



Report of the North East Area Manager

North East (Inner) Area Committee

Date: 15th October 2007

Subject: Actions and achievements since the last Area Committee meeting

Electoral Wards Affected:

Chapel Allerton
Moortown
Roundhay

Ward members consulted
(referred to in this report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Council
Function

Delegated Executive
Function available
for Call In

x

Delegated Executive
Function not available for
Call In Details set out in the
report

Executive Summary

This report provides Members with an update on actions and achievements of the Area Management Team since the last Area Committee meeting in September 2007.

Purpose of this report

1. This report provides Members with an update on actions and achievements since the last Area Committee meeting. Members will recall that they have agreed to receive quarterly, detailed reports giving progress on the individual actions in the Area Delivery Plan this year. The quarter 2 report is attached as appendix 2.

Highlights

Community Centres

2. Work is continuing at the Mandela Centre to develop an expanded programme of educational, vocational, career and social activities to meet the needs of young people in the area. A steering group comprising of representatives of users of the centre and local young people will hold their first meeting at the end of October. It is recognised that wider consultation with the local community be carried out regarding the development of the Mandela Centre particularly in relation to non-youth activities currently delivered there. All these groups contribute to building the social capital in the area and play a valuable role in community life. Their demand for space in the Mandela Centre however potentially weakens the future sustainability of the centre as a youth hub. The Area Management Team are organising meetings with individual non youth providers over the next few weeks to consider the use of other suitable existing facilities for their activities.
3. The findings of the Chapeltown community facilities review highlighted a lack of coordination of existing community facilities. Work is ongoing to analyse the findings of a questionnaire sent to all local stakeholders. This information is useful in assessing gaps and duplication in provision and also identifies under-use of facilities. In the case of non-youth providers currently using space at the Mandela Centre, it is evident that there are opportunities for them to re-locate to and maximise the benefits from other existing facilities.
4. Whilst the review of community facilities in Chapeltown found a relatively large number of existing facilities there is a gap in information about what is available leading to a perception of short supply. Information on existing facilities and activities, including costs and how to book them, will be available at the Chapel Allerton community engagement event on 22nd October.
5. The Mandela Centre and Palace Youth Centre, currently vested with the former Learning and Leisure department, are due to be transferred shortly to Environment and Neighbourhoods department. A considerable amount of work has been undertaken to improve the operational management of these facilities to ensure that they are in a more sustainable position to start delegating the management of the community centre function to the Area Committee. The Area Management Team are working with ward members to develop proposals for a schedule of charges and discounts detailing how much groups will be charged for the use of the facilities to ensure they become financially viable and stable. Officers are working together to finalise the budget information. A further report will be taken to Executive Board when this work is completed to add these to the Area Function and formally delegate them to the Area Committees. A draft pricing and lettings policy will be presented to the Area Committee in December seeking the support of the Area Committee for a three month consultation with existing users and the wider community.

6. Due to changes in police staffing, the frequency and nature of activities provided from the Open Door project at 225 Lidgett Lane has changed. This creates opportunities to improve provision from the centre through increased input from other partners, for example East North East homes (ENeh) and the Youth Service. Initial discussions with partners indicate their commitment to the project, particularly to generate greater resident involvement and to help coordinate local service delivery where it is most needed. Proposals to relaunch the Open Door as a youth and community centre, with a customer service point for ENeh tenants, are being developed by the Area Management Team and representatives of the Open Door steering group. Alongside this, work is underway to submit an application for charitable status and registration with Companies House as a not-for-profit company.

Community Engagement

7. The first two community engagement events took place week commencing 10th September. Both events followed a 'planning ahead' format to make them interactive and enjoyable for the residents who attended. The Moortown ward event was held at Carr Manor High School on 11th September from 3-7pm and the Roundhay event at Roundhay High School on 13th September from 3.30-7.30pm. Members will recall that these events are part of the Area Committee's community engagement strategy which is designed to enable residents to feel that they are part of the decision making process by informing the Committee of issues that concern them, which are then turned into priorities for action in the 2008/09 Area Delivery Plan.
8. Extensive preparation by the team ensured that residents had access to Council officers as well as the opportunity to identify issues on a range of themes at each event. The 'planning ahead' format involved large scale maps of each ward attached to tables with a different theme for each table. Residents were asked to stick flags into the maps on the relevant theme table where they had an issue to raise. The themes were linked to the services the Area Committee has an influence over, including children & young people and the street environment, but also looked at wider issues including regeneration, planning and culture.
9. Over 50 residents attended the Moortown event and over 75 the Roundhay. The events were advertised extensively in advance including a mailout to all voluntary and community groups in the ward that the Area Management Team have been in contact with. Ward members helped compile these databases. In addition posters were displayed in shops and community buildings, and the events were featured in the Yorkshire Evening Post and their local websites Moortown Today and Roundhay Today. For the Roundhay event we were able to advertise the event on a large banner attached to the school fencing which proved effective for enticing more people to come in and take part.
10. All the issues identified will be included in the priority list for the Area Delivery Plan next year. Members will receive a detailed report at the December meeting on the outcomes of the engagement events and will be able to see how the issues identified are incorporated into the plan for next year. In addition we will be sending feedback letters to all the residents and groups who attended each event giving examples of how we are dealing with the issues they raised. These letters will be sent out by mid October.
11. The Chapel Allerton autumn planning ahead event will follow the same format and take place on 22nd October, 3-7pm at Space@Hillcrest.

Recommendations

10. The Area Committee is requested to note the contents of this report.