
Report of the Chair Inner South Community Committee – Councillor A Gabriel

Report to Full Council

Date: 12th December 2014

Subject: Work of Inner South Community Committee

Are specific electoral Wards affected?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Beeston and Holbeck City and Hunslet Middleton Park		
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

1. The report provides details of successful projects delivered in 2013/14
2. The report outlines the work of Community Committee Champions
3. The report details plans for themed Community Committee workshops and meetings in 2014/15.

Recommendations

4. Members are asked to note the content of this report and raise questions.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1** To provide details of projects, programmes of work and the role of Community Committee Champions in Inner South
- 1.2** To provide details on proposed themed Community Committee workshops and meetings in Inner South in 2014/15.

2 Background information

- 2.1** Area Committees were established in 2004 to improve service delivery at local level and deliver projects and programmes of work on priority issues in the locality. In 2014 Community Committees were created to build on the successes of Area Committees but to better engage with communities, and in particular increase the attendance and active involvement of local people at Community Committee workshops and meetings.
- 2.2** This report looks at successful projects that have recently been delivered, how the Community Committee Champions have helped shape those projects and plans and details of themed Community Committee workshops and meetings in 2014/15.

3 Main issues

3.1 Project Work

- 3.1.1** **Directory of Activities for Children and Young People.** Following a mapping exercise by the Children & Young People Sub Group, the Inner South Community Committee agreed the need for children, young people and families to have the best information available to enable them to access youth activity provision in the area. This directory will help to ensure that as many young people as possible take up existing provision and in this way improve the cost effectiveness of that investment.
- 3.1.2** The project links to the ongoing work of the Sub Group to ensure improved provision and a greater take-up of activities provided. The aim of the directory is to ensure that all young people, their parents and carers are aware of the wide range opportunities available. The directory will also be uploaded to the Breeze Culture Network website. The brochure will be used for widest distribution in Inner South Leeds providing details of open access activities and providers for children and young people.
- 3.1.3** The Inner South Community Committee agreed £12,000 to support the project and commissioned Leeds City Council's Out of School Activities Team to produce 30,000 directories which will be distributed through various outlets including schools, libraries, GP's surgeries, one stop centres. A version of the directory will also be available online through the Breeze Culture Network. The first publication will be available in March 2015.

- 3.1.4 **Older People's Celebration Event.** Through the development of the Community Plan the Inner South Community Champions identified the need to work with older people as a priority. To help address this priority the former Inner Area Committee approved funding for an Older Persons Event to be held for the whole of the Inner South area. Nearly 120 older people attended the event which was held at Civic Hall on Monday 3rd March 2014.
- 3.1.5 The event was designed to provide a day of entertainment and fun for older people as well as providing an opportunity for them to gather information from various organisations and services about provision for older people, including, living in their own homes with comfort, dignity, and security for as long as they choose.
- 3.1.6 Organisations and services represented included Holbeck Elderly Aid, FDM – for disability mobility, West Yorkshire Police, West Yorkshire Fire Service, Age UK, Alzheimers Society, Trinity Network, Care and Repair, Carers Leeds, Healthwatch Leeds, Sheltered Housing, Stroke Association, Community Meals, WEA, Older Persons Sport, West Yorkshire Trading Standards, Wrap up Leeds and Health For All.
- 3.1.7 Councillor Adam Ogilvie welcomed everyone to the event and said that the Area Committee had previously had concentrated resources on activities for young people but were now recognising the need to support older people. The Lord Mayor, Councillor Thomas Murray in his opening address emphasised the important role of the Neighbourhood Networks in providing a variety of services for older people. Councillor Judith Blake closed the event by thanking everyone who attended a very enjoyable day.
- 3.1.8 In addition to browsing the stalls, those attending the event participated in various demonstration sessions and workshops including Tia Chi, Nia Fitness, crafts, hydration and reminiscence. Refreshments and lunch was provided, and entertainment included a quiz session, raffle, performance by DAZL Dance and songs from the shows by singer Anna Tonks.
- 3.1.9 Many thanks to a variety of groups who supported including, the donation of raffle and quiz prizes by ASHA, South Leeds Live at Home Scheme, Trinity Network, Health for All and Costa – White Rose.
- 3.1.10 **Neighbourhood Improvement Officer Project (NIO).** Through the development of its Business Plan the former Inner South Area Committee has identified the need for a Neighbourhood Improvement Officer role to address issues of community capacity and the development of community leadership. Commissioned through Health for All and funded by the Wellbeing Budget, the Neighbourhood Improvement Officer project employs 1.4 workers across the Inner South. With a resource of 2.5 days for City and Hunslet, 2.5 days for Middleton Park and 2 days for Beeston and Holbeck.
- 3.1.11 The Neighbourhood Improvement Officers work in the Inner South, identifying and leading on projects through engagement with Elected Members, local agencies,

partners and residents, supporting residents in becoming community leaders and implementing actions in keeping with the Community Committee Plan.

