

**Report of: The West North West Area Leader**

**Report to: The Outer West Community Committee – Calverley & Farsley; Farnley & Wortley; Pudsey**

**Report author: Harpreet Singh 336 7862**

**Date: 7<sup>th</sup> October 2015**

**To Note**

## **Community Committee Update Report**

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### **Purpose of report**

1. This report updates the Community Committee on the work of the three sub groups of the Committee: Environment, Business, Employment & Skills and General Purposes.
2. This report also updates the Committee on pieces of work and partnership working that has taken place in the area since the last meeting.
3. The Community Committee update report is submitted when there is additional business to report from sub groups or any other project activity. Partner organisations and Council services will also contribute information to the Update Report

### **Main issues**

#### **Sub Groups Update**

4. The Outer West Community Committee has a range of sub groups which set priorities, agree topics for consideration at Community Committee and develop action plans to address issues of thematic importance. The committee currently operates three sub groups: Environment, Business, Employment & Skills and General Purposes.
5. Detailed below is an update on the current sub group activity and issues being explored at each.

### Environment Sub Group

6. The Outer West Environmental Sub Group has continued to meet and has led some positive work to ensure that the Service Level Agreement is fit for purpose and that resources are targeted at the areas of greatest need and to deliver the greatest impact.
7. The Outer West Environment Sub Group met on the 7th August 2015 and discussed the new Service Agreement between the Community Committee and the Environmental Action Service.
8. The report made recommendation to approve the Service Agreement and further develop “plans on a page” for each ward through each ward member meeting and for the sub group to then oversee on behalf of the Committee.
9. Further significant functions are being delivered through the Locality Team and the service has redesigned its delivery model to learn from the first few years of delegation and make better use of resources available to further improve effectiveness and efficiency.
10. The WNW Locality Manager provided an update on the work of the Zonal Teams and the new staffing structure. The service will be taking on responsibility for;
  - Graffiti removal, needle picking, public toilet cleaning, ginnel clearance, LCC bin-yard clearance
  - Household bulky item collection service
  - Work largely previously done by “Estate Caretakers” in council housing areas
11. There is one zonal team dedicated to the Outer West area led by a team leader who will oversee operational and enforcement work.

### Business, Employment & Skills Sub Group

12. The Outer West Community Committee held a workshop last October which focused on delivering actions which support Business Enterprise and the Economy linked with employment opportunities. Following on from this meeting members decided to set up the Business, Employment and Skills Sub group which would look into taking this piece of work forward. There have since been two meetings which have been chaired by Executive member Cllr Richard Lewis and it has been agreed that there will be 4 meetings held a year.

Members at their most recent meeting explored some key actions in line with the key themes that emerged from the October Workshop. These key themes are as follows;

- Supporting local people into employment and providing support to schools around opportunities for apprenticeships

- More mobile library / pop up facilities in areas where there are no services such as Farnley & Wortley
- Revitalising our high street offer and supporting businesses to ensure issues are resolved easily and fluidly

### General Purposes Sub Group

13. At the Committee meeting in March, Members were asked to consider creating a General Purposes Sub Group which would allow two main purposes:

- To allow Members to have more time to oversee current and future delegated services
- To allow Members to focus on key local priorities with the relevant service managers outside of Community Committee meetings.

14. Meetings of the General Purposes Sub group will be arranged on request from the Community Committee.

### **West Neighbourhood Improvement Board**

15. It was agreed at the November 2014 West Neighbourhood Improvement Board (NIB) that a plan on a page be developed for each of the priority neighbourhoods. Since their November 2014 meeting, data on each area was collated and reviewed and consultation with key partners, including Public Health, Employment and Skills, Community Safety, Housing Leeds and Children's Services had been undertaken. Draft plans on a page for the Heights & Bawns priority neighbourhoods were developed and were presented at the February 2015 NIB meeting for consideration and discussion.

16. The neighbourhood improvement plans were then finalised at the first Neighbourhood Improvement Partnership (NIP) meeting which was held on the 24th April. Key themes were discussed to progress the work of the partnership and theme champions were also elected.

