

**Report of: The South East Area Leader**

**Report to: Inner South Community Committee (Beeston and Holbeck, City and Hunslet, Middleton Park)**

**Report author: Tajinder Virdee (07525 886367)**

**Date: Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2015**

**For decision**

## **Inner South Community Committee Forward Plan 2015/16**

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### **Purpose of report**

1. This report introduces the Inner South Community Committee Forward Plan for 2015/16. It details the Community Committee meeting dates and sets out workshop themes. It also highlights the role of the Community Committee Champions and the work of the Community Committee in relation to the Council Constitution and associated delegations which are managed through its sub group structure, including Neighbourhood Improvement Boards (NIBs) on behalf of the Community Committee.

### **Background information**

2. Leeds City Council has agreed a constitution which sets out how the Council operates, how decisions are made and the procedures which are followed to ensure that these are efficient, transparent and accountable to local people. Some of these processes are required by law, while others are a matter for the Council to choose.
3. In order to give local citizens a greater say in Council affairs, Community Committees were established on the basis of representing inner and outer areas of the City. The Constitution states that the Executive to make arrangements for the discharge of some functions for which the Executive is responsible by Community Committees. The Executive has identified a number of functions that Community Committee exercise decision making on. However the Executive remains ultimately responsible for these services and may remove or limit a Committee's powers. As with the Executive, in exercising their powers Community Committees must make decisions which are in line with the Council's overall policies and budget. The Committees involve all the Councillors from the Wards within each Committee area and meetings are held in public. The following areas are delegated to Inner South Community Committee:

- Wellbeing budget
- Environmental Services
- Youth Activities Fund
- Facilities (Community Centres)
- Parks & Countryside (new delegation) – with affect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015. While no change in service is expected this year, members will be in a position to influence the delegated services in time for 2016/17. It is suggested that the Inner South environmental sub group is asked to take on the monitoring and service improvement role on behalf of the Community Committee.

4. The Inner South Community Committee has put in place a sub structure to provide support, monitoring of performance and when required decision making to the delegations it is responsible for.

These are:

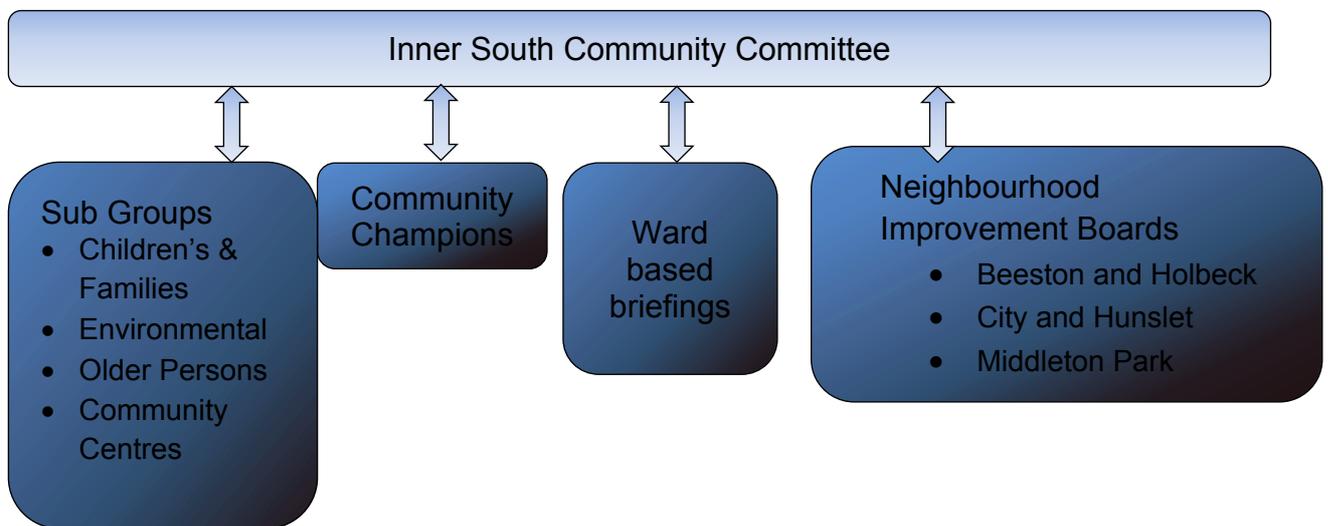
- Children and Families Working Group
- Environmental sub group
- Older Persons working group
- Inner Employment, Skills and Welfare Board

There are updates to the Community Committee from the Summary of Key Works Report. These updates can form the basis of an annual report from each sub group.

