
Report of the Chair Inner North East Community Committee

Report to Full Council

Date: 23rd March 2016

Subject: Inner North East Community Committee

Are specific electoral Wards affected?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Chapel Allerton, Moortown and Roundhay wards		
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

Summary of main issues

This report provides an overview of the progress, achievements and opportunities for the Inner North East Community Committee over the past year. Key achievements include:

- Hosting four themed meetings around key Community Committee priorities;
- Various successful projects funded by the Community Committee;
- The work of Community Champions and sub groups

Recommendations

Members are asked to note the content of this report.

Purpose of this report

- 1 The purpose of this report is to outline the progress and achievements of the Inner North East Community Committee over the period since the last update to Full Council in April 2015. It also outlines challenges and opportunities within the area.

Background information

- 2 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. 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.

Progress

- 3 The Community Committee has enjoyed some well attended and successful workshops over the past year, with numbers attending increasing to around 30-40. These have built on the strengths of a strong and vibrant community and third sector within the Inner North East area. The Committee has continued to develop strong partnership working particularly with a range of community organisations. Members have embraced a more collaborative way of working, including the associated challenges. This has been a very positive change over the last year and is starting to yield positive results.
- 4 Papers for meetings have been refined to make them more user-friendly, colourful and engaging. A newsletter has also been developed for the Committee, which has been placed in local libraries, housing offices and Community Centres and circulated through e-mail contacts, to expand the reach of the Committee to new audiences.
- 5 The Committee has been well served by six Community Committee Champions who have each supported the work of the Community Committee by taking a lead on particular portfolios and associated workstreams:
 - Adult Social Care – Cllr Christine Macniven
 - Children & Young People – Cllr Rebecca Charwood
 - Community Safety – Councillor Mohammed Rafique
 - Employment, Skills & Welfare – Cllr Ghulam Hussain
 - Environment – Cllr Bill Urry
 - Health & Well Being – Cllr Eileen Taylor
- 6 The Champions have helped develop better links between the service areas and the Community Committee. The Communities Team is currently working to help facilitate improved engagement of the Service Leads, particularly Adult Social Care and Children's Services. The Employment, Skills and Welfare Champion has been instrumental in establishing priorities of the ENE Employment and Skills Board including 1) mental health, 2) support into work through skills training, 3) ESOL provision, 4) support for the 50+ age group and 5) support for young people aged 16-24.

7 The Committee has focused its discussions this year on:

- ***Environmental Services and Parks and Countryside (June 2015)***
- ***Raising awareness of domestic violence and abuse (September 2015)***
- ***Increasing the effectiveness of Community Hubs (December 2015)***
- ***Increasing physical activity levels in young people (March 2016)***

Shaping the Delivery of Environmental Services

- 8 During 2015/16 the service introduced a zonal way of working. In the ENE locality this resulted in a dedicated zonal team being created for the Inner North East area. This meant for the first time the Inner NE area had its own Team Leader, operational charge-hands and dedicated path-sweeper. In addition the area has its own, dedicated operational staff with a 7 day a week service retained.
- 9 Feedback so far from Members on new working arrangements has been largely positive. This was supported by an interactive Community Committee workshop session in June, where residents helped informed local environmental priority setting. Relationships between local staff and key community contacts (such as Members and resident groups) are developing well. Staff have commented that they prefer to work in this way; getting to know the area and its residents / customers better. There is a definite increase in levels of pride in staff serving the area.
- 10 Examples of the benefits of having more locally dedicated and knowledgeable team with a dedicated Team Leader and operational Charge-hand include:
- a. staff are working closer with local Members and alongside local groups, such local schools and in-bloom groups, to support local clean-up days / environmental activities and building local relationships
 - b. responsiveness and adaptability to meet specific needs of the INE area e.g. warning / cctv signs at known fly-tip spots, de-leafing of pavements, Leeds Carnival clean-up
 - c. the complaints level for bulky item collections has reduced by 85% citywide since it moved to zonal teams – the ENE Locality Team only received 2 formal complaints for the 3 months ending 31/12/15; out of 2,056 service requests.
- 11 In addition, the Environmental Champion and Environmental sub group have successfully driven forward local parks improvements with all bar one park in the area achieving green flag status, and the remaining park being very close to this standard.
- 12 The Environmental sub group and discussions at Community Committee have driven forward the local element of the city's Derelict and Nuisance Sites programme, with significant improvements to a number of prominent sites through local partnership working. Committee and DNS programme match funding has

enabled for example, an arts project to create a more attractive appearance to the former Mobil garage site on Chapeltown Road.

