



## **Inner East Community Engagement Offer 2017/18**

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Engagement with communities should be underpinned by these four principles:

- Involve people at the earliest possible stage
- Make engagement meaningful and honest
- Make it easy for people to be involved
- To ensure that people are informed about the impact of their involvement

The Inner East Community Committee is an engagement body in itself, but is also provides the framework for various other forums and engagement mechanisms which actively seek the involvement and participation of local communities.

### **What is the Inner East Community Committee engagement offer?**

The Inner East community committee offers a broad and varied engagement structure:

- Themed community committee workshops (Minimum of 4 per year)
- Community Committee Update Report (quarterly)
- Inner East Community Committee Newsletter (quarterly)
- Neighbourhood Improvement partnerships (4 NIP's taking place 4 times per year)
- Ward forums – Burmantofts & Richmond Hill CLT, Harehills Residents Meetings, bespoke forums in Killingbeck & Seacroft
- Galas and fun days planned and delivered by the Communities Team
- Pop-up consultation and engagement events (e.g. 'Darker Nights' sessions in Harehills, Transport Conversation)
- Bespoke campaigns (e.g. 16 Days of Action Against Domestic Violence)
- An annual Inner East Youth Summit
- Regular social media presence on the Inner East Facebook page and the Your Community Twitter feed
- Weekly broadcast slot ('Harehills Hour') on Fever FM
- Bespoke community engagement events (e.g Conversation dinners)
- Environmental campaigns (e.g. Keep Harehills Tidy)

## **Engagement shaped by local priorities**

In addition to being shaped by the four principles above, effective engagement should also consider priority issues that are identified locally. Each year, the community committee agrees a set of themes and priorities. These are presently\*:

- Promote diversity, encourage community cohesion and address language barriers
- Tackle issues associated with child poverty
- Enable residents into employment, training, volunteering opportunities or to learn new skills
- Address both physical and mental health issues
- Improve the local environment
- Reduce levels of domestic violence

\*The Inner East priorities are being re-assessed at the June community committee meeting

## **Review of engagement activity over the past 12 months**

### ***What has gone well?***

- Greater engagement with council departments (e.g. Transport Conversation and NHS 5-year plan consultations)
- Greater alignment of the work of the committee with citywide priorities in the Best City Plan
- Public attendance of community committee meetings has been retained
- Increased social media reach via the Inner East Facebook page and Your Community Twitter feed
- Positive Inner East Youth Summit, with over 50 young people in attendance
- Inner East Community Heroes event with over 100 people in attendance

### ***What could be improved?***

- Increasing the attendance of community committee meetings and workshops
- Reporting back results of engagement and consultation to participants in a user-friendly way
- Greater involvement of the community committee in helping to shape and inform broader council strategies (e.g. Best City plan, Site Allocations Plan)
- The community committee to determine its own forward plan of local issues to discuss with a clear view of the outcomes to be achieved.