



Report of Shaid Mahmood the West North West Area Leader

Report to: Outer West Community Committee

Date: 9th July 2014

Subject: Introduction to Community Committee Topics

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Calverley & Farsley, Farnley & Wortley, Pudsey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input 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 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 The new arrangements for community committees and community engagement represent a first step in the cultural shift to a more inclusive, more responsive and smarter approach to decision making in local areas.
- 2 The Area Support Team has developed a detailed plan of engagement building on current arrangements and recognising good practice and local structures already in place.

Recommendations

- 3 Members are asked to review and comment on the engagement plans produced to address the key topics identified at the Community Committee meeting on 4 June 2014.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to reiterate the aspirations set out to improve local decision making by developing and encouraging a new style of collaborative working with residents, services and partners.
- 1.2 The report presents members with proposed plans for engagement for those topics agreed at the Community Committee meeting on 4th June.

2 Background information

- 2.1 As part of the Area Review the Executive Board endorsed the proposed development of a new approach to build on the work of Area Committees. This work is to improve democratic leadership locally and provide a more meaningful way of involving people in decisions that affect their local neighbourhoods.
- 2.2 A key outcome from the consultation undertaken as part of the development process was an agreed set of design principles for community committee meetings and engagement activities. These allow each community committee to operate in the way best suited to them and their locality, whilst abiding by the underpinning principles.
- 2.3 At the 4th June meeting of the Outer West Area Committee, a report was put forward suggesting themed topics which could form the basis of the Outer West Community Committee engagement activity in 2014/15.

3 Main issues

- 3.1 The new arrangements for Community Committees and community engagement represent a first step in the cultural shift to a more inclusive, more responsive and smarter approach to decision making in local areas; they offer the opportunity to look afresh at understanding local communities' needs. The council now needs to take up this challenge and focus on making the fundamental changes that will genuinely involve communities in the decisions that affect them.
- 3.2 Strengthened **focus on engagement**. The new approach allows for more freedom to engage with residents in local areas in ways that best suits those neighbourhoods and communities. They offer members and officers the flexibility to do more specific engagement with local communities around the committees' priorities outside the formal business meetings. This represents an opportunity to keep formal decision making meetings focussed and use remaining time and effort to engage with communities in ways which suit them. More engagement activities also present further opportunities to raise awareness of the work of the community committees in local areas. Their work will be based on local intelligence provided by services, and community engagement events and understanding.
- 3.3 At the 4th June meeting of the Outer West Area Committee, a report was put forward suggesting themed topics which could form the basis of the Outer West Community Committee engagement activity in 2014/15. Following discussion, members highlighted 3 key topics areas listed below;

- Explore summer holiday provision for young people
- Older People (Social Isolation)
- Delivering actions which support Business, Enterprise and Economy in the Outer West linking in with employment opportunities for local people

3.4 Proposed engagement plans have been appended to address each key topics attached at Appendix 1-3 respectively.

3.5 Members are asked to review and comment on the engagement plans produced to address the key topics identified at the Community Committee meeting on 4 June 2014.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

As part of the development process, a full consultation took place between February and April 2014, which included all Elected Members, partners and services.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

The Citizens@Leeds propositions, which include the move to community committees, have undergone an equality screening exercise. This was included in the December 2013 Executive Board papers. No further screening is required at this stage.

Specific equality impact assessments will be undertaken on community engagement plans, activities and decisions as required.

4.3 Council policies and City Priorities

Changes in the nature and focus of community engagement, as enabled by the proposed Constitutional changes, are supportive of the Council's values of working as a team for Leeds, being open, honest and trusted, treating people fairly, spending money wisely and primarily working with communities.

The Best Council Plan 2013-17 includes the key outcome to make it easier for people to do business with us, and the move to community committees will make a significant contribution to the delivery of this.

4.5 Resources and value for money

There are no specific budgetary implications arising from the proposals in this report at this time. However, one of the proposed design principles for Community Committees is the need to delegate and devolve more decision making and resources to local areas. Increased delegations could bring resource implications and these will be considered as part of the council's normal budget arrangements as decisions are taken to delegate service responsibility and/or funding.

4.6 Legal implications, Access to information and call In

There are no legal, access or call-in implications arising from this report at this time.

4.7 Risk Management

There are no risk management issues arising from this report.

5. Conclusions

The development of community committees provides the next iteration of working more locally and more closely with communities. It is recognised that the full impact of community committees will develop over time and is an iterative process that will continue to strengthen this role in localities.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1 Members are asked to review and comment on the engagement plans produced to address the key topics identified at the Community Committee meeting on 4 June 2014.

7. Background documents¹

[Review of Area Working Findings and Recommendations](#)

[Citizens@Leeds: responsive to the needs of local communities](#)

[Recommendations of General Purposes Committee – page 15](#)

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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.