

Report of Assistant Chief Executive (Citizens and Communities)

Report to Member Management Committee

Date: 14 January 2014

Subject: Request for Elected Member Representation on the Communities Board

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 type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" 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: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of the main issues

1. A newly established Communities Board is in the process of being constituted. This is a partnership board and the first meeting will take place at the end of January 2014. The Board will drive forward, at a city level the work taking place to tackle poverty and deprivation, and to understand and address the needs of communities of interest as well as communities at a local level.
2. Elected representation is being sought to join the core membership of the Communities Board.

Recommendations

Member Management Committee is asked to:

- i. Nominate elected members to the Communities Board with two nominees from the Labour Group (one of whom will be the relevant Executive Member), one nominee from the Conservative Group and one nominee from the Liberal Democrat Group.

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1. This report seeks to outline the development of the Communities Board, and progress towards elected member representation on it.

2. Background information

- 2.1 To help deliver the Best City ambition, and the underpinning city priorities, a series of strategic partnerships was developed. As part of a review it was recognised that there was a need to change and decouple the partnership arrangements around the safer and stronger communities' priority area. The new Communities Board is therefore being established to support the delivery of the aspirations of the Leeds 2030 plan in relation to 'all Leeds communities will be successful'. The Board will drive forward the communities' agenda and provide strategic leadership and co-ordination, with a specific focus on addressing poverty, employment, locality leadership and providing connected and accessible services within local communities.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1. The Communities Board will aim to provide strong and effective leadership and to support partnership work that takes action. In particular, its key objectives will be to join- up activities to maximise outcomes, and to create a culture where partnership work in the interests of local people is built into the way all agencies, sectors and organisations act.
- 3.2 A number of discussions have taken place throughout the Autumn (including a workshop on 13 September 2013) to assist in shaping the draft terms of reference, objectives and proposed outcomes for the new board. To date, the discussions have pointed towards the need to have a core group to co-ordinate the effort as well as having a much wider pool of partners to come together in many and various ways to tackle different aspects of this challenging agenda. All of these arrangements will form a part of the Communities Board.
- 3.3 The first meeting of the Communities Board will take place on 28 January 14, where the draft terms of reference and plan will form the basis for discussion and direction. The draft terms of reference, which includes the proposed membership, is attached at Appendix 1. The core membership is designed to include a wide cross section of people who will be able to use either knowledge, experience and/or networks to make a difference in this area.
- 3.4 In common with other similar bodies, it is proposed that the membership reflects the three main parties: two Labour, 1 Conservative and 1 Liberal Democrat.

4. Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and engagement

- 4.1.1 The report provides information on the progress of establishing the Communities Board and does not require public consultation at this stage. The further

development of specific initiatives for this Board will be subject to engagement with communities and service users as required.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 4.2.1 The main focus of the Communities Board is to meet the Vision aspiration that ‘all Leeds communities will be successful’. A major aspect of that is to tackle poverty and deprivation, through strategic and local leadership, engaging with communities, addressing employment opportunities, and financial hardship
- 4.2.2 There are clear links between poverty and inequality of outcomes in relation to education, employment, health and life expectancy. Work being undertaken to date in this area is ensuring that the needs of an area and different communities are being explicitly addressed.
- 4.2.3 Whilst there is no requirement to undertake a screening or EIA at this stage in relation to setting up a partnership board, impact assessments (or screening) will take place on work streams which are taken forward.
- 4.2.4 The composition of the board will be a core group which is supplemented as appropriate for different work streams. It is the ambition that the core group and any co-optees will be representative of our communities.

4.3 Council Policies and City Priorities

- 4.3.1 The establishment of the Communities Board is to provide the strategic city partnership direction to enable delivery of the Vision for Leeds in relation to the aspiration that ‘all Leeds communities will be successful’.

4.4 Resources and Value for Money

- 4.4.1 There is no additional call on resources in taking this forward. By working closely with our partners in this area there may be opportunities to further focus on value for money.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

- 4.5.1 There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

4.6 Risk Management

- 4.6.1 Working with our partners will enable us recognise and mitigate risks at an early stage

5. Conclusions

- 5.1. The Communities Board will support the delivery of a crucial priority for the council and the city. To do this it needs to include appropriate representation from both external partners and elected members.

6. Recommendations

6.1 Member Management Committee is asked to:

- i. Nominate elected members to the Communities Board with two nominees from the Labour Group (one of whom will be the relevant Executive Member), one nominee from the Conservative Group and one nominee from the Liberal Democrat Group.

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.

