



**Report of: Jane Maxwell, East North East Area Leader**

**Report to: Outer North East Community Committee – Alwoodley, Harewood & Wetherby**

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**Date: 11<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

**To Note**

## **Outer North East Parish and Town Council Forum**

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### **Purpose of this report**

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Community Committee with the minutes from the latest meeting of the Outer North East Parish and Town Council Forum.

### **Background information**

2. The Outer North East Parish and Town Council Forum provides an opportunity for the parish and town councillors from Alwoodley, Harewood and Wetherby Wards to:
  - Receive presentations and hold discussions on issues of common interest;
  - Share information and good practice;
  - Raise any issues of concern;
  - The forum meets quarterly, with the position of chair rotating between the Wards.

### **Main issues**

3. The most recent meeting of the Forum took place at John Rylie House in Barwick-In-Elmet on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2017.
4. Agenda items discussed included the Town and Parish Charter & links with Leeds City Council, highways maintenance, community safety and the environment.
5. The draft minutes of the meeting are attached at **Appendix A**.

6. The next meeting of the Forum will take place on 7<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm in Wetherby Town Hall.

## **Corporate Considerations**

### **Consultation and Engagement**

7. In their role as democratically accountable bodies, local councils offer a means of shaping the decisions that affect their communities.
8. Parish and town councillors and their officers possess local knowledge which can help decision makers in the City Council to make more informed decisions and parishes have made it clear that they would like more influence on services which affect their communities. They offer a means of decentralising the provision of certain services and of revitalising local communities. In turn, the local councils recognise the strategic role of the Leeds City Council and the equitable distribution of services which it has to achieve.

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

9. Attendance at the meeting is open to all town and parish councillors and the meetings are held a variety of venues throughout the three wards of Alwoodley, Harewood and Wetherby.

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

10. Leeds City Council and the local councils within its area share the common belief that working closely together plays a vital contribution to the wellbeing of the communities they serve.
11. To this end, Leeds City Council and the local councils in the Leeds City Council area have a Charter which sets out how they aim to work together for the benefits of local people:  
<http://www.leeds.gov.uk/docs/Parish%20and%20Town%20Council%20Charter%202016.pdf>
12. Leeds City Council and the local councils are committed to the principles of democratic local government. They are keen to see continued efforts made to improve our system of local democracy and to see greater public participation in and appreciation of this system.

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

- 10 The Parish and Town Council Forum is supported by an officer from the Communities Team (East North East).

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

- 11 There are no significant legal implications.

## **Risk Management**

12 There are no significant risks identified in this report.

## **Conclusions**

13 The Outer North East Parish and Town Council Forum provides a place for the local councils to discuss issues of common interest and concern. It is supported by Ward Members and the Communities Team (East North East).

## **Recommendations**

14 The Community Committee is requested to note the minutes of the Forum and, where appropriate, support the Outer North East Parish and Town Council Forum in resolving any issues raised.

## **Background documents<sup>1</sup>**

15 None.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.