

**Report of East North East Area Leader**

**Report to Inner North East Area Committee**

**Date: 30<sup>th</sup> January 2012**

**Subject: Priority Neighbourhood Update Report**

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

**Summary of main issues**

1. To provide an update to the committee on the progress and action being undertaken by the Neighbourhood manager in the priority neighbourhoods within the Inner NE Area.
2. To provide an overview of the latest information from the Neighbourhood Index to help identify successes and any areas for improvement.
3. To provide an update on any positive and negative issues that have arisen in these neighbourhoods in the last three months.
4. Provide the committee with feedback and identify any significant pieces of work which are progressing or issues which need the committee to consider to support this work.

**Recommendations**

5. That the committee note the progress to date and the updates to the action plans in the appendix.

## **1 Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 The aim of this report is to update the committee on progress and projects taking place within the priority neighbourhoods in Inner NE and the work that is taking place.
- 1.2 It is further the aim of this report to provide a refreshed Neighbourhood Improvement Plan (NIP's) for the priority neighbourhoods and allow the committee to comment and examine these plans.

## **2 Background information**

- 2.1 The Neighbourhood Improvement Plans were agreed at the Inner NE Area Committee Meeting in June 2011.
- 2.2 This paper forms one of the agreed updates to be provided to this committee throughout the annual cycle.

## **3 Main issues**

### **3.1 Neighbourhood Management key achievements**

- The main emphasis in the Inner NE priority Neighbourhoods since the last update has been around increasing the provisions and access by residents for employment and skills training and better coordinating these services. Bids have been submitted to ENEHL Area Panel to extend the work of the UNITY Enterprises Employment Support team in Chapeltown to start working with ENEHL residents and continue to support the Uhuru project at the Mandela Centre. A tender has been submitted and returned by Job centre Plus looking specifically at those furthest from the jobs market in Chapeltown (i.e. those receiving incapacity benefits) and this will come on line in the next few months and will use the existing partnerships developed by the team neighbourhood project. ZEST, Job Centre Plus and ENEHL have developed a project and a funding bid has been submitted for work in the Meanwood area which will include courses, job search, training for frontline staff around signposting and eventually a work club (agreed with learndirect) to be operating at the Beckhill House.
- In Meanwood, in addition to the above, the emphasis has remained around continued monitoring and improvements around the crime and grime agenda and development of the Challenge and Support group. This continues to evidence success with the latest Neighbourhood Index showing a dramatic improvement environmentally and a slight reduction in crime overall in the Chapel Allerton element of Meanwood. In the Stonegates the project there has been running for approximately 12 months now and promises significant results. The statistics indicate that, while crime and ASB levels have not improved, public confidence and information from residents. This is a significant positive for this area where previously people were too concerned over reprisals to even complete an anonymous survey. There has been a large amount of work undertaken by the Stonegates Partnership around information gathering and the enforcement element of the operation is underway with arrests and 1 eviction confirmed in January 2012. The clearance of the Beckhill Garth / Approach site continues to progress with only

1 block now remaining, and the work of the ENEHL estate caretakers should be recognised as their work in cleaning, cutting back vegetation and removal of fly tipping has been of the highest standard and has made a huge improvement in the look and feel of the estate overall. There has been £50K of funding granted by ENEHL Area Panel split between Burmantofts & Richmond Hill and Meanwood to tackle acquisitive crime in these areas and there was an Outcome Based Accountability (OBA) session in December 2011 which has developed the proposed plan. The three basic aims of this will be to complete target hardening, link in the Police IOM and Challenge and Support to target the identified perpetrators and also identify those most at risk of becoming involved and target YOS Support to try and divert them from future criminality.

3.2 In Chapeltown the emphasis has been around employment and increasing the opportunities for residents to access services. To this end the support for the Uhuru project which is jointly run by CYDC and UNITY is vital as this has successfully engaged with residents who other, statutory, organisations would find difficult to consistently engage with. The key element in this project is time, there is a substantial amount of work around confidence and aspirations required with this group as many of them have not been in employment for a number of years if at all so hard outcomes at this stage are difficult. An application for funding to continue UNITY support here has been submitted to the ENEHL Area Panel. The new learndirect centre on Chapeltown Road is working well and starting to link in with the Neighbourhood Improvement Plan and local groups including Uhuru. There will be an open day at the Reginald Centre on January 25<sup>th</sup> with a job fair inviting people and groups in to access services and raise awareness of what assistance in training and employment is available. This will be advertised through groups and through a leaflet drop to the whole Chapeltown area and is being funded through a European Grant which LCC Libraries accessed. The Job Centre plus project which has been tendered is for work in the Chapeltown, Burmantofts and Middleton areas as these have been identified as having the greatest need in the city. Meetings have taken place between the council and the owners of the old Gurdwara on Chapeltown Road and a plan to progress the improvements to this property has been proposed and agreed which will be monitored by the Neighbourhood Manager and LCC Planning Compliance, this directly follows up to the Inner NE Area Committee meeting in December 2011 where representation was made by local residents concerned about proposals for this site. In addition, the work around Bonfire night was very successful with engagement and the roll out of the conflict resolution training by statutory and voluntary youth providers alongside a very effective diversionary event arranged by Free 2 Be Me (a CYDC Project) alongside the school clusters, Safer Leeds, Breeze and the Neighbourhood Manager. Over 230 young people attended and there was a very significant reduction in ASB over this period.

