

**Report of the Chair Outer North West Community Committee**

**Report to Full Council**

**Date: 13<sup>th</sup> January 2016**

**Subject: Outer North West Community Committee**

Are specific electoral Wards affected?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Adel & Wharfedale, Guiseley & Rawdon, Horsforth and Otley & Yeadon		
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:		

**Summary of main issues**

This report provides an overview of the progress, achievements and opportunities for the Outer North West Community Committee over the period since the last update to Full Council in April 2015. Key achievements include:

- The work of the Community Champions and sub groups;
- Hosting two themed workshops around key community committee priorities;
- Successful projects.

**Recommendations**

Members are asked to note the content of this report.

## 1 Purpose of this report

- 2 The purpose of this report is to outline the progress, achievements and opportunities for the Outer North West Community Committee over the period since the last update to Full Council in April 2015.

## 3 Background information

- 4 Area Committees were established in 2004 to improve service delivery at a local level and deliver projects and programmes of work on priority issues in the locality. In 2014 Community Committees were established to build on the successes of Area Committees but to better engage with communities, and in particular increase the attendance and active involvement of local people at Community Committee meetings.

- 5 This report looks at the achievements of the Community Committee over the period since the last update, and highlights the opportunities and challenges for the future.

## 6 Community Committee Champions & Sub groups

7. Community Committee Champions positions are held by the following Members in Outer North West during 2015/16:

- **Children & Young People – Cllr P Latty**
- **Environment & Community Safety – Cllr B Anderson**
- **Health & Well Being and Adult Social Care – Cllr G Latty**
- **Employment, Skills & Welfare – Cllr R Downes**

8. The Outer North West currently has 6 themed sub groups covering the following key areas: Environment and Community Safety; Employment, Learning and the Local Economy; Children's Services and Family Health; Adult Social Care Health and Well-being; Highways and Transportation and Policy. In all cases the sub group chairs have been aligned with the Community Champion role.

9. The Community Committee sub groups continue to address issues of thematic importance to the area. Through the sub groups the Community Champions are working with lead officers to develop clear priorities and play an active role in shaping themes and progressing work. Key achievements from the sub groups include:

10. The **Health & Well-being and Adult Social Care** sub group chose Social Isolation as a workshop topic. The session highlighted that it is difficult to find people who are socially isolated in the area. Learning from this topic was referred to the sub group and with their support; approval has been given to pilot a mobile phone app. This will provide guidance to users on; how to identify socially isolated community members, crucially what assistance is available and also which services should be informed.

11. Through the **Children's Services and Family Health** sub group Members have been involved in consulting with young people in schools on the Youth Activities fund which has resulted in improved targeting and tailoring of resources. A youth activities commissioning round was undertaken earlier this year by sub group

members who interviewed applicants and recommended over £50,000 of activities for children and young people in the outer north west.

12. Following on from the successful Children's Engagement event held last January another event for children and young people has been planned for January 2016. This time there will be greater participation from local young people explaining how they have made a difference in their local community through volunteering and providing feedback on activities funded by the Outer North West Community Committee
13. The **Environment & Community Safety** sub group receives regular updates from the Locality Manager, Environmental Action Service and the Outer North West Police Inspector. The sub group has supported and championed a range of community safety and environmental initiatives; working with Care and Repair on a burglary reduction scheme in the local area, contributing towards the funding of 2 additional PCSO's in Horsforth and a site-based gardener for several facilities in the outer north west.
14. At its last meeting the community committee approved a new Service Level Agreement for 2015/16, to help maintain clean and tidy neighbourhoods across the Outer North West area. The proposed framework has been discussed at the Committee's Environmental & Community Safety Sub Group, who oversees the delegation on behalf of the committee.
15. The **Employment, Learning and the Local Economy** sub group has met with officers to discuss local priorities and challenges, receiving updates from local job shops and figures for local young people leaving school but not going onto further education, employment and training. It worked with local neighbourhood planning groups to consider joint priorities and information sharing opportunities.
16. **Progress**
17. The Community Committee has considered a range of issues since the last update to Full Council in April 2015 and two community committee workshops were held on the following topics:
  - **Neighbourhood Planning (June 2015)**
  - **Road Safety (October 2015)**
18. **Neighbourhood Planning**
19. Planning officers presented on the local, citywide and national perspective on Neighbourhood Planning and were available to offer support and guidance. The workshop brought together representation from the outer north west Neighbourhood Planning groups to consider mutual areas of concern and priorities across the area. Peer to peer support was seen to be an important factor of the workshop with an opportunity to share progress and examples of good practice.

20. **Road Safety**

21. This themed workshop focused on Road Safety issues in the outer north west area. Representatives from five of the local Parish and Town Councils and local community groups joined Councillors and officers from, Leeds City Council Highways and Transportation Service and the Neighbourhood Policing Team to discuss how they could work in partnership to prioritise and support road safety initiatives.
22. The discussions focused on the issues associated with speeding traffic and parking around schools at pick up and drop off times, what partners and communities can do to address these issues and also how we can help educate community members.
23. Feedback from the workshop was referred to the Community Committee's Environment & Community Safety sub group and a number of actions are being explored, including a Community Speed Awareness Scheme and an information leaflet detailing who to contact with road safety issues.