Communities Board Draft Terms of Reference – December 2013

Purpose

The purpose of the Communities Board is to provide strong and effective leadership, to support partnership work that takes action to deliver the aspirations of the Leeds 2030 plan in relation to ‘all Leeds communities will be successful’. In particular, its key objectives are to join up activities to maximise outcomes, and to create a culture where partnership work in the interests of local people is built into the way all agencies, sectors and organisations act.

The Communities Board will provide a framework for relationships to be developed and work to take place across partners. It will consist of a small core group of people which will be added to as appropriate to take forward specific themed work

Strategic Leadership

The board will lead the long-term strategy for the city for communities and co-ordinate the partnership actions to work towards ensuring that all communities in Leeds are successful.

Accountability

The Communities Board is not a separate legal entity. Each partner on the Board retains its own functions and responsibilities, for example for Leeds City Council – its role in the Board is accountable to the Leeds City Council Executive Board.

Strategic direction for the Board will be derived from the Leeds 2030 plan. The Board provides a focus for the agreement of shared action between partners and constructive challenge to make sure that the partnership work improves outcomes, adds value and inspires innovation.

Roles

The chair will be the Executive Board Member for Neighbourhoods, Planning & Support Services.

The vice-chair will be selected from the third sector members.

Executive accountability will be with Leeds City Council via the Assistant Chief Executive, Citizens and Communities.

Servicing and support will be the responsibility of Leeds City Council

Responsibilities

The Communities Board will:

- § lead the joint delivery of strategic action to make Leeds the Best City for Communities;
- § develop, deliver and report on an action plan to deliver the objectives set out in an agreed and published Board work programme and tackle underperformance against the priorities and targets;
- § provide a framework within which partners may agree to commission services together, with pooled or aligned budgets;
- § act as an advocate for the contribution which these themes make to public policy and partnership working in the city, and support the culture and practice of partnership working;
- § jointly develop, innovate or sponsor new activities, which support the aspiration to become the Best City for Communities;
- § identify opportunities for greater efficiency or effectiveness through a common approach and innovative solutions to areas of policy, planning, performance management, consultation, reporting, communication, resource allocation or delivery of services in the city and take action as appropriate;
- § evaluate the impact of interventions, capture learning and disseminate good practice across partners in city; and
- § influence local, regional and national government policy initiatives linked to the Communities agenda.

The Communities Board will have specific oversight of workstreams that meet one or more for the following outcomes:

- § People have the opportunity to be in work and are able to address financial hardship
- § Vulnerable people are safe and individuals are resilient
- § Our city embraces our diverse communities and recognises the benefits this brings

Linkages

The Communities Board is one of a number of Strategic Partnership Boards in Leeds which together are responsible for oversight of the Leeds 2030 plan, and will work in co-operation with each other. Whilst there will, inevitably, be an element of overlap in addressing the city priorities the partnership boards will endeavour to complement each other and ensure open communications and joint working where appropriate.

The Board will work in tandem with the Citizens@Leeds Programme Board, and will respond to requests from the relevant Leeds City Council Scrutiny Board.

Equality and community engagement

The Board will have due regard to equality in all its activities, and will take steps to demonstrate it has consulted with communities appropriately in all its decisions.

Membership

The membership of the core group will be chosen to reflect a cross sector balance of expertise and knowledge in working with communities. This group will be supplemented to

facilitate discussion and action on various work strands as they develop. It is envisaged that fluid arrangements will enable more productive engagement and promote greater understanding of the challenges facing people and communities and take different approaches as appropriate to the issues in hand.

The cross sector balance will reflect all relevant sectors to the agenda, specifically including:

- § Elected members – 2 Labour Group (one of whom will be the relevant Executive member), one from the Conservative Group and 1 from the Liberal Democrat Group
- § Community sector (grass roots third sector)
- § Further or Higher education sector
- § Health and wellbeing
- § Housing
- § Locality working – James Rogers, Assistant Chief Executive, Leeds City Council
- § Police
- § Third sector
- § Jobcentre Plus
- § Equality Assembly
- § Financial inclusion

Officers in attendance

Officers (in addition to James Rogers) from Leeds City Council and other partners will be invited to attend the board at the discretion of the Chair. Their role will include advising the group, preparing agendas, minutes, reports and briefings for the Board, and following up actions arising from discussions and decisions made by the board.

Openness

Meetings are not open to the public, but papers, agendas and minutes will be published on the Leeds City Council website promptly, and through any other relevant partner website. A forward plan of meetings will be published on the Leeds City Council website.

These Terms of Reference were agreed:

Date:

Signed:

XXX Chair, Communities Board