Domestic Violence and Abuse

- 13 Reducing incidences of domestic violence and abuse is identified as one of the Council's seven Breakthrough Projects. This will ensure that the Council and partners will focus on reducing domestic violence as a longer term priority for action, particularly through the strong local housing partnerships. Valuable discussion took place at the September Community Committee workshop and acted as a catalyst for a response at a local level, including a number of activities during the '16 days of action' campaign.



- 14 A number of display boards were erected in the Reginald Centre, Moor Allerton Library and Oakwood Library. In addition, a partnership walk took place from the Reginald Centre to the Compton Centre to raise awareness of Domestic Violence and Abuse. Prior to the walk, Cllr Rafique in his role as Community Safety Champion gave a speech explaining why the Committee had chosen reducing domestic violence as a local priority. White ribbons were tied around trees as a symbolic gesture of men taking a stand against domestic violence.
- 15 The Committee also agreed to set aside £500 from each ward budgets to fund local activities to target domestic violence. This opportunity was seized by Leeds Housing Concern who secured £200 to run their own awareness raising activities during the 16 days of action, particularly targeting vulnerable homeless people.

Community Hubs

- 16 Positive improvements have come about as a result of increased dialogue with the local community and well established local organisations who have been keen to maximise the opportunities presented by the hub model. The Hub has taken the opportunity to re-shape space and enable enhanced local services to be available. As a result, the Hub has seen increased community usage. A further opportunity to raise the profile of the Hub was made possible through the hosting of the Local Government Chronicle Awards on 1st February. Following the Leader and Chief Executive's visit to Chapel Allerton ward in January, the Chief Executive was keen that the judges experience a Council community rather than civic setting.

- 17 The December Community Committee received a presentation on the ambitions and plans for rolling out the community hub model. This included useful workshop discussion, involving a broad range of around 40 local partner organisations and residents which has informed further development of the hub.
- 18 The Job shop performance has greatly improved since transition to the community hub. Last year the Reginald centre supported 271 customers into work and this year over 400 will have gained employment. **Path Yorkshire non accredited ESOL** – 6 dedicated ESOL classes at pre entry or level have been held at the Reginald Centre with approximately 72 people completing each course. This has included a women only course that has proven very popular. **LCC accredited ESOL** – As part of the ENEE Employment and Skills board action plan Leeds City College have begun delivery of accredited ESOL classes in February 2016. This is level 2 and above bespoke to client dependant on outcome of an initial assessment. The first session was due to have 24 attendees, with 60 people turning up to register. Additional sessions have since been scheduled.
- 19 **Free Legal Clinic** – The legal clinic was launched in January 2016 and runs for two hours every Wednesday. This service has been an unprecedented success with an average of 6 clients seen per session, and 73 appointments held overall.
- 20 **Giant advertising screen** – A giant screen has been funded through taking a sponsorship approach with local businesses and stakeholders. To date over £4500 has been raised, with funds to pay for the screen, installation and maintenance 100% covered. A surplus pot of money is now in place for any additional sponsors which will be used to pay for other centre improvements.
- 21 **Young person Takeover day** – On 20th November, 12 young people from Wykebeck primary school took over the centre with ward members getting involved with a book sale and having a turn on a street king as well as taking part in filming for Made in Leeds TV appearances. Community Hub staff worked closely with the Locality Team and Communities Team to deliver a memorable day for the young people involved.



- 22 **Social prescribing** – The Reginald Centre will become the ‘central hub’ for the North Leeds Social Prescribing contract, commencing delivery from April 1st 2016. Up to 8 Well-being Coordinators will be based at the centre for an 18 month period

and will take referrals from GP surgeries across the whole area. Referrals may be appropriate for non-medical interventions such as housing, debt advice, legal advice and employment support. This is in partnership with the lead provider Community Links.

