refreshed to take into account changing priorities and opportunities. This year the plan has been amended into a business plan and takes into account the five themes of the new Leeds Strategic Plan.
- 2.2 The annual refresh is produced following analysis of evidence provided by updated neighbourhood statistics, community consultation through the Area Committees engagement events and Elected Member discussion on local priorities.
- 2.3 Further to this, agreement is reached with local partners and service providers on what promises can be made in relation to each priority. This informs the refresh and makes clear accountabilities in reporting performance/progress to Area Committee during the year.
- 2.4 The refreshed priorities also provide a basis for which applications to the Wellbeing budget can be made.
- 2.5 In 2009/10 the Area Committee agreed that they would pilot the production of a Community Charter to present the business plan in a more user friendly and understandable format and to help provide clearer progress reports to Area Committee during the year. The Area Committee agreed this was a success and decided to continue the production of a Charter in 2010/11.
- 2.6 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.
- 2.7 In 2010/11 the Area Committee approved a new, more comprehensive community engagement strategy aimed 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

3 Main issues

3.1 Autumn consultation and Neighbourhood Index analysis

3.1.1 As per the 2011/12 community engagement strategy the autumn consultation was carried out with a wide range of groups across the area. A list of the groups consulted is attached at appendix A.

3.1.2 The Volunteer Thank You event was also used as a key opportunity to consult local groups on the new priorities for the area.

3.1.3 Returns were received from just short of 20% of groups who were consulted and the responses were collated and used to inform the new priorities.

3.1.4 Below is a table showing the analysis that has been undertaken on the new Neighbourhood Index statistics and the subsequent suggested action to be taken in 2012/13 to address the issues.

INE rank	Ward	SOA Name	Rank	↑↓	Areas for Action
1	Roundhay	Roundhay	94	↑	No action necessary – possible improvements at Street Lane shops.
2	Moortown	Moortown Central	93	↑	No action necessary – possible improvements at Moortown Corner.
3	Roundhay	Roundhay Park	85	↑	High incidence of void. properties and turnover. Roundhay Park improvements. High burglary figures.
4	Chapel Allerton	Chapel Allerton village	80	↑	High housing turnover. Low environment score. Issues with burglary and asb. Improvements at Chapel Allerton shops.
5	Roundhay	Brackenwood & Gledhow	74	↑	Educational attainment has fallen and as has community safety, which is also below Leeds average.
6	Roundhay	Oakwood and Gledhow Wood	61	↓	Health, Environment and Community Safety scores have all fallen and are below Leeds average. These are to be addressed.
7	Moortown	Carr Manor	59	↓	Economic activity and Environment

					have both fallen and although Health has improved it is still below average.
8	Moortown	Meanwood	55	↓	All areas have fallen with Health, Environment and Community Safety having the worst scores. This mainly correlates to the Stonegates area, which is currently undergoing an intensive programme which should address issues.
9	Moortown	Meanwood 6 estates	23	↑	All areas to be addressed through NIP.
10	Chapel Allerton	Chapeltown	5	↑	All areas to be addressed through NIP.
			1 = worst		

NB: Leeds Average = 56

3.1.5 It is suggested the above areas for concern are those that are proactively targeted for action over the next year. In the worst areas this will be undertaken by the Neighbourhood Manager and a full report back on activities are included in the Priority Neighbourhoods report on this agenda.

3.2 New draft 2012/13 priorities for consultation

3.2.1 The suggested priorities for 2012/13 are as follows:

Best city... for health and wellbeing

There are a range of social, economic and environmental factors that affect people's health in Leeds, which cause some people to have poorer health than others. In Leeds, we will focus on housing, education, transport, greenspace, work and poverty and what we can do to help everyone have the best chance to be healthy. Health and social care services will work together better to help people stay active and independent for as long as possible and provide care when needed in local communities.

- Help protect people from the harmful effects of tobacco – reduce number of adults over 18 that smoke.
- Support more people to live safely in their own homes – through promotion and support of community safety and other relevant schemes.
- Address key health issues in priority areas, cancer mortality rate in Meanwood and infant mortality in Chapeltown, through Neighbourhood Plan.

Best city... for children and young people

Leeds will be a child-friendly city where the voices, needs and priorities of children and young people are heard and inform the way we make decisions and take action.

- Help children to live in safe and supportive families.

- Improve behaviour, attendance and achievement through provision of a summer activities programme and partnership working.
- Increase the levels of young people in employment, education or training by helping develop new initiatives to target NEETs.