### 3.3 Neighbourhood Index Assessment 2011 Statistics

3.4 The latest Neighbourhood Index for 2011 has been produced and a comparison is in the process of being completed showing changes between 2010 and 2011. In both Meanwood 6 estates and Chapeltown there have been improvements overall with the score in Meanwood rising 4 places overall (19 to 23) and Chapeltown rising a place (4 to 5). Within this there are some significant improvements detailed below. This is

only a brief assessment however as the full revised NIP for 2012-13 will be brought to the March Committee including a more detailed analysis.

- 3.5 In Meanwood 6 estates generally there has been improvements across the board with the largest improvements have been in the Environment domain with the score now exceeding the city average. The score rose from 63 to 85 over the last twelve months and rose 17 places (14 to 31). This is a result of the environmental improvements undertaken in year 1 of this project, coordinated enforcement work and the work of the ENEHL Estate Caretakers who have been very effective since their introduction on to the estate. The largest reduction in indicators here was in fly tipping which fell by 118 instances from 161 to 43. The only domains to have fallen are in Housing (fell 16 places to 28 from 44) and Community Safety (fell by 10 places to 18 from 28). There are reasons for both of these however and there is a strong likelihood they link to the clearance site in the Beckhill estate. The greatest issues with the Housing domain relate to empty homes and housing turnover which both showed a worse performance. In Community Safety the issues relate to environmental crimes or criminal damage which have certainly been an issue in the clearance area, also acquisitive crimes have got worse but the statistics only relate to the end of April 2011 and since then this has shown a significant improvement, as have community disorders.
- 3.6 In Chapeltown the most significant domain improvement is around Environment which has risen 4 places since 2010 figures (from 2 to 6) and shows particular improvements in fly tipping (although the waste issues continue to be a concern which is reflected in the overall score decrease). Education has also improved by a similar figure (rising from 28 to 32) with significant improvements at both Keys Stage (KS) 2 and 4. NEETs however have become a concern now and is above the Leeds average. Housing has also risen (21 to 27) and has seen a significant reduction in empty dwellings (32 less). The major falls have been in Community Safety (fallen by five places from 20 to 15) with the only reduction being in Community Disorders. While the Economic Activity and Low Income domains have both stayed static (14 and 1 respectively) both have improved on overall score and there are optimistic signs with reductions in those receiving Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) and Lone Parent Income Support and the only significant increase being in Households in receipt of In Work Benefits.

## **4 Corporate Considerations**

### **4.1 Consultation and Engagement**

- 4.1.1 Consultation and engagement for this process is completed through the Community leadership Teams in development, attendance and consultation through community groups and through the BIG group in Meanwood.
- 4.1.2 The Chapeltown CLT has not been as successful or had the same enthusiasm as it has in other areas so it is proposed to take the consultation and engagement of the NIP through the developing Chapeltown and Harehills cohesion forum. Engagement has been on going however with involvement from a range of residents groups in the area.

4.1.3 The initial date for the Meanwood CLT has been agreed upon for early February and residents are in the process of being contacted and visited at this time. Carr Manor school council have been visited and a number of young people from this group are also keen to get involved and with the residents proposed by local agencies it is expected that this should be a positive group.

## **4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration**

4.2.1 Equality and Diversity are monitored through the NIP's and in identifying inequalities and looking to resolve these, this information forms a crucial part of all work in priority neighbourhoods.

## **4.3 Council Policies and City Priorities**

4.3.1 The work links directly to overall city wide plans through the Vision for Leeds.

## **4.4 Resources and Value for Money**

4.4.1 This project looks to better integrate and streamline existing resources creating an integrated approach to issues with associated improvements in value for money.

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

4.5.1 The decisions made in relation to this post (given the Well Being funding and delegated function) are subject to call in

## **4.6 Risk Management**

4.6.1 Not applicable in this instance.

## **5 Conclusions**

5.1 The approach being taken in both of these priority neighbourhood is working and progress is being made. In particular, the work in Meanwood is proving successful and popular with both residents and partners.

## **6 Recommendations**

6.1 That the committee note the contents of this report and the updated NIP's in the appendices.

## **7 Background documents**

7.1 Area Committee Roles and Functions 2011/12

7.2 2011 Neighbourhood Index comparisons of Meanwood 6 estates and Chapeltown

7.3 Chapeltown and Scott Hall NIP

7.4 Meanwood NIP

7.5 Moor Allerton NIP