

Report of: Jane Maxwell, East North East Area Leader

Report to: Inner North East Community Committee

Date: 21st September 2015

Neighbourhood Improvement Update Report

Purpose of report

1. This report provides an update to Members on the neighbourhood improvement approach currently being developed in Inner North East Leeds.

Main issues

2. In June 2015 the Community Committee agreed to develop an approach to neighbourhood improvement in the priority neighbourhoods. This builds on the previous neighbourhood management model but takes the opportunity to focus in on smaller neighbourhoods where there is an identified need to accelerate progress or where progress has started to stall.
3. Since the new neighbourhood officer started in the summer work has taken place to review current arrangements, talk to members and partners about local progress and explore some of the issues that need to be addressed in the priority neighbourhoods. It is clear that progress has been made but some issues have slipped or others become more prominent and we need to accelerate the partnership activity around these issues. It seems opportune to refresh the local approach to neighbourhood improvement.
4. It is proposed we create two neighbourhood improvement partnerships to lead the local plan for neighbourhood improvement that either builds on existing partnership arrangements or creates new ones, where appropriate.
5. The characteristics of a neighbourhood improvement partnership are that it:
 - brings together a wide range of partners from the area with council officers and other statutory services to improve the way partners integrate their services at local level;

- seeks to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery in the community;
 - agrees key priorities and actions that drive forward improvement in community outcomes;
 - works to increase community engagement and promote civic enterprise.
- 6 The neighbourhood improvement approach builds on the successful models in the Inner South and the Inner West Community Committee areas. These neighbourhood partnerships have been running for several years and the approach is yielding tangible improvements.
- 7 Each of the neighbourhood improvement partnerships will develop a neighbourhood improvement plan. This will follow the council's plan on a page format and will be focused on key themes. The emphasis will be on identifying new collaborative actions that are either additional to current service delivery or that replace existing service delivery with new ways of working. The agreed actions will form part of a sustainable improvement plan that is not just linked to additional funding but re-shapes and re-focuses existing resources to be more effective.

Community Engagement Plan

- 8 Each neighbourhood improvement partnership will develop a community engagement plan. Local residents and front line staff will decide the appropriate method of engagement based on previous experience and the success of existing structures. The neighbourhood improvement partnerships should use their knowledge of what has been tried before to develop innovative ways of increasing community engagement. This may include continuing with Community Leadership Team models where they are working well or refreshing existing approaches around community forums and local third sector groups. Where local models of engagement are working well, the neighbourhood improvement partnership will build on this opportunity and share good practice across the other areas.

Inner North East Priority Neighbourhoods

- 9 Partnership working in the Meanwood Seven estates is well established and there is a clear programme of work that can be refreshed through the new neighbourhood area officer. Work has already started to explore this through local partnership meetings and discussions with the local Cluster. Partner feedback is that this area should continue with the existing partnership and community engagement arrangements as they are working well. It is highlighted that they would benefit from a review of priorities to strengthen existing work programmes.

- 10 It is proposed that local arrangements be refreshed to adopt the neighbourhood improvement partnership approach which would include a plan on a page and a community engagement plan for the areas. It would also be useful to run an Outcomes Based Accountability (OBA) session with local partners to agree the priorities for integrated working. A key programme of work will be the planned estate regeneration work and the neighbourhood area officer will work with Housing Leeds and Regeneration to ensure this programme of work is integrated into the refreshed local partnership arrangements.
- 11 Chapeltown has a strong and vibrant community sector but formal partnership arrangements have been inconsistent over the last year. Members and partners remain committed to working together to improve outcomes in the Chapeltown area and have worked together on a range of local projects. It is hoped that bringing this group of partners together will enable a stronger focus on key priorities and provide a local platform for integrated locality working. It is proposed that the neighbourhood area officer work with partners to develop a neighbourhood improvement partnership for Chapeltown. It should build on existing local partnerships and have a strong involvement of Third Sector partners and local Social Landlords. Members and local partners will be asked to review the evidence of need in the area and the opportunities and strengths of the areas (using the OBA methodology). This will lead to the development of the new neighbourhood improvement plan supported by a wide range of partners.
- 12 It is proposed that the performance management of the neighbourhood improvement partnerships should be overseen and accountable to the Inner North East Community Committee.

Recommendations

- 13 Members are asked to agree with the proposal to continue with existing partnership arrangements in the Meanwood area and to develop a new neighbourhood improvement partnership for Chapeltown, which builds on existing local activity.
- 14 Members are asked to agree a nominee from each Ward to work with the Chair of the Community Committee to support the development of the neighbourhood improvement partnerships and report back to the Community Committee in December 2015.
- 15 Members are asked to note that regular briefings will take place at Ward Member meetings with a view to having all arrangements fully operational by December 2015.