- 3.1.12 Funding allocated is £32,228.22 for salary, National Insurance and on costs.
- 3.1.13 Key successes by Ward are included below.
- 3.1.14 **Beeston and Holbeck Ward.** The Cottingley Neighbourhood Improvement Plan (NIP) operated from May 2012 until June 2013, chaired by Cllr Adam Ogilvie and an action plan was managed through monthly meetings. The NIP was facilitated by the Neighbourhood Improvement Officer, who supported the development of projects, facilitated meetings and sub groups. The NIO also provided support and guidance to the Tenants & Residents Association Cottingley (TRAC), developing the capacity of residents to organise and represent their area.
- 3.1.15 **Holbeck Neighbourhood Plan.**
- 3.1.16 A major initiative involving consultation and engagement has been the development of the Holbeck Neighbourhood Plan. The area for the Plan has been formally designated by Leeds City Council. The Holbeck Neighbourhood Forum has been designated by the Council as the appropriate organisation to take the Plan forward. A Board with a majority of residents was elected at the Forum's first AGM; the Board is now responsible for developing the Plan and managing the Forum.
- 3.1.17 Content of the Plan, publicity and community projects task groups have supported the development of the Plan and of the Forum. These task groups include residents, LCC Officers, Planning Aid volunteers and business representatives. An outline of the Plan has been developed based on the responses at various consultation events. The Plan and Forum meetings have been promoted through the website and newsletters.
- 3.1.18 **Middleton Park Ward.** Specific projects were identified by Ward Councillors. Work is also guided by the priorities identified through the Belle Isle and Middleton Neighbourhood Improvement Board (NIB). The NIO has established excellent contacts with local organisations and community groups.
- 3.1.19 **Middleton Youth Partnership**
- 3.1.20 Working with Middleton Community Group and Ward Councillors to establish a broad based partnership to develop youth provision in the area. The group's initial focus was on converting the former Middleton Marauders changing rooms into a youth club; however the partnership is now taking a broader view of youth provision in Middleton as a whole. The youth partnership is currently developing proposals to bring the sports pitches back into use and will explore the feasibility of building a skate park on the site.
- 3.1.21 The NIO has helped to coordinate groups and interests, including contact with local schools and other partners to build support for the Middleton Youth Partnership, as well as providing basic development support around sound

governance for the group. The NIO will continue to offer access to capacity building for the group, around training, funding and working with young people.

3.1.22 City and Hunslet Neighbourhood Improvement Board

3.1.23 The NIO has supported the establishment of a City and Hunslet Neighbourhood Improvement Board, has established links with local community groups and has responded to a number of requests for capacity building support around funding, project development and organisational support.

3.1.22 The NIO contributed to facilitating and planning two workshops held with good input from a wide cross section of local organisations. An action plan has been developed which will inform future integrated locality working across the Ward. The NIO will continue to support the development of this partnership.

3.1.23 **South Leeds Debt Forum.** The Neighbourhood Improvement Officer has been supporting the development of The South Leeds Debt Forum following its launch in 2013. The debt forum draws its membership from across South Leeds with the aim of developing stronger partnership working around the issue of debt, money management, financial literacy and welfare has been involved in the South Leeds Debt Forum

3.2 Community Committee Champions

3.2.1 Community Committee Champions have been appointed to the following:

- Children & Young People – Cllr Angela Gabriel
- Environment & Community Safety – Cllr Adam Ogilvie
- Health & Well Being and Adult Social Care – Cllr Paul Truswell
- Employment, Skills & Welfare – Cllr Kim Groves
- Adult Social Care – Cllr Judith Blake

3.2.2 The Community Committee Champions meet quarterly and are working with lead officers to develop clear priorities:

- The Champions will identify and agree priority issues for the Community Committee. The key to this is liaising with the officer lead assigned to support the champion and developing Community Committee Workshops to address issues and possible solutions.
- Workshops are developed by the Champion and lead officer by theme, this involves planning, consideration of involving partners, engagement with local people for their input. Outcomes from these events will inform the work of NIBs and the Community Committee Plan.