23 **Money Buddies** – Leeds Money Buddies are a team of volunteers who have been recruited by Ebor Gardens Advice Centre to deliver a free, confidential, impartial and independent Money Buddy service to the public. The Money Buddy has been established at The Reginald Centre and the service will continue for 12 months until October 2016, supported with £1065 from the Community Committee. Key highlights are:

- frontline staff were trained prior to the scheme being launched
- Yorkshire Evening Post and local radio attended the launch of the service, resulting in a newspaper article and radio interview with a Money Buddy
- 71.5% of clients have required specialist legal debt advice
- Total financial gains identified with clients is £7385. The average gains are expected to increase as a result of specialist ongoing legal debt advice.

Increasing Physical Activity in Young People

24 In support of the Council's Breakthrough Project Reducing Health Inequalities through Healthier Lifestyles, the March workshop element of the Community Committee will focus on promoting increased levels of activity in young people. This will include promoting 'Play Streets' and the Committee will aim to increase the number of Play Streets across the Inner North East area.

Leader of the Council and Chief Executive ward visits

25 Ward Members have been keen to share their local intelligence, local challenges and ideas for improvements via a series of ward visits by the Leader of the Council and Chief Executive. In January, a Chapel Allerton ward visit provided a great opportunity for front line Council and voluntary sector staff to highlight issues in the area - environment, regeneration work on the Beckhills estate, diversionary activities for young people and developments at the Reginald Centre Community Hub. Visits to Moortown and Roundhay wards are currently being planned for later in the year.



Priority Neighbourhoods

- 26 Committee funding for additional staffing has enabled significant and intensive neighbourhood improvement activity across Chapeltown and Meanwood, neighbourhoods which face significant and systemic deprivation issues.

Chapeltown

- 27 Partner agencies in Chapeltown have been in discussion about how best to work together to address new neighbourhood priorities. As a result the first Neighbourhood Improvement Partnership meeting, called “Working together for Chapeltown”, took place on 14th December 2015. The meeting was attended by around 35 Council staff, third sector partners, ward councillors and West Yorkshire Police who all work in Chapeltown. The group received a presentation exploring the area’s demographics such as population by age and ethnicity, information on children and young people, crime statistics, health data and environmental information. Through focused table discussions, the group agreed the top priorities to take forward as a partnership. The priorities agreed were:
- a. Health and Wellbeing particularly social isolation;
 - b. Support for older people, including older people’s housing issues;
 - c. engaging young people to prevent them from getting involved in negative activity and crime, the provision of more information for young people on the consequences of crime as well as a potential mentoring scheme and peer support;
 - d. Greater collaborative working and partnerships in the area to create strength and resilience across the community
 - e. Increased resident engagement in service delivery;
 - f. Standard of private rented sector housing and houses of multiple occupation
- 28 Following the initial meeting, work streams have started to take shape to address some of these issues for example:
- ✓ Chapeltown Housing Investment Strategy - reviewed and re-focused, with housing associations, Leeds City Council and the 3rd sector working in partnership to update and streamline an action plan to combat housing related issues in the area;
 - ✓ A neighbourhood watch residents group has been formed in the area with around 15 residents currently involved. The residents meet monthly with partners and work closely to inform local service provision;
 - ✓ A social isolation group has been formed with public health and local health partners, working with Leeds University on a project to help socially isolated people in Chapeltown through different faith groups;
 - ✓ Street Leeds sessions are currently being organised for young people in Chapeltown on the subject of crime. Street Leeds is a public legal education

programme for the people of Leeds, delivered by the Leeds' legal community in partnership with Chapeltown Citizen's Advice Bureau and Leeds City Council;

- ✓ Improved partnership working models are being formed such as a joint website for the area called "Chapeltown News". This brings together information about local activity and services on offer locally to ensure the information is available in one user friendly website. It is envisaged that this will be launched shortly at the same time as the provision of free public Wi-Fi.

Meanwood

- 29 The Meanwood Seven Estates Group concentrates on Miles Hill, Farm Hill, Beckhill, Potternewton, Sugar Wells, Scott Hall and Stonegate areas in Meanwood. It includes Leeds City Council services, third sector, local councillors, West Yorkshire Police, local schools, GP surgeries and faith groups. The group has been refocused and reshaped with a clear action plan which is being worked towards as a partnership. The group is currently focusing on the Beckhill estate and work around maintaining resident engagement and enthusiasm as physical improvement work starts.
- 30 The group is also working on priorities in the area such as:
- a. help for older people improve their home safety with more secure key safes;
 - b. youth provision since the closure of Beckhill House Community Centre;
 - c. anti-social behaviour, particularly joy riding;
 - d. ensuring residents are involved as much as possible in the consultation around Meanwood Community centre;
 - e. Two separate residents groups are also being established in the area for Stonegates and the Beckhills. The Beckhill group met for the first time on 1st March 2016.

