

Report of: Area Leader

Report to: Inner West Community Committee
[Armley, Bramley & Stanningley, Kirkstall]

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Inner West Community Committee – Forward Plan 2019/20

Purpose of report

1. This report introduces the Inner West Community Committee Forward Plan for 2019/20. It details the Community Committee meeting dates and sets out workshop themes, as well as providing an update on engagement with the local communities.
2. It also highlights the role of the Community Committee Champions and the work of the Community Committee in relation to the Council Constitution and associated delegations which are managed through its sub group structure.

Main issues

3. Leeds City Council has agreed a constitution which sets out how the Council operates, how decisions are made and the procedures which are followed to ensure that these are efficient, transparent and accountable to local people. Some of these processes are required by law, while others are a matter for the Council to choose.
4. Community Committees were established to build on community engagement and in particular, increase the attendance and active involvement of local people at Community Committee meetings. Themed workshops were introduced to provide a forum for Councillors, residents and services to consider issues affecting their communities and find solutions. The topics were determined in collaboration with service leads and Community Committee Champions.

5. In order to give local citizens a greater say in Council affairs, Community Committees were established on the basis of representing inner and outer areas of the City. The Constitution states that the Executive is to make arrangements for the discharge of some functions for which the Executive is responsible to Community Committees.
6. The Executive has identified a number of functions that Community Committee's exercise decision making on. The Executive however remains ultimately responsible for these services and may remove or limit a Committee's powers. As with the Executive, in exercising their powers Community Committees must make decisions which are in line with the Council's overall policies and budget. The Committees involve all the Councillors from the wards within each committee area and meetings are held in public. The following areas are delegated to Inner West Community Committee:

- Wellbeing Fund
- Youth Activities Fund
- Capital Budget
- Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)
- Community Centres
- Environmental Services
- CCTV
- Parks & Countryside

7. The Inner West Community Committee has put in place a sub structure to provide support, monitoring of performance and when required decision making to the delegations it is responsible for. These sub groups are as follows:

- Children & Families Sub Group

Information on the activities of the sub groups is included in the Inner West Community Committee Update Report.

8. The Council's approach to locality working through Community Committees and its emerging work in priority neighbourhoods is an essential component of the stronger communities programme in the city. This programme incorporates a strategic approach to migration, tackling poverty, inequality and disadvantage, community cohesion, engagement and development, prevent, counter extremism, work with the Third Sector and equality.
9. Executive Board approved a new model for Locality Working in November 2017 to respond to the national Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) data for 2015 which demonstrated Leeds had sixteen neighbourhoods categorised as being in the most deprived 1% of neighbourhoods nationally.
10. Six priority neighbourhoods were identified to accelerate the Council's approach to tackling poverty and inequality in the city to support and encourage partners and stakeholders to work differently and encourage learning and development around some of the most challenging issues in the city.

11. The Executive Board report also identified twelve priority wards as the focus for targeted neighbourhood improvement to address poverty and inequality. The twelve wards include: Armley; Bramley and Stanningley; Kirkstall; Burmantofts and Richmond Hill; Gipton and Harehills; Killingbeck and Seacroft; Temple Newsam; Chapel Allerton; Middleton Park; Beeston and Holbeck; Hunslet and Riverside; and Hyde Park and Woodhouse (now Little London and Woodhouse).
12. Local partnership teams, known as Core Teams, were introduced towards the end of 2018 and have worked with communities to increase community involvement and participation, develop local action plans and build collaborative projects around key community issues.
13. Town and local centres across Leeds play a crucial role in supporting places and communities to respond to economic change. The Council's draft Inclusive Growth Strategy recognises their importance as economic, social and service hubs and the need to continue to deliver improvements that promote enterprise and connect people to jobs and opportunities within them. Targeting improvements to local centres would assist in delivering the Best Council Plan ambition of promoting sustainable and inclusive economic growth.
14. There have been significant strides in recent years to develop and improve the vitality and viability of local centres. People are passionate about local centres and high streets and a number of recent initiatives have provided a platform to turn that passion into action. The Portas Pilots Initiative, the establishment of several Town Teams and Business Improvement Districts, Townscape Heritage Initiatives together with the Town and District Centres Improvement Programme have all used this local activism to deliver improvements to support the sustainability of local centres.
15. However, many local centres still need to adapt and change to accommodate the challenges of internet shopping, the demand for more leisure activities, out of town shopping centres and edge of centre supermarkets and the disappearance of many day to day services from the high street. The Local Centres Programme (LCP) provides a programme of support and interventions that can be introduced to increase the vitality and viability of local and neighbourhood centres through the development of ward based bids for funding, supported by Council services and local agencies. The Local Centres Programme (LCP) seeks to utilise the £5m announced at Full Council in March 2017 to fund innovative and sustainable improvements to town and district centres as a component of supporting regeneration and growth across the city.
16. Separately the city has been proposed as the first Future High Street under a government funding initiative and partnerships between the public and private sector are also being developed elsewhere in the city to ensure local centres have the best possible futures to provide retail, commerce and social space for all.
17. Whilst not exclusively, the Local Centres Programme concentrates on areas of greatest need. Initially Armley was the priority and from being the area of greatest need in mid-2018, in just over a year Town Street no longer features on Police hotspots. A Town Team has become highly active and is currently launching a Business Improvement District to agree annual improvements that it's business are able to achieve. The street's appearance is being improved with ongoing artwork, repainting of shops and planting of trees.

