

Report of Assistant Chief Executive, Customer Access and Performance

Report to Executive Board

Date: 7th November 2012

Subject: State of the City Report 2012

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: N/A Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. Enclosed is the State of the City Report 2012. The report is a factual based analysis of the city in 2012 and will be a useful document to support policy making and aid understanding of the progress being made against key issues and priorities.
2. The report has identified a range of cross-cutting issues that, whilst not new, if unaddressed will impact on our ability to bring about improved outcomes for the people of Leeds. Despite these challenging times the report does highlight that Leeds is a diverse and resilient city and that progress is being made across a range of areas.
3. Two State of the City Full Council Meetings are being held this current municipal year to discuss and debate the emerging issues from the State of the City Report with the aim of understanding the contribution which all partners make to tackling those issues, and how we will work together to drive improvement.
4. The production of the report has demonstrated effective collaboration and highlighted the benefit of working jointly on information and intelligence related initiatives. The way in which these resources might work more closely together in the future to understand issues affecting Leeds and to help inform the way in which these issues are addressed is a topic for exploration and debate.

Recommendations

5. That Executive Board note the issues emerging from the State of the City Report 2012; and
6. That Members of Executive Board recommend that the State of the City Report 2012 be received by Members of Full Council on 28 November 2012.

1 Purpose of this report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- Introduce the second annual State of the City Report for Leeds prior to it being received and considered at the State of the City Full Council Meetings scheduled for 28th November and 27th February 2013;
- Summarise the process undertaken to produce the report; and
- Highlight some of the key cross-cutting issues emerging from this year's State of City Report to inform debate and action.

2 Background information

2.2 The State of the City report is part of a family of strategies and plans for the city: the Best City Vision 2011 to 2030; the City Priority Plan 2011 to 2015 and the Council Business Plan 2011 to 2015.

2.3 The report was developed involving colleagues across the partnership. It provides a factual overview of what's happening in the city in 2012 and is structured around the five priorities in the Best City Vision. It sets out a range of key facts about the city, the challenges it faces and the way in which all partners will work together to secure the best possible outcomes for the people of Leeds.

2.4 The report describes the progress made across a range of key issues since last year and draws upon a number of case studies which exemplify the positive work, effective partnership working and innovation that is taking place across the city. The report provides links to more detailed information such as analysis and research and also provides links to the Leeds Observatory which is a web based tool for disseminating a wide range of data and information about the city and its communities.
<http://www.westyorkshireobservatory.org/Leeds>

2.5 The report will be used as a key source of information about the city and will support the Leeds Initiative Board in reviewing overall progress against the City Priority Plan as well as their role in providing constructive challenge on progress in relation to the emerging issues.

2.6 The report will be published on the Leeds Observatory. Weblinks will be provided from the council's website and also be made available to partners to publish on their own websites.

2.7 The State of the City Report 2012 and Executive Summary was endorsed by Leeds Initiative Board on 7th September subject to a number of minor amendments which have now been completed.

3 Main issues

3.1 The State of the City Report is very much a factual based analysis of the city in 2012 and will be a useful document to support policy making and aid understanding of the progress being made against key issues and priorities.

3.2 The report has identified a range of cross-cutting issues that, whilst not new, if unaddressed will impact on our ability to bring about improved outcomes for the people

of Leeds. Some of the cross-cutting issues include: the difficult economic, financial, policy and social context with continuing significant public sector budget reductions; ongoing structural changes and rising demand in terms of increased expectations; an aging population; and, complex social and deprivation issues.