5. Alongside the Community Committee the three Ward based Neighbourhood Improvement Boards provide a more focused perspective on local issues. Led by Ward Members the Neighbourhood Improvement Boards bring together partners to drive change and improvement so that neighbourhoods become an increasingly attractive and popular place to live. Each Board aims to provide strong local leadership that champions the needs of residents and work across service boundaries to plan and coordinate services and local developments.
6. Driving the work of the Community Committee through the sub groups and the Neighbourhood Improvement Board are the Community Committee Champions. The Champion role aims to provide local leadership for each theme, while acting as a critical interface with services. Meeting quarterly with service leads, Community Committee Champions are well placed to shape the local agenda around each theme, working with services.
7. Community Committees were established to build on the successes of Area Committees with an enhanced focus on community engagement and in particular, increase the attendance and active involvement of local people at Community Committee meetings. Themed workshops were introduced to provide a forum for Councillors, residents and services to consider issues affecting their communities and find solutions. The topics were determined in collaboration with service leads and Community Committee Champions.

8. The Community Committee held 4 workshops in 2014/15 covering key issues in the area, they were:
- Community Safety – ‘Tackling Domestic Violence & Abuse’.
  - Families First: Supporting families in need.
  - Employment & Skills – ‘Reconnecting to the labour market at 50 plus’
  - Health & Wellbeing – ‘Mental health is everyone’s business’

An additional workshop separate to the Community Committee was held on Environmental issues in March. This was held in a local venue in Beeston. Following the success of this workshop a commitment was made to hold additional and smaller workshop in each ward in Inner South. The outcomes of these workshops will be reported to Members through the Summary of Key Work Report.



9. The Forward Plan is included at **Appendix 1**. Members are asked to consider the forward plan, agree themes for workshops and note the NIB structure and Ward based briefings.

## Main issues

10. While the new Community Committee format has proved successful in the Inner South area opportunities do exist to further develop this approach. The following are points for consideration:
- In part this success has been due to managing down the number of reports that would previously have come to this Community Committee, together with showcasing local issues determined by the champions at themed workshops. Members may want to consider scope of future agendas.
  - Service delegations are currently managed through the sub group structures. Through the Community Champion leadership the sub groups play an increasingly part in driving service improvements locally. Currently an update is provided at each Community Committee through the Summary of Key work. These updates can form the basis of an annual report from each respective sub group.

- Community Committee Champions (this is title has been developed from the Area Leads) have played an active role in shaping the agenda and working with service leads which has had a positive impact. The Community Committee Champions role has proved more successful in shaping the local service agenda when working with a designated service lead. This connectivity with services is essential if we are to achieve increased service improvement and local influence on service delivery, especially when dealing with those services delegated to the Community Committee. There is a need to develop the role of the champions to monitor performance and service improvements.
- The use of Facebook and features such as video by the Chair and Champions to promote Community Committee events has been effective in reaching a wider audience and securing attendance at Community Committee workshops. We will continue to explore innovative ways to develop the use of social media through profiling the role of the Chair and Community Committee Champions.

11. Attached at **Appendix 1** is the draft forward plan for Inner South Community Committee and Workshops for 2015/16. Members are asked to consider the forward plan and consider and suggest topics for each of the themed meetings scheduled in 2015/16. Proposed themes will then be considered in collaboration with Community Committee Champions and service leads.