Best city... for business

Leeds has started to recover from the recession, and we need to make sure jobs are created and that local people can access those jobs. We will make sure new developments create skills and opportunities through apprenticeships. Leeds will be an attractive place to visit and invest in, with cultural attractions for local people and visitors nationally and internationally.

- Create more jobs and improve skills.
- Support the sustainable growth of the Leeds' economy by working with businesses to improve local shopping areas and provide sponsorship opportunities for local businesses to promote their services.
- Get more people involved in the city's cultural opportunities and work with local groups to increase number of opportunities e.g. Chapel Allerton festival.
- Improve the environment through reduced carbon emissions – support and promote local schemes.

Best city... for communities

Our communities will get the backing they need to help local people lead their lives successfully. We will encourage community spirit and local activity, but recognise that it will take high-quality public services working with local people to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour effectively, and to keep our neighbourhoods clean and green.

- Reduce crime levels and their impact across Leeds – through tasking initiatives and provide residents with support, advice and equipment to help prevent crime.
- Effectively tackle and reduce anti-social behaviour in our communities and make sure residents are aware of how to take action.
- Ensure that local neighbourhoods are clean, increase and assess bins in area and undertake a litter campaign through schools. The delegated powers afforded to the committee will also be used effectively to address hotspot areas.
- Increase a sense of belonging that builds cohesive and harmonious communities by increasing the use of local buildings, working with community groups and through the consultation plan.

Best city... to live

Leeds needs investment in new homes and our aim is to attract maximum investment from the private sector and government. We will finalise our housing planning policy to grow the city in a sustainable way, while maintaining the distinctiveness of communities and a green city. We will improve our existing homes, making them more energy efficient and easier to heat.

- Maximise regeneration investment to increase housing choice and affordability within sustainable neighbourhoods. Increase number of long term empties brought back into use.

- Enable growth of the city whilst protecting the distinctive green character of the city, possibly using the new Localism Act and through close planning applications and enforcement
- Improve housing conditions and energy efficiency.

3.2.2 If the Area Committee approves the above then further work will take place with partners before next Area Committee to identify specific actions that can be undertaken to address the issues.

3.3 Charter 2012/13

3.3.1 As in previous years the Area Committee is requested to confirm that they would like to produce a Community Charter for the Inner North East. This gives a chance for the Area Committee's priorities to be shared easily with the public, partners and organisations in the area to help facilitate partnership working and feedback from the previous year.

3.3.2 The above priorities, if approved, will be included in the charter for 2012/13 along with the other standard items including what the wellbeing funding was spent on, 2011/12 achievements, chairs introduction and how the public can get involved/make a difference.

3.3.3 This year 4,000 charters were produced at a cost of £1,365.50.

3.3.4 If the priorities and funding are agreed for a charter then draft text for 2012/13 will be brought back to the next Area Committee meeting in March for approval. As the next Area Committee would then not be until June it is suggested that further drafts and mock ups be presented at ward member meetings for approval and the final draft brought to the June meeting for sign off to go to print. This is the shortest timescale possible and ensures that copies are sent out at the beginning of the period the charter covers.

3.4 Consultation

3.4.1 The new Area Committee business plan includes a section on consultation and it is this section that is being revised in preparation for the full business plan to be presented at the March Area Committee for approval.

3.4.2 It sets out how the Area Committee will ensure residents across the inner north east area have the opportunity to influence priorities set out in the business plan and other responsibilities delegated to the Area Committee.

3.4.3 When talking to partners the general opinion is that the public are still unaware of the Area Committee and it is important we raise its profile as well as consult them on a regular basis. Therefore we need to employ a range of methods and approaches giving people the maximum opportunity to access information, engage and debate on local issues. To this end we will continue with the current engagement methods of:

- using existing opportunities where services/organisations already bring together residents that could potentially be used as mechanisms for discussion, debate and consultation. These are:

School /Youth Councils
 Good Neighbour Schemes/Luncheon Clubs
 Disabled groups
 Parent Associations/Children Centre Parent Groups
 Tenant and Resident Associations
 Police and Communities Together (PACT) Meetings
 Community galas/school and church fairs

- 2 x community engagement events a year to fit in with the business plan planning cycle (formats to be agreed with relevant ward members to maximise attendance and local relevance)
- continued development of resident networks and priority neighbourhood surveys
- Police and Community Together (PACT) meetings every 4/6 weeks; with invited guests from partner agencies depending on priority issues raised by residents – with feedback on issues agreed at previous meeting
- meetings of new Community Leadership Teams (CLT) to oversee engagement, neighbourhood improvement plan progress and report to Area Committee. To incorporate an open meeting focusing on a key priority and a “have your say” item.
- community conference (as part of one of the above CLT meetings) which brings together front-line staff and residents to share information, build relationships and plan improvements for the coming year.