- 3.3 Despite these challenging times the report does highlight that Leeds is a diverse and resilient city and that progress is being made across a range of areas. However, there is still much more to do, taking on board some of the Commission's thinking locally, new ways of working in partnership across the city and at a local level and better engagement with citizens about decisions which affect their lives is key in achieving our Best City Vision.
- 3.4 In the 2012/13 municipal year two Full Council meetings will consider the State of the City report and issues arising. Feedback from last year's meeting has been taken on board in the planning of this year's meetings. The first will be an additional Full Council meeting, held on the afternoon of Wednesday 28th November. The second will be in the early evening of the budget setting meeting on Wednesday 27th February 2013. The objective of these meetings is to have a deeper understanding of the issues which the city faces, the contribution which all partners make to tackling those issues, and an understanding of how we will work together to drive improvement.
- 3.5 The State of the City Report is very much a factual statement of the city in 2012. It is important that the contents of the report are discussed and debated to inform future actions, prioritisation and decision making. Many of the issues will require cross-council responses and a need to think about many issues in different ways e.g. when thinking about sport and physical activity, let's ensure we also think about it in the wider context of the greater use of green space across the city in order to encourage more people to be more physically active. There will be many other examples also. The State of the City Council meetings will provide an opportunity for such thinking and debate to take place and with work currently being progressed on a four-year budget strategy and a new Council Business plan for 2013, this is an opportune time to think differently about how we respond to some of the key challenges the city faces.
- 3.6 The production of the report has demonstrated effective collaboration and highlighted the benefit of working jointly on information and intelligence related initiatives. The quality and accessibility of intelligence about the city is now, more than ever, important in the context of a significant reduction in funding across the public sector. Issues such as: a growing and changing population; the impact of major policy changes (such as Welfare Reform); and the changing economic climate are just some of the examples of issues which will have an impact on the city and its communities. The more holistic a view that can be developed around these kinds of issues the more policy makers and service providers will be assisted in developing strategies and making decisions. There are clearly data, analytical and research strengths and pockets of specialism and expertise across the city. The way in which these resources might work more closely together in the future to understand issues affecting Leeds and to help inform the way in which these issues are addressed is a topic for exploration and debate.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1.1 There has been engagement with key stakeholders during the production of the report as well as with the council's Strategic Planning and Policy Board, Corporate Leadership Team and the Leeds Initiative Board.

- 4.1.2 The Full Council Meetings on 28th November 2012 and 27th February 2013 will provide Members and Partners with an opportunity to come together and have a deeper understanding of issues which the city faces, understand the contribution which all partners make to tackling these issues, and an understanding of how we will work together to drive improvements.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 4.2.1 The issue of deprivation features across the report and is highlighted as a key issue. There is an acknowledged link between deprivation and many of the equality groups. To support the State of the City Report an annual Equality and Diversity Position Statement is also being produced which will be available in December 2012.

4.3 Council policies and City Priorities

- 4.3.1 The report is structured around the Vision for Leeds themes and provides a high level summary of the current issues and challenges in these areas.

4.4 Resources and value for money

- 4.4.1 There are no resources or value for money issues.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

- 4.5.1 There are no legal implications.

4.6 Risk Management

- 4.6.1 There is a risk that failure to adequately address the issues of poverty and inequality will impact on our ability to bring about improved outcomes for communities. Following last year's State of the City Report and Member and Partner Full Council meeting each Strategic Partnership Board has identified specific areas of focus relating to poverty and inequality which has been woven into their delivery plans. A basket of indicators is currently under development to track progress against these issues.
- 4.6.2 The impact of Welfare Reform is being monitored through the joint corporate performance and risk management reporting on a quarterly basis. A Welfare Reform Board has also been established including relevant partner organisations to prepare for the changes.

5 Conclusions

- 5.1 This report discusses:
- 5.1.2 The issues arising from the State of the City report 2012 as described in 3.2 and 3.3, whilst not new, need to be addressed in order to achieve our Best City vision.
- 5.1.3 The State of the City Member and Partner Full Council Meetings will be held on 28th November 2012 and 27th February 2013. These meetings provide an opportunity for Members and Partners to come together to discuss and debate emerging issues from the State of the City Report. However, this should not be the only forum to discuss emerging issues and ongoing discussions and action is necessary to make real changes moving forward.

- 5.1.4 The quality and accessibility of intelligence about the city is now, more than ever important in the context of a significant reduction in funding across the public sector. The way in which data, analytical and research resources might work more closely together in the future to understand issues affecting Leeds and to help inform the way in which these issues are addressed is a topic for exploration and debate.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 That Executive Board note the issues emerging from the State of the City Report 2012; and
- 6.2 That Members of Executive Board recommend that the State of the City Report 2012 be received by Members of Full Council on 28 November 2012.

7 Background documents¹

- 7.1 None

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.