

Report of: The West North West Area Leader

Report to: The Inner North West Community Committee – Headingley; Hyde Park & Woodhouse; Weetwood

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To note

Area Update Report

1. Purpose of report

1.1 This report provides members with a summary of recent sub group and forum business. It also provides an update on the new pricing policy for Community Centres.

2. Background information

2.1 This report provides members with an update on recent Sub Group business and the current position relating to other project activity.

2.2 A Community Committee update report is submitted at every cycle of Community Committee meetings unless there is no additional business to report from sub groups or any other project activity to report. Partner organisations and Council services will also contribute information to the Area Update Report.

2.3 The report also asks that Members take note of the new pricing policy for Community Centres, as set out below and provides updates on Little London and Meanwood community centres.

3. New pricing policy for Community Centres

- 3.1 The new three point pricing policy for community centres within the citizens and communities portfolio was implemented for new bookings on 1st May 2015. This was agreed by Executive Board in July 2014. The new policy sets prices at commercial and community rates and allows Community Committees to agree free lettings in their community centres. In order to improve accountability for these decisions, free lettings now need to be agreed for each individual letting. Each Community Committee is able to agree the delegated approval process that best suits their needs.
- 3.2 A second stage review will look at developing the community centre delegation arrangements to increase accountability at a local level. Initial discussions will take place with Community Committee Chairs to scope this work including the possibility of greater budget delegation. The implementation of the pricing review has uncovered a number of deficiencies in the availability of management information relating to the usage and financial performance of community centres, which is needed to underpin an improved Community Committee delegation. This will be addressed during review of lettings processes, including the move towards online transactions.
- 3.3 A major review is commencing of the service level agreement between Citizens and Communities and Civic Enterprise Leeds covering caretaking, cleaning, repairs, programmed maintenance and building management. Community Committees will be involved in this process as it takes shape.

Update on Little London Community Centre

- 3.4 The new Little London Community Centre is now nearing completion and in order to facilitate the completion of the build for the new centre and school, the old centre will need to be vacated for demolition in the next few weeks. The proposed timetable for this is as follows:
- 3.5 The date for the new community centre to be operational is **Monday 27th July**.
- 3.6 To enable building work on the whole site to progress efficiently the current community centre will be closed after **Wednesday 24th June** which will mean that there will be no community centre provision between **Thursday 25th June** and **Sunday 26th July**.

Work will commence to clear out the old centre on **Thursday 25th June** prior to the demolition of the building.

3.7 Current users have been made aware of this and support has been provided by WNW Area Support and the Communities Team to try and minimise the impact as much as possible.

3.8 Current users are also being supported around submitting lettings applications for the new centre. As outlined above, under the new pricing policy for community centres, the Community Committee may be asked to consider a number of requests for free lettings.

Update on Meanwood Community Centre

3.8 The Communities Team is currently undertaking engagement around Meanwood Community Centre as part of the consultation about the future of ten community centres across the city. A public meeting took place on 3rd June, asking attendees for their thoughts on the future of the centre and for ideas around increasing its usage and sustainability.

3.9 A group of community centre users have expressed an interest in setting up a management committee to potentially take over the running of Meanwood Community Centre. Members of five different groups who are currently either based at the centre, or use the centre on a regular basis have expressed that they would be interested in helping to form this new management committee.

3.10 This proposed management committee would like to explore options to take on more of the costs and processes associated with the upkeep and running of the centre, with the building still remaining under Leeds City Council ownership. Users felt confident that they would be able to encourage more people to use the centre and develop the activities that are currently on offer there.

3.11 The group would like to enter a formal submission of interest to both the Inner North West Community Committee, and then the Executive Board, that they wish to explore the option of creating a new management committee for the building. They would then advance with the development of some terms of reference to take on more of the responsibility for the running of the Centre.

4. Main issues

Forum and Sub Group Key Messages

Planning Sub Group

- 4.1 Planning sub group met on 8 April 2015 and the following issues were discussed:
- Members of the group expressed that they were disappointed that the Community Planner role was not to be funded this financial year and discussed the positive value that this post had added to the Sub Group over the years.
 - The Headingley and Kirkstall neighbourhood boundaries were discussed. Cllr Illingworth highlighted some problems with the boundary around the QTARA area and requested that the line be reconsidered here. It was agreed that this would be explored further.
 - Updates were received on the advancement of neighbourhood plans for other areas in INW.
 - A new General Permitted Development Order has come into effect which alters the classes order and introduces new exceptions to planning permissions. It was suggested that the planning sub group could ask LCC to introduce an Article 4 Directive to withdraw permitted development within designated town and district centres.
 - New planning applications were discussed. Concerns were raised about the possibility of an influx of new HMOs in the area as new LCC guidelines are now looser around the policy.

Key Messages

- 4.2 Key messages included:
- ask LCC to introduce an Article 4 Directive to withdraw permitted development within designated town and district centres.
- 4.3 The Community Committee is asked to note the discussions of the Planning Sub Group.

Environment Sub Group

- 4.4 There have been no meetings of the Environment Sub Group since the last Community Committee meeting on 12 March 2015.

Children & Young People Sub Group

4.5 Children & Young People sub group met on 26 March 2015 and the following issues were discussed:

- Discussion centered around NEETS and work that is being done to target this group of people. A project named 'Moving Up' is being undertaken with Lawnswood, Abbey Grange, Ralph Thoresby and Leeds City Academy to identify vulnerable post 16 year olds and target them to try and ensure that they do not become NEET in future. 20 young people have been identified with a 65% success rate with them remaining engaged with the programme.

Key Messages

4.6 There were no key messages from the Children and Young People's Sub Group.

4.7 The Community Committee is asked to note the discussions of the Children & Young People Sub Group.

5. Corporate considerations

5.1 Consultation and engagement

5.1.1 Elected members have been consulted on the content of this report.

5.2 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration

5.2.1 There are no equality and diversity issues in relation to this report.

5.3 Council policies and city priorities

5.4 Resources and value for money

5.4.1 There are no resource implications as a result of this report.

5.5 Legal implications, access to information and call in

5.5.1 There are no legal implications or access to information issues. This report is not subject to call in.

6 Risk management

6.1 There are no risk management issues relating to this report.

7 Conclusion

7.1 This report provides members with an update on recent Sub Group and Forum business and other project work undertaken by the Area Support Team.

8 Recommendations

8.1. Members are asked to:

- Note and action as appropriate the Key Messages from Sub Groups and Forums.
- Note the new pricing policy for Community Centres and the updates on Little London and Meanwood community centres.