

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 business as well as a general update on other project activity.

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 An area 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.

3. Main issues

Forum and Sub Group Key Messages

Planning Sub Group

- 3.1 Planning sub group met on 8 July 2015 and the following issues were discussed:

- General concerns were raised by sub group members about the community committee's decision not to fund the community planner post with wellbeing monies this financial year. There was a discussion about how the work of the group might be supported in future. Cllr Walshaw agreed to take up discussions with the chair of the community committee and the council's planning department.
- An officer from planning enforcement attended the meeting to answer questions from the group. A question was raised about renewing the regulation 7 direction in INW Leeds (controlling the display of estate agents boards) and whether Leeds City Council's application has been renewed by CLG yet.
- Various planning applications were discussed. Concerns were also raised about the application of Neighbourhood Design Statements when considering planning applications. Members of the sub group asked that it be reiterated that Neighbourhood Design Statements must be considered by the planning department when considering applications.

Key Messages

- 3.2 The Community Committee is asked to note the discussions of the Planning Sub Group.

Environment Sub Group

- 3.3 The Environment Sub Group met on 27th July 2015 and the following issues were discussed:
- There is an ongoing issue around Virgin cable boxes being grafittied and not cleaned by the company. Officers from the locality team will look to create an action plan to help manage the issue.
 - Group members agreed that student changeover had gone well this year. An additional 200 tonnes of waste was removed during changeover period which amounts to £16,000 in landfill costs. Clothing banks were placed in key areas during the changeover period and well used.
 - The WNW Locality Delegated Services Service Level Agreement was circulated in draft form to sub group members.
 - The theft of York stone paving slabs in the area remains a cause for concern. Officers are looking at new methods to help deter people from stealing York stone.

Key Messages

- 3.4 The Community Committee is asked to note the discussions of the Environment Sub Group.

Children & Young People Sub Group

- 3.5 There have been no meetings of the Children & Young People Sub Group since the last Community Committee meeting on 18 June 2015.

Neighbourhood improvement plan

- 3.6 Members have previously identified Little London and Hyde Park as priority neighbourhoods. This had prompted work with partners to identify how we could work better in these neighbourhoods to make improvements. Some of this work has now been embedded in council policy, for example, zonal teams have been set up with the localities department, and partners now regularly come together to help streamline services around student changeover.

With this work having now taken place, we would like to re-focus work within these neighbourhoods, and, consider some new priorities and projects for the Little London and Hyde Park areas. The communities team has developed a draft plan on a page for both of these areas, following meetings with partners, and drawn out some suggested key priorities and projects.

Members are asked to consider the draft plans and whether they are in agreement with them, or whether they would like to consider alternative priorities and projects for the areas.

Free lets

- 3.7 Under the new pricing policy for community centres, free lets are now agreed on an individual basis. The table below details the free lets that have been agreed in the Inner North West area since this new policy was introduced and the financial value that this represents to the council:

Community Centre	Name of organisation	Total fee waived
Little London	Caring Together Woodhouse	£190.00
Little London	The Calls	£4520.00

Update from the Inner North West Housing Advisory Panel (HAP)

- 3.8 The INW HAP welcomed an officer from the Communities Team to their last meeting to help build relationships and understanding between the HAP and the Community

Committee. The HAP found this very useful, and look forward to working more closely with the Community Committee in future.

The INW HAP meet every other month, and enjoy a full membership of 10 tenants to review the delivery of local housing services and monitor local performance. The HAP are well represented by two INW ward members, Councillors Sue Bentley and Javaid Akhtar. Kirkstall ward also still sits within the INW HAP area and Cllr Illingworth sits as the relevant ward member. The panel are also funded to be able to consider and support a range of environmental and community related projects. The current priorities of the panel are outlined in their 'plan on a page'. The HAPs funding priorities are shortly being updated by the HAP in light of new tenant satisfaction information. However, some current examples include:

- To enhance the environmental appearance of neighbourhoods, including those that address community safety and security.
- To support applications that promote and support tenants into the world of work.
- To support applications which will give tenants an overall better quality of life in terms of their general health and well-being.

The HAP forward plan includes the regular review of housing performance with a senior housing officer. Recent HAP discussions included the approach to lettings for new Council homes in the Little London PFI area and income collection procedures and how effective these were. The panel have invited the Leeds Anti-Social Behaviour Team to their next meeting in light of tenant satisfaction information indicating that this was a tenant priority in the INW area.

The INW HAP have supported 10 community and environmental related projects so far this year, and have a number in the pipeline. Some examples of funded projects include:

- A £9,044 contribution to a citywide 'Community Payback' partnership between Housing Services, Localities Teams and West Yorkshire Community Rehabilitation Services. Paying for a supervisor and group of 8 offenders to carry out a range of environmental jobs, like clearing overgrown areas and ginnels on a referral basis from local staff. A useful additional resource to existing Council services, and one that can be used in particular response to tenant feedback such as on estate walkabouts.

- Funding £6,600 for Groundwork Leeds to produce a landscape design for Lovell Park Towers, Grange and Heights. Consulting with tenants, to identify the top three priorities which will be designed and costed. Groundwork Leeds will seek external funding but the HAP will in future be considering the results of the 'masterplan' to help improve the look and accessibility of this area.
- Provided £10,000 towards the kitchen refurbishment at the former Bedford Arms in Weetwood which is being developed by OPAL (Older Persons Action in the Locality) into a new community centre.

The panel have an allocation of £160k for use during 2015/16, £47.5k of which has been committed, and the remaining £112.5k is forecast to be spent.

The HAP are keen to help support and raise awareness about future Community Committee activity, work with officers to explore joint funding opportunities to tackle joint priorities and help the Committee with community engagement.

4. Corporate considerations

4.1 Consultation and engagement

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

4.2 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration

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

4.3 Council policies and city priorities

4.4 Resources and value for money

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

4.5 Legal implications, access to information and call in

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

5. Risk management

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

6 Conclusion

- 6.1 This report provides members with an update on recent sub group business and other project work undertaken by the Communities Team West North West.

7 Recommendations

- 7.1 Members are asked to:

- Note and action as appropriate the key messages from sub groups.
- Note the draft neighbourhood improvement plan.
- Note the update from the Inner North West HAP.