3.3 Themed Community Committee Workshops in 2014/15

3.3.1 The Inner South Community Committee has agreed its work programme for 2014/15. A themed workshop is held to address key issues in the area. Following this the business meeting is held.

3.3.2 The programme has been set out as follows:

- September 2014 – Community Safety and Environment – discussion on Domestic Violence
- November 2014 – priority theme Children and Young People – discussion on Families First
- February 2015 – priority theme – Employment and welfare
- March 2015 – Health and Well being

3.3.3 **Community Safety and Environment.** The Community Committee Workshop and meeting was held at Elland Road Police Station on the 3rd September 2014. The topic for this first themed workshop discussion was Domestic Violence.

3.3.4 Over 70 participants attended the workshop which included partners such as Housing Leeds, Leeds Domestic Violence Team, Leeds Safeguarding Team, West Yorkshire Police and local partners such as ASHA Neighbourhood project, Hamara Healthy Living Centre and members of the public from the Inner South Area

3.3.5 The structure of the workshop included a brief presentation about the new city wide Domestic Violence Strategy and action plan and a local flavour of the domestic violence issues affecting Inner South Leeds. The participants then split into three discussion groups covering each of the three wards which make up Inner South

3.3.6 There has been positive feedback relating to the workshop. Participants welcomed the opportunity and space to talk about domestic violence and abuse, and the way it manifests in relationships. Following the workshop, an action plan has been drafted and services are currently discussing how the action plan can be resourced.

3.3.7 **Children and Young People.** The Community Committee Workshop and meeting was held in the Civic Hall on the 26th November 2014. The topic for discussion was Families First: think family/think communities: supporting families.

3.3.8 The workshop was attended by key partners such as Youth Service and West Yorkshire Police along with local service providers such as Health for All and Hunslet Warriors Rugby Club. 10 young people, who are residents in the Inner South area, also attended the workshop.

3.3.9 There were 3 round table discussions by Ward. The discussions focused on: Supporting families and communities affected by anti-social behaviour and crime; supporting families and young people into employment; Community based help for families who need extra support. Key actions will be collated and be fed into a local action plan.

3.3.10 **Employment, Skills and Welfare.** This Community Committee Workshop meeting will take place on 11th February 2015 in the Civic Hall. The initial ideas for

a topic include business engagement and employment opportunities for local residents

- 3.3.11 **Health and Well-being.** This Community Committee Workshop and meeting will take place on 25th March 2015. The intention is to hold the meeting at Belle Isle Tenant Management Office. The initial ideas for topics include Social Isolation.
- 3.3.12 **Social media** The enhanced community engagement role now vested in Community Committees will ensure that publicity and communications are vital in supporting Members and provide new ways of engaging residents. The South East Area team have developed and now manage a Facebook page and a Twitter account which is regularly updated with information about events and meetings. These new ways of working have been welcomed and a number of different avenues have been tried. For example prior to the last Community Committee a video by the Chair of the Community Committee Councillor Angela Gabriel was posted on Facebook and Twitter inviting residents to the Community Committee Workshop and meeting. This also provided an opportunity for residents to post comments or question before the Community Committee.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1.1 There are a number of means of engagement including Community committee workshops and meetings, ad hoc community events and local galas. The Area Support Team will manage a community engagement plan which will be informed by Members.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 4.2.1 All projects funded from Well Being must have an Equality and Diversity policy and an outline on which equality group the project will work with, and how equality and cohesion issues have been considered.
- 4.2.2 Internal and statutory partners are committed to equality and cohesion and all projects they are involved with will have considered these issues.

4.3 Council policies and City Priorities

- 4.3.1 The projects outlined in this report contribute to targets and priorities set out in the following council policies:
- Vision For Leeds
 - Children and Young Peoples Plan
 - Health and Well Being City Priority Plan
 - Safer and Stronger Communities Plan
 - Regeneration City Priority Plan

4.4 Resources and value for money

- 4.4.1 There is no new resource implications detailed within this report. In all requests for funding from Community Committee applicants are asked to consider value for money during the application process

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

- 4.5.1 There are no legal implications and this report is not subject to call in.

4.6 Risk Management

- 4.6.1 There are no significant risk management issues contained within the report.

5 Conclusions

- 5.1 Community Committees will further develop the engagement and involvement of local communities in the decision making process by actively involving residents in themed Community Committee Workshops and other engagement activity in Inner South Leeds. Inner South Community Committee will continue to support projects and programmes of work that enhance service delivery and continue to invest in local facilities.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 Members are asked to note the content of this report and raise questions.

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.