24. **Community Infrastructure Levy CIL**

25. A joint workshop for Councillors from the Outer North West and Outer West Community Committees, together with representatives from Neighbourhood Planning areas took place on the 28<sup>th</sup> July at Trinity University in Horsforth. Officers from Forward Planning gave a presentation on the Community Infrastructure Levy, followed by an opportunity to ask questions.

Councillors and representatives considered how Community Committees could work together with parished areas to overcome potential issues, fund local priorities and consider what the Neighbourhood Fund guidance should contain

26. **Wellbeing projects & Youth Activities Fund**

27. The Community Committee uses the Well-being fund to support local community activity and community assets. The committee has given grants to over 30 community projects this year. This has included funding community focused events such as Yeadon Lights switch-on, which was held on the evening of 4<sup>th</sup> December. Over 200 people joined young people from 4 local Primary Schools in the community singing, before the Yeadon Carnival Queen turned on the lights. The Community Committee has also supported organisations such as Friends of Parkinson Park who received a small grant of £500 towards a children's gala.
28. The Community Committee approved a grant of £7,500 for OPAL (Older People in the Locality) towards the renovation of the former Bedford Arms public house into a Community Centre which will house a Community Café, two large activity rooms and smaller meeting rooms.
29. The Community Committee continues to support Aireborough Supported Activities Scheme, who received £8,190 Well-being funding this year, to run a holiday play scheme for children between the ages of 4 and 19 years old, with moderate to severe learning disabilities.

30. The Youth Activity fund has similarly supported local activities for children and young people and funded various projects including skateboard training sessions at Ralph Thoresby School and parks in Horsforth, Otley and Rawdon whilst Leeds Play Network provided play sessions for over 500 children in the summer holidays. There was a combined attendance of 1600 children and young people at the two Mini Breeze events hosted in the outer north west.
31. Social Media
32. The introduction of Facebook and Twitter has allowed the Community Committee to share useful and interesting information from local media, community groups and residents. The Communities Team have publicised a range of messages on Facebook around; consultation, community events or improvements to an area which have proven to be very popular, with some posts receiving over 3,000 views.
33. **Community Engagement (Citizens@)**
34. Parish and Town Council Forum
35. The Community Committee continues to host a Parish and Town Council Forum three times a year, which enables the committee to engage with the six local Parish and Town Councils in outer north west Leeds. A number of joint priorities between the community committee and the local councils are being progressed, including Highway issues and links to Leeds Bradford airport, both of which were discussed at the last forum meeting in October 2015.
36. Citizens@Guiseley & Rawdon Forum
37. This community forum meets approx. 6 times over the year and invites guest speakers to attend and discuss local issues as well as receive regular updates from the Outer North West Neighbourhood Policing Team.
38. Citizens@Holt Park
39. The last forum meeting in September focused on the Holt Park District Centre. Leeds City Council Land & Property Officer provided an update on the current position and there was an opportunity for residents to ask questions.
40. Citizens@Yeadon
41. The forum met in December and focused on the Leeds Bradford Airport Link Road consultation, with the Head of Leeds City Council Transportation in attendance.
42. **Corporate Considerations**
43. **Consultation and Engagement**
44. The Outer North West Community Committee has good working relationships with the communities it serves. The Committee will continue to support and enable local people and communities to engage and interact with us on issues that are important to them.

**45. Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration**

46. The Outer North West Community Committee is committed to equality and cohesion. Specific equality impact assessments are undertaken on community engagement plans, specific initiatives and decisions as required. All projects funded from Well Being must have an equal opportunities policy and outline which group the project will work with, and how equality and cohesion issues have been considered. Internal and statutory partners are committed to equality and cohesion and all projects they are involved with will have considered these issues.

**47. Council policies and City Priorities**

48. The Best Council Plan 2013-17 includes the key outcome to make it easier for people to do business with us, and the move to community committees makes a significant contribution to the delivery of this.

**49. Resources and value for money**

50. There is no new resource implications detailed within this report.

**51. Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In**

52. There are no legal, access to information or call in implications arising from this report.

**53. Risk Management**

54. There are no risk management issues of any significance arising from this report.

**55. Conclusions**

56. The Area Committees were established in 2004 to improve service delivery at local level and deliver projects and programmes of work on priority issues in the locality. The Community Committees have since built on the successes of Area Committees and developed on the engagement and involvement of local communities in the decision making process.

57. 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.

58. The Community Committee already has good relationships with its local communities and utilises its available funding streams to support local projects. It recognises that there are challenges ahead especially with engaging with hard to reach groups, but will continue to strengthen its positive working relationships with stakeholders to improve local services and facilities.

**59. Recommendations**

60. Members are asked to note the content of this report.

**61. Background documents<sup>1</sup>**

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<sup>1</sup> The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website,

62. None