3.4.3 At the last Area Committee it was requested that we explore other ways of communicating with residents and raising the public profile of the work of the Area Committee.

3.4.4 It is suggested therefore that a number of new initiatives are implemented to help raise the profile and get more people involved with the work of the Area Committee. Below is a list of initiatives that could be implemented for the Area Committee to choose from:

- Press Release after Area Committees (this was done for the December Area Committee).
- Key messages to be sent out the local partners and groups after agreement from chair.
- Chapeltown and Harehills forum to look at Community Cohesion in the area.
- Area Committees to be themed where possible to allow interest groups to choose relevant committees to attend.
- Key groups also to be personally invited to Area Committee when relevant to help stimulate debate and get involved.

- To reinvigorate the Inner North East community group database to make sure details are up to date and we have email addresses and mobile numbers where available to facilitate quicker communication.
- Use of current partner newsletters and websites to update people on the work of the area committee and consultation.
- Use of citizens panel.
- To investigate the use of social media and other technologies to increase communication channels.
- Improve links with community radio stations in the area.

3.4.8 All the above mechanisms demonstrate value for money and deliver the aim of improved communication efficiently given resources.

3.4.10 Attached at appendix B is a forward plan that includes the key dates for consultation. These are Summer 2012, Autumn 2012 and Winter 2012/3. A stall has been booked at the Roundhay Live event as attendance last year was positive and a wide audience captured, it is suggested this is the event for the Roundhay ward. For the Chapel Allerton and Moortown wards it is suggested that a large consultation event is held at Meanwood Urban Valley farm one weekend at the beginning of July and that this is combined with the Volunteer Thank You event.

3.4.11 It was identified at the last Volunteer Thank You event that numbers are often low due to poor weather and the Area Committee is asked to approve the move to a summer event to try and improve participant numbers.

3.4.12 If approved by the Area Committee these actions will be included in the new business plan under the consultation section.

3.5 Timescales

3.5.1 A timetable for the production of business plan and charter and consultation is attached at appendix B.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

4.1.1 Consultation and engagement on the Area Committee's priorities will take place as set out above.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

4.2.1 Consideration is given to the equality impact of delivering the engagement strategy and a 'soft touch' equality impact assessment will be carried out for activities within the strategy. The aim of the strategy is to enable a greater engagement with equality groups under represented.

4.2.2 Where a negative equality impact is identified action will be taken to mitigate the impact or risk.

4.3 Council policies and City Priorities

4.3.3 The priority themes will mirror the themes and priority outcomes at a city wide level and also reflect the delegated functions and priority advisory functions.

4.4 **Resources and value for money**

4.4.1 As outlined in the Function Schedule 2011/12, the Well Being budget delegated by Executive Board is used to finance projects which meet the needs of the Area Delivery Plan or its successor. Members of the Area Committee are keen that wherever possible the use of well being brings in additional match funding to the area.

4.5 **Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In**

4.5.2 All decisions taken by the Area Committee in relation to the delegated functions from the Executive Board are eligible for Call In.

4.5.3 There are no key or major decisions included in this report.

4.5.4 There are no legal implications relating to this report.

4.6 **Risk Management**

7.6.1 Not applicable under this section.

5 **Conclusions**

5.1 The autumn round of consultation is complete and the new draft priorities have been drawn up based on this, data analysis, local information and other intelligence. These priorities will be consulted on with partners, if agreed, and brought back to March Area Committee with actions.

5.2 If approved the draft text for the 2012/13 Charter will be brought back to the March Area Committee for approval.

5.3 The Community Consultation strategy will be revitalised and revised based on the Area Committee's recommendations for inclusion in the strategy.

6 **Recommendations**

6.1 The Area Committee is recommended to note the community engagement that has taken place, to agree the draft priorities and charter production for 2012/13.

6.2 The Area Committee is requested to advise on the elements they would like including in the new consultation strategy.

6.3 The Area Committee is also asked to approve the movement of the Volunteer Thank You event to the summer and the suggested events for Summer consultation.

7 **Background documents**

7.1 2011/12 Inner North East Area Committee Business Plan