

Report of: West North West Area Leader

Report to Inner West Community Committee

Date: 16th July 2014

Subject: Introduction to the District Centre Community Committee Topic

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|---|---|--|
| Are specific electoral Wards affected? | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Armley, Bramley & Stanningley, Kirkstall | | |
| 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? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number: | | |

Summary of main issues

- Community Committees have been designed to engage with residents around topics of local interest. The first topic chosen is District Centres.
- A discussion paper focusing on key issues, challenges and opportunities around the three main district centres in each ward is appended to this report.
- A proposed community engagement plan for the topic is also appended to this report.

Recommendations

- The Community Committee is asked to consider the questions posed in the discussion paper and recommend key lines of enquiry to explore further and identify opportunities for improvement activities that will be reviewed at a future Committee meeting.
- The Committee is asked to review the community engagement plan and make recommendations for other ways to engage with local residents around this topic.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to launch the 'District Centres' Community Committee topic to investigate how to promote sustainable district centres across the inner West area.
- 1.2 The reports sets out the challenges and opportunities facing the district centres in the years ahead and sets out a community engagement plan to find out what local residents want from their high street.

2 Background information

- 2.1 The inner West area has three main district centres; Armley Town Street, Bramley shopping centre and Kirkstall district centre. There are other, smaller centres including Stanningley Bottom, New Wortley, Rodley and Hawksworth Wood, but for the purposes of this report, the focus will be on the three largest.

3 Main issues

- 3.2 A discussion paper is appended to this report that sets out key drivers, challenges and opportunities for the three district centres. It also explains the council's role around planning, assets, environment and community safety in promoting sustainable district centres.
- 3.3 Members are asked to draw out a small number of themes or issues to explore further and speak to local residents and businesses about. A report on how this topic has developed will be presented to a future Community Committee meeting.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.4 Consultation and Engagement

- 4.4.1 Stakeholders and residents will be consulted on the topic and the community engagement plan is appended to this report.

4.5 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 4.5.2 District centres must be safe and accessible as local centres are often the only place where vulnerable people are able to shop and access services due to the expense or difficulty travelling to another location.
- 4.5.3 There are issues around cohesion and integration outlined in this report, with tensions reported about groups of young people or new migrants gathering in town centres. These must be addressed to ensure that town centres are seen to be open to all members of the community with no-one feeling threatened or excluded.

4.6 Council policies and City Priorities

- 4.6.1 Council policy affecting district centres is outlined in the discussion paper.
- 4.6.2 The District Centres topic directly relates to the Best Council Plan priorities of
 - Promoting sustainable & inclusive economic growth

- Supporting communities and tackling poverty

4.7 Resources and value for money

- 4.7.1 There are no implications arising from this report in respect of resources or value for money.

4.8 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

- 4.8.1 There are no legal implications and this report is not eligible for call in.

4.9 Risk Management

- 4.9.1 There are no implications in respect of risk management arising from this report.

5 Conclusions

- 5.1 The Community Committee has chosen the district centres topic in recognition of the role they play in supporting local communities.
- 5.2 The discussion paper outlines key drivers, challenges and opportunities around the topic and how the local authority can promote sustainable district centres in partnership with businesses and the local community.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 The Community Committee is asked to:
- The Community Committee is asked to consider the questions posed in the discussion paper and recommend key lines of enquiry to explore further and identify opportunities for improvement activities that will be reviewed at a future Committee meeting.
 - The Committee is asked to review the community engagement plan and make recommendations for other ways to engage with local residents around the topic.

7 Background documents¹

- 7.1 None

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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.