

Report of: Gerard Tinsdale - Chief Officer Housing

Report to: Outer South Community Committee, Ardsley and Robin Hood, Morley North, Morley South and Rothwell Wards

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To note

Housing Advisory Panel (HAP) Overview

Purpose of report

1. To update the Outer South Community Committee on the Outer South HAP, to share key messages on how the HAP is managed and to give the Community Committee the opportunity to ask any queries about HAP activity.

Main issues – overview of the HAP and how run.

2. There are 11 HAPs in Leeds, mirroring the boundaries and wards of the Community Committees. HAPs give tenants the opportunity to influence the service provided by Housing Leeds. They are supported by a Tenant Engagement Officer and involving local tenants in decision making helps Housing Leeds meet standards set by the Regulator for Social Housing. HAPs are not part of the formal governance structure of Leeds City Council.
3. HAPs have two main roles. Each HAP receives funding from Housing Leeds to fund community and environmental projects. HAPs are able to locally agree the allocation of their funding against local priorities. The HAP also works with local housing and other teams to help review and monitor the delivery of local housing services.
4. To enable the HAPs to work effectively, they are guided by:

- a. A 'Terms of Reference' – this outlines the role of the HAPs, it's membership and further information about their day-to-day workings.
 - b. A 'Plan on a Page' – giving an overview of the HAP area, it's residents, the types of homes and other information. This includes a summary of the Community Committee and Housing Leeds priorities from which the HAP reviews and sets local priorities that enables them to focus their work and decisions.
 - c. A common application form and guidance notes on what can and can't be funded. The key principle is that each funding application is reviewed by the HAP on it's merits in terms of the positive impact to tenants, their families and the wider community it can bring.
5. Other key points are:
- a. The Outer South HAP budget for 23/24 budget is £30,973.
 - b. Meetings generally online (MS Teams), but dates, times and approaches to meetings are agreed by the HAP itself.
 - c. Applications for funding can come from any source. Many applications are presented by officers in response to local ward member or resident feedback.
 - d. HAP funding comes from council tenants rents, therefore every application needs to be able to demonstrate the benefit to council tenants, their families or the communities in which they live.
 - e. Actions and decisions are recorded following each HAP meeting.

Recommendations

6. The Community Committee are asked to note the content of this report and ask any questions arising.

Background information

- None