Wellbeing projects & Youth Activities Fund

- 31 To provide some context, the Committee has allocated a total of £229,495 during 2015/16 to support local projects. This is made up of £165,315 Well-being funding and £64,180 Youth Activity Funding. The following examples illustrate the range of projects funded across the Inner North East area:
- 32 As well as funding of a number of area-wide projects such as £7,368 for CCTV monitoring and maintenance, the Committee has funded a range of local projects. The Community Committee utilised £2,354 to fund Chapeltown Youth Development Centre to run a Bonfire Night Youth Engagement Project. The project involved running two nights of young peoples' diversionary activities and successfully engaged round 150 young people. There were no reported incidents of youth anti-social behaviour in Chapeltown over Bonfire night or the following night.
- 33 Black Health Initiative received funding of £2,610 to run Fusion Café, a community based inter-generational luncheon club. The Café is unique in that it has clients of all ages attending although the majority are over the age of 65. The overall aim of

the programme is to reduce social isolation; encourage and support physical fitness; provide factual information on service providers by having guest speakers from organisations promoting their services and provide factual information on medical issues by having key speakers on health issues which disproportionately affect the targeted community and is sometimes surrounded by cultural myths and taboos.

- 34 Community Committee capital funding of around £3,500, coupled with £3,500 revenue funding has enabled significant match funding of around £113,000 Arts Council England funding to be drawn in to significantly upgrade RJC Dance's facilities at The Mandela Centre.
- 35 Well-being funding of £250 has been used to support the Meanwood Toy Appeal, with Zest Health for Life working to deliver donated toys at Christmas to deprived children in Meanwood. In addition, Youth Activity Funding enabled pop-up multi-sports and swim camps to be delivered at Scott Hall Leisure Centre by the Council's Sport and Active Lifestyles team. Around 40 young people benefited from this scheme which was supported by £10,987 Youth Activity Funding.
- 36 A Community Confluence event held at St Edmund's Parish Hall in Roundhay brought together people from different ethnic backgrounds, with over 62 community and professional artists performing to an audience of over 200 people. The event was supported by £300 from the Community Committee. Talks are now taking place with a view to taking the event to West Yorkshire Playhouse next year.

Communications

- 37 The Community Committee has made significant improvements in the way it communicates with local residents and partner agencies. The Community Committee itself has been re-formatted to be much more welcoming and user friendly, with attendance regularly around 40 people.
- 38 The Committee now has an established Facebook page. Since the last INE report to Full Council in April 2015, numbers of 'likes' have increased from 182 to 314.
- 39 The Community Committee has recently seen its new community noticeboard installed outside The Reginald Centre.
- 40 Work has taken place with Millfield Primary School and Citizens @ Leeds to seek the views of young people on the Beckhills estate for ideas to improve their environment. The first Beckhills residents meeting has taken place recently to discuss estate regeneration, waste services, housing, street lighting and play options in the area. Around 40 residents attended and provided useful local intelligence to help develop sustainable local solutions.

Corporate Considerations

Consultation and Engagement

- 41 The Inner North East 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.

Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 42 The Inner North East 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 wellbeing and the youth activities fund 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. Equality Impact considerations are currently being examined as part of the development of the Community Committee improvement agenda and implementation of the Neighbourhood Improvement framework.

Council policies and City Priorities

- 43 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. The broad range of work undertaken by the Community Committee supports the Council's Breakthrough Project 'Strong Communities Benefitting from a Strong City'.

Resources and value for money

- 44 There are no new resource implications detailed within this report.

Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

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

Risk Management

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

Conclusions

- 47 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.
- 48 All themed meeting 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.
- 49 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. The partnership between the Committee and local community and third sector organisations is vital for supporting the ongoing reach of the Community Committee into the wider community. This will

enable the Community Committee to have a wider variety of community conversations in different settings, formats and groups over the next year

Recommendations

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

Background documents¹

None

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.