18. Driving the work of the Community Committee through the sub groups, the Core Teams and the Local Centres Programme are the Community Committee Champions. The Champion role aims to provide local leadership for each theme, while acting as an interface with services. Meeting quarterly with service leads, Community Committee Champions are well placed to shape the local agenda around each theme.

19. While the Community Committee format has proved successful in Inner West Community Committee opportunities do exist to further develop this approach. The following are points for consideration:

- Service delegations are currently managed through the sub group structures. Through the Community Champion leadership the sub groups play an increasingly vital part in driving service improvements locally. The Update Report keeps the Community Committee appraised of progress.
- Community Committee Champions have played an active role in shaping the agenda and working with service leads which has a positive impact. The Community Committee Champions role has proved more successful in shaping the local service agenda when working with a designated service lead. This connectivity with services is essential if we are to achieve increased service improvement and local influence on service delivery, especially when dealing with those services delegated to the Community Committee.
- The use of Facebook and features such as video by the Chair and Champions to promote Community Committee events has been effective in reaching a wider audience and securing attendance at Community Committee workshops. We will continue to explore innovative ways to develop the use of social media through profiling the role of the Chair and Community Committee Champions.
- Throughout the year different styles of workshops will be introduced. The aim will be to try and make the workshops interactive and relevant to local communities.

20. The draft Forward Plan is included in **Table 1** and **2** for Inner West Community Committee. Members are asked to consider the Forward Plan, agree themes for workshops for each of the meetings scheduled for 2019/20, as well as note the work of the Core Teams. Proposed themes will be considered in collaboration with Community Committee Champions and service leads.

Corporate Considerations

Consultation and Engagement

21. The Community Committee has, where applicable, been consulted on information detailed within the report.

Equality and Diversity/Cohesion and Integration

22. All work that the Communities Team are involved in is assessed in relation to Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration. In addition, the Communities Team ensures that the wellbeing process for funding of projects complies with all relevant policies and legislation.

Council Polices and City Priorities

23. Projects that the Communities Team are involved in are assessed to ensure that they are in line with Council and City priorities as set out in the following documents:

1. Vision for Leeds 2011 – 30
2. Best City Plan
3. Health and Wellbeing City Priorities Plan
4. Children and Young People's Plan
5. Safer and Stronger Communities Plan
6. Leeds Inclusive Growth Strategy

Resources and Value for Money

24. Aligning the distribution of community wellbeing funding to local priorities will help to ensure that the maximum benefit can be provided.

Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

25. There are no legal implications or access to information issues. This report is not subject to call in.

Risk Management

26. Risk implications and mitigation are considered on all projects and wellbeing applications. Projects are assessed to ensure that applicants are able to deliver the intended benefits.

Conclusions

27. The report provides up to date information on key areas of work for the Community Committee.

Recommendations

28. The Community Committee is asked to:

- a. note the content of the report and make comment as appropriate
- b. consider scope and content of future Community Committee agendas

Background documents¹

29. There are no background documents associated with this report.

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available for inspection on request for a period of four years following the date of the relevant meeting Accordingly this list does not include documents containing exempt or confidential information, or any published works Requests to inspect any background documents should be submitted to the report author.

Proposed Forward Plan for 2019/20 – Community Committee and Workshops					
Core business		Appeals against refusal of inspection documents Exempt information Late items Declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests Apologies for absence	Minutes of last meeting Open Forum Finance Report Update Report Review of previous themed meeting		
Community Committee and workshop date	Workshop theme	Ideas for workshop	Community Committee Champion	Service Lead/Key contributors	Others
Date of Community Committee	Youth Summit	Ideas for workshop	TBC	Voice & Influence Team	Communities Team
Date of Community Committee	Topic	Ideas for workshop	TBC	Leads/key contributors	???
Date of Community Committee	Topic	Ideas for workshop	TBC	Leads/key contributors	???
Date of Community Committee	Topic	Ideas for workshop	TBC	Leads/key contributors	???

There is also the potential to have reserve themes should any of the planned workshops have to be deferred. Members are also encouraged to consider emerging priorities as themes.

Theme	Community Committee Champion
Adult Social Care & Health and Wellbeing	TBC
Children’s Services	TBC
Employment, Skills and Welfare	TBC
Environment & Community Safety	TBC

Sub Groups	Ward members	Meeting dates
Children & Families	TBC	TBC
Environment	TBC	TBC

