

Report of: Jane Maxwell, East North East Area Leader

Report to: Inner North East Community Committee – Chapel Allerton, Moortown and Roundhay

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Area Update Report

Purpose of report

1. The purpose of the report is to update members on the current work programme and to ask for Community Committee support to progress new areas of work.

Main issues

2. In July 2015 members considered the Governance option of recruiting non-voting co-optees for the newly established Inner North East Community Committee. The matter was deferred as the Committee did not have a recruitment and selection process in place locally and member required further investigation into the options. Additional work has taken place to explore how co-optees could be elected by looking at other Community Committee areas. In most places the process is for ward community forums or local Community Leadership Team to elect a nominee to the Community Committee. In most instances the local community engagement infrastructure has been developed over a period of time and the mechanisms are well established.
3. A desk top review of local community engagement activity shows that we do not have a consistent framework across the Inner North East and therefore some communities do not have any formal arrangements in place. Some discussion has also taken place with residents who raised the issue at the Community Committee or who have been involved in various community engagement activities. Broadly it is accepted that the Inner North East has accelerated the process of community engagement through the Community Committee workshop process, however, there is more to do to increase the number of “community conversations” taking place during the year. It is proposed that a local strategy be

developed with elected members on a ward by ward basis building on existing good practice in each of the wards.

4. As part of the overall approach to increasing community engagement member's views are sought on establishing a small community focus group working with residents who have shown a strong interest in local community leadership and have regularly engaged with the Community Committee or local community engagement activity. This could be as a first step to exploring the co-optee role during this municipal year and provide a useful platform for resident engagement that can support the ward based community engagement activity. It is proposed that this would be across all wards and would be open to all ward members who were able to attend.

Community Committee Champions

5. During the summer members have given their views on the Community Committee Champion role and how we can further embed this way of working. The Community Committee Chair has continued with the bi-monthly Community Committee Champion meetings to ensure that Champions are able to share their key areas of work and see if there are any areas of overlap. It is also an opportunity to share good practice and address any challenging issues collectively. The Communities Team (East) will be contacting Community Champions to ensure they have the relevant service support and meeting in place.
6. A new performance management framework for community committees is being developed to help track the actions and progress from the workshop discussions. The aim is to review all workshop actions and progress reports and bring this into one document with each action rated red, amber, green. The action tracker is to be backdated to October 2015 to allow members to see progress to date.
7. Each of the champions will then be able to review and monitor progress against key actions within their local portfolio. This should be a useful document for champions to take to the Executive Member meetings to identify areas of good practice but also any challenges where we are struggling to make progress. Members are asked to form an informal working group with one member from each ward and the Chair to review the draft document and ensure it is fit for purpose. It is also proposed that Community Champions are able to feedback to the Community Committee using the Area Update report in future meetings.

Employment and Skills

8. A dedicated Employment and Skills Board has been established for the East North East to address issues of unemployment and skill deficits across the area. This board oversees the development and implementation of the Employment & Skills plan for the East North East area.
9. The Inner North East area is represented on that board by the Community Champion for Employment, Skills and Welfare, Councillor Ghulam Hussain, who also currently chairs the Board.

10. So far the board has met three times and discussed the priorities for each community committee and over-arching priorities for the whole of the East North East area. For the Inner North East in particular this has included focusing on increasing the number of employers taking on an apprentice or providing valuable work experience for unemployed young people as part of the Head Start work programme. Where possible, activities to up-skill local people have also been prioritised so that they can take full advantage of job opportunities emerging through major developments. There has also been a focus on improving engagement between schools and businesses, with proactive work undertaken with Allerton High School, Cardinal Heenan, Roundhay and Carr Manor who engage with Ahead Partnership.
11. In addition, intensive support has been provided through Job Centre Plus's Social Justice Team with numbers of people engaging continuing to increase across Inner North East. Fully updated figures will be presented to the Employment and Skills Board and to the December Community Committee.
12. The next meeting of the East North East Employment and Skills Board will take place in late September. It is suggested that an Employment and Skills update report will be presented to the Community Committee at its December 2015 meeting.
13. The communities team (ENE) has also been leading on some localised employment and skills development work. At the meeting themed on employment in the Queenshills and Brackenwoods it was recommended a job club and community learning should be based out of the Brackenwood community centre.
14. Work has taken place to support the Brackenwood Community Association to design and deliver a survey in the community exploring the activities residents would like to see take place at the community centre. A number of questions specifically explored the desire for community learning and jobs and skills support services.
15. The communities team (ENE) will be supporting the community association to facilitate a meeting of key partners to discuss the survey results. This meeting will be used to establish if community learning/jobs and skills support is a viable option at the centre. If deemed viable attendees will be invited to draw up an action plan to see how this can be achieved.
16. Two major developments – Thorpe Park and Victoria Gate – may present some new employment and training opportunities for Inner North East residents.

Thorpe Park

17. At Thorpe Park, site preparation is on-going. An application for the extraction of the surface coal is due to be submitted in September 2015. This is unlikely to

generate high volumes of new jobs as the work will be carried out by a specialist contractor. Approval for the construction of 300 new homes was approved in January 2015 and work is likely to start on site in 2017. The houses will be built in three phases over a five year period. The preferred housing developer will be announced in Autumn 2015. Scarborough Group will provide an introduction to the contractor. The Scarborough Group is hoping to announce a large retail anchor tenant shortly. Smaller units including food offer will be part of the new retail space from summer 2017 onwards.

Victoria Gate

18. As well as existing contract site staff who have moved with the supply chain on to the site, an additional 255 people have accessed jobs – 80 from local target wards including Chapel Allerton, 46 from other Leeds postcodes and 129 from outside of Leeds. There have been nine new apprenticeships and three existing apprentices employed on site.
19. A Victoria Gate schools engagement programme has been developed which will be delivered by Ahead Partnership. The first activities took place in July 2015 with further activity planned for the 2015/16 academic year.
20. A 'Head Start' work experience programme has been developed in partnership with Re'new / Construction and Housing Yorkshire. Sir Robert McAlpine as the main contractor are now offering a rolling programme offering placements with sub-contractors on site.
21. Whilst LCC Employment and Skills Service continues to work with the main contractor and sub-contractors to maximise any new and future construction jobs, they are also meeting with the HR team at John Lewis about end user opportunities. These will include customer service roles, warehousing and catering opportunities. Employment and Skills are also in regular dialogue with the owners of the casino to be able to support them in delivering their employment and skills obligations.

Conclusion

22. There are a number of actions on-going to achieve the Community Committees' priorities and to strengthen the committee performance management systems which will be reported on further in Decembers area update report.

Recommendations

23. That Members note the contents of the report and make comment where appropriate.
24. Members are asked to approve the proposal to establish a resident focus group in the Inner North East area to support the development of community engagement in the area.
25. Members agree to an update report on Employment and Skills being submitted to the December Community Committee meeting

Background information

- Link to the Facebook Page for the Inner East Community Committee:
<https://www.facebook.com/LCCInnerNE>