17. Theme champions have been devising their own action plans on area of work and to set targets against actions. An action tracker will be used for each theme to monitor progress against targets. A range of activities are already being explored and will be discussed at the next NIP meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup> September.

### **Citizens @ Pudsey & Swinnow Forum & Citizens @ Tyersal Forum**

18. Both forums receive an update from the Neighbourhood Policing Team, who reported on a series of successful arrests and prosecutions in the area recently. Half of the properties targeted are through insecure doors or windows, and crime prevention advice is provided by the officers.

19. The meetings have had representation from the West North West Locality Team, Parks & Countryside, Highways, Transportation, Housing Leeds, Planning and Private Sector Housing Team.

## **Community Committees**

20. The Community Committees have been in operation for a whole municipal year. The purpose of this style of working is to engage more with the community on topics that are of wide interest and accessible to all.
21. All themed meetings have allowed the Community Committee to work with a bottom-up approach by engaging with stakeholders to envision ways to strengthen the way in which citizens are involved in local decision making.
22. A report was presented at the Full Council Meeting on 16 September which provided an overview of the progress, achievements and opportunities for the Outer West Community Committee.

## **Social Media**

23. The Communities Team have publicised a range of messages on the Outer West Social Media platforms around consultation, community events or improvements to an area, which have proven to be very popular with some posts reaching up to 3000 views. We would like to request members share details and promote the networks to their constituents.

## **Update from the Outer West Housing Advisory Panel (HAP)**

24. The Outer West HAP meets bi monthly, and enjoys a full membership of 10 tenants to review the delivery of local housing services and monitor local performance. The HAP is well represented by two ward members, Councillors Richard Lewis and Rob Wood.
25. The panel has a funding pot of £120,836 for the year 2015/16 which is used to be able to consider and support a range of environmental and community related projects within the Outer West area. The current priorities of the panel are outlined in their 'plan on a page' (Appendix 1). The HAPs funding priorities are shortly being updated by the HAP in light of new tenant satisfaction information. However, some current examples include:
  - To support applications that increase tenant's online access to services.
  - To enhance the environmental appearance of neighbourhoods, including those that address community safety and security.
  - To support applications that promotes and support tenants into the world of work.
  - To support applications which give tenants an overall better quality of life in terms of their general health and well-being.
26. The HAP forward plan includes the regular review of housing performance with a senior housing officer. Discussion has taken place around rent arrears and annual tenancy support visits.

27. The Outer West HAP has supported 15 community and environmental related projects so far this year, and has another 18 in the pipeline. Some examples of funded projects include:

- A £8,060 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, one that can be used in particular response to tenant feedback such as on estate walkabouts.
- Funding £15,866 for a communal garden at Rycroft Court and the renovation of Rycroft Tower's garden area.
- Swinnow Community centre were funded £1,000 to help set up a new Parent & Toddler group by local parents.
- Brookleigh Sheltered Scheme has been funded £1,389 for equipment to run sewing and arts and crafts sessions for tenants and local residents. Mears provide storage units and the manpower to install these to a tune of £800 in kind.
- Funded £875 for the hire of the space to run the Pudsey youth group.
- Swinnow Community Centre was funded £3,500 in order to run a 6 week Breeze project for children and young people in the area.
- Fund £1,065 provided to Ebor Gardens to fund Money buddies to work in the area support tenants with financial difficulties

28. 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.

## **Corporate**

29. **a. Consultation and engagement** - Local priorities were set through the Area Business Plan process.

30. **b. Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration** - The Business Planning process takes into account equality, diversity, cohesion and integration issues.

31. **c. Council policies and city priorities** - The themes in the Business Plan mirror the themes and priority outcomes at a city wide level and also reflect the delegated functions and priority advisory functions.

## **Conclusion**

32. The work of the sub groups is essential in the delivery of the Community Committee priorities. This report provides members with an update on recent Sub Group and Forum business and other project work undertaken by the Communities Team.

## **Recommendations**

33. To note the report including the key outcomes from the sub groups.

## **Background information**

- **None**