

Report of: Jane Maxwell, East North East Area Leader

Report to: Inner East Community Committee – Burmantofts & Richmond Hill, Gipton & Harehills. Killingbeck & Seacroft wards

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To Note

Community Committee Update Report

Purpose of report

This report provides an update on the work programme of the Inner East Community Committee, including recent successes, current challenges and on-going pieces of work.

Main issues

1. Since the last Community Committee, work has progressed in a number of areas, including via ward member meetings and the local Neighbourhood Improvement Partnerships.
2. Community engagement is a significant part of the overall offer from community committees. It covers how community committees communicate and consult with local residents and encourage participation from communities. By doing this, it gives local people a greater say what happens in their communities and enables them to play an active role in decision making and improving council services. For the first community committee meeting of the year, it was felt a timely opportunity to review the Inner East community engagement offer to and to highlight the engagement structures that are in place in Inner East. The Inner East Community Engagement Offer 2017/18 is attached as **Appendix 1** and members are asked to note its contents.
3. In the past, the community committee has set overarching themes to shape each community committee meeting and associated workshop during the year. For the remaining three meeting of the 2017/18 municipal year committee members are asked to consider setting planned themes for these meetings with a clear view of the objectives or outcomes to be achieved. To assist with this process, members may

wish to refer to the community committee priorities which are tabled as a discussion item in the Wellbeing Report (Item 13).

4. At the last community committee meeting in March, a workshop took place on the Leeds Health & Care Plan. The session took a 'questions and answer' format with residents, partners and elected members having the opportunity to ask questions of Chief Officer for Leeds North CCG, Dr Yen Anderson from Oakwood Lane Medical Practice and the Chief Officer for Health Partnerships. The session was replicated across each of the ten community committees. Some initial feedback from the Health Partnerships Team from these sessions is attached as **Appendix 2**.
5. The Inner East environmental sub group met on 4th May to receive operational updates from Environmental Locality, Waste Management, Parks and Countryside and Housing. Members were briefed on some new service charges that have been introduced to the waste management service. These include a new £20 contribution charge for residents to book bulky waste collections and a new £15.50 contribution to replace black or brown wheeled bins. These changes to the services bring Leeds in line with the other core cities across the country. Full details can be found via the following internet link <http://www.leeds.gov.uk/residents/Pages/RequestBins.aspx>
6. The Parkswatch service transferred to Safer Leeds from Parks in 2013. The service was responsible for patrolling green spaces and parks, locking and unlocking cemeteries, monitoring of traveller injunctions and occasional work with West Yorkshire Police. This work was undertaken by six officers, delivering this service through a 4 on / 4 off shift pattern working seasonal hours. Over the last few months, intensive work has been undertaken to modernise and redesign the Parkswatch service in an attempt to integrate it into the wider Safer Leeds Patrol Team. This work has now been completed and commenced in April 2017. The new team comprises of 20 officers (working a five shift work pattern) undertaking a wider range of duties including patrolling of estates to prevent ASB, responding to LCC alarm calls, routine patrols to LCC assets, patrolling of industrial estates where this is a paid for service and enhanced partnership work with other services, including the councils LASBT team and West Yorkshire Police. The redesigned service, which will have a fleet of cars and off-road bikes with LeedsWatch livery, provides a more flexible service that can better respond to the needs of residents, businesses and partners.
7. The Communities Team has been working with local groups to assist them putting on localised community gatherings to mark the Great Get Together over the weekend of the 17th & 18th June. The weekend marks the anniversary of the death of Jo Cox MP and in her memory this initiative aims to break down barriers, bring communities together and celebrate what we have in common as well as our great diversity. Communities have been encouraged to put on events, street parties, coffee mornings, whether big or small in order to come together and celebrate what they have in common. The Inner East Community Committee agreed to allocate a small funding pot to provide some support groups who have come forward to organise these events. The funding has been managed via the Small Grants funding process. As well as bespoke events marking the occasion, some annual community events

have also been branded under the Great Get Together. Events that the Communities Team have worked with partners and organisations to put on in Inner East are:

Date of event	Name of event	Location
18 th June 2017	The Big Iftar	Leeds Islamic Centre
17 th June 2017	The Big Get Together	The Compton Centre
24 th June 2017	Burmantofts Gala	Oxton Fields
22 nd July 2017	Lark in the Park	East End Park
17 th June 2017	Lunar Lunch	East Street Arts
18 th June 2017	Seacroft Rounders Match	Seacroft Village Green
18 th June 2017	Community BBQ	In His Presence Foursquare Church

8. Following on from a commissioning round earlier in the year, the process to fund an activity programme in the Inner East during the summer holidays has now been completed. Applications for Youth Activity Funding were considered by the Inner East children and young people sub group during throughout March and April and applicants have subsequently been informed whether or not their applications were successful. Again this year, this proved a challenging process with the total value of received applications being far in excess of the reduced amount of Youth Activity Funding allocated to the community committee for 2017/18. As a first this year as a result of the Inner East Youth Summit, young people's views helped to shape the approval process. A list of approved applications is attached as **Appendix 3**. Dates, times and locations for the activities can be found on the Breeze Culture Network website www.breezeculturenetwork.org Alternatively, please speak to the ENE Communities Team if you would like more information about a particular event.

9. The draft Leeds Culture Strategy which the community committee helped to shape back in September 2016 is now open online for public consultation. It can be viewed by visiting www.leedsculturestrategy.co.uk It is a chance to see how the strategy has evolved throughout the consultation and also an opportunity to add views and comments.

10. Members of the community committee are being asked to review the governance process for decisions that need to be made outside formal committee meetings. Sometimes urgent decisions may need to be made in between formal Community Committee meetings regarding the administration of Wellbeing and Youth Activity budgets and the use of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Neighbourhood Fund. Designated officers have delegated authority from the Director of Communities and Environment to take such decisions.

The Community Committee has previously approved the following 'minimum conditions' in order to reassure Members that all delegated decisions would be taken within an appropriate governance framework, with appropriate Member consultation. This is as follows:

- a) consultation must be undertaken with all committee/relevant ward members prior to a delegated decision being taken;
- b) a delegated decision must have support from a majority of the community committee elected members represented on the committee (or in the case of funds delegated by a community committee to individual wards, a majority of the ward councillors), and;
- c) details of any decisions taken under such delegated authority will be reported to the next available community committee meeting for members' information.

The Committee is invited to review the conditions previously agreed and consider whether any amendments are required for the forthcoming municipal year.

11. A thematic action tracker showing the progress made from community committee workshop sessions is attached as **Appendix 4**.

Conclusion

The work of the Communities Team in partnership with council departments, external partners and with elected members is working towards the priorities of the Community Committee and the aspirations of the new neighbourhood improvement approach. This programme of work should be seen as a work in progress which is consolidating the Community Committee's role as a local decision-making body by strengthening the links between the local authority and the communities it serves.

Recommendations

The Committee is requested to:

1. Note the contents of the report and make comment where appropriate.
2. Note the Inner East Community Engagement Offer 2017/18 in Appendix 1
3. Agree themes and workshop topics for the three remaining community committees of the municipal year
4. Review the minimum conditions as set out in paragraph 9 of this report, consider whether any amendments are required and approve the conditions for 2017/2018. These conditions would need to be satisfied prior to an urgent delegated decision being taken in between formal Community Committee meetings.