## **Conclusions**

- The new ways of working has enabled engagement with a range of services and stakeholders on a number of topics across the area and has provided a platform to widen the conversation and make connections with all involved including engaging residents and service users in the issues that matter to them
- Community Committee Champions have played an active role in shaping the agenda and working with service leads which has had a positive impact
- Greater publicity and communications is a key role in promoting Community Committee and new ways of engaging residents has started. Various promotional activities have been used to promote meetings and workshops to residents and service partners. A Facebook page and twitter account has been developed which is updated regularly with information about events and meetings. This also provides an opportunity for residents to post comments or questions before the Community Committee

## **Recommendations**

12. The Community Committee is asked to:

- a. note the content of the report and make comment as appropriate
- b. consider scope and content of future Community Committee agendas
- c. agree the Parks and Countryside delegation be referred to the Environmental Sub group for monitoring and performance management
- d. confirm Community Committee Champions to approve workshop topics
- e. request a designated officer lead for the Adult Social Care champion

- f. Receive a summary of workshops including outcomes through the Summary of Key Work Report
- g. An annual report is provided by sub groups to the summary of key work report

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

Appendix 1 -Draft forward plan for Inner South Community Committee and Workshops for 2015/16

Appendix 2 – forward plan for Inner South

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<sup>1</sup> The background documents listed in this section are available for inspection on request for a period of four years following the date of the relevant meeting Accordingly this list does not include documents containing exempt or confidential information, or any published works Requests to inspect any background documents should be submitted to the report author.

PROPOSED FORWARD PLAN FOR 2015/16 COMMUNITY COMMITTEE AND WORKSHOPS					
<b>Core Business</b>		Appeals against refusal of inspection documents Exempt information Late items Declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests Apologies for absence		Minutes of last meeting Open Forum <b>Summary of Key Work</b> <b>Wellbeing</b> <b>Review of previous themed meeting</b>	
Community Committee and Workshop date	Workshop Theme	Ideas for Workshop Topic	Community Committee Champion	Service Lead/Key contributors	Others
10th June 2015	Environment & Community Safety	Legal Highs Drugs		<b>Sarah Miles</b> <b>Zahid Butt</b> Inspector Chris Bown Inspector Nick Berry	Community Groups Third Sector Residents Housing associations Locality Safety Partnership JESS Clusters Schools Colleges
9th September 2015	Children's Services	Families First Youth Activities Fund Or City Conversations		<b>Martyn Stenton</b>	Community Groups Third Sector Residents Children & Families Sub Group
9th December 2015	Employment, Skills and Welfare	Employment and Welfare Local opportunities		<b>Jane Hopkins</b> <b>Liz Lawrence</b> Job Centre Plus Social Justice Team Third Sector/VAL Aspire to Succeed Connexions Leeds City College Local businesses	Neighbourhood Networks Community Groups Third Sector Residents Older Person's Working Group

<b>9 March 2016</b>	<b>Adult Social Care and Health and Wellbeing</b>	Care Act?		<b>Mick Ward</b> <b>Joanne Davies</b>	T&PC Community Groups Third Sector Residents
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<b>Neighbourhood Improvement Boards</b>	<b>Ward Member</b>	<b>Dates</b>
Beeston and Holbeck NIB	Councillor Adam Ogilvie	6th July 2015 16th November Feb-16
City and Hunslet NIB	Councillor Mohammed Iqbal	20th May 2015 Sep-15 Jan-16
Middleton Park NIB	Councillor Paul Truswell	16 <sup>TH</sup> June 2015 Sept 2015 January 2016

<b>Sub Groups</b>	<b>Ward Member</b>	<b>Meeting dates</b>
Children and Families Sub Group		19th March 2015 23rd July 2015 26th November 2015 31st March 2016
Older Person's Working Group		9th June 2015 6th October 2015 February 2016
Environmental Sub Group		21st May 2015 24th September 2015 4th February 2016

<b>Ward Based Briefings</b>	<b>Meeting dates</b>
Beeston and Holbeck	22nd June 2015 August 2015 October 2015
City and Hunslet	June 2015 October 2015
Middleton Park	June 2015 October 2015

Community Champions Dates	
29 <sup>th</sup> June 2015	
October 2015	
January 2015	