



Report of: Head of Stronger Communities
Report to: Council
Date: 13th January 2021
Subject: Community Committee Annual Report 2019/20

Are specific electoral wards affected? If yes, name(s) of ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes x No
Has consultation been carried out?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes x No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes x No
Will the decision be open for call-in?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes x No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, access to information procedure rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes x No

Summary

1. Main issues

Community Committees were set up in June 2014 to improve the way the council works locally. They form part of our commitment to involving our residents more closely with the priorities for their local area and decision-making on funding and services. Over the last twelve months they have continued to transform the way the council involves local people through innovative ideas and workshops such as Climate Change.

The Community Committees' Annual Report looks at the progress made over the last twelve months. It outlines the changes which have taken place during 2019 to 2020 and gives examples of some of the work the Community Committees have carried out within their communities to improve the lives of local people of all ages and backgrounds. The report also looks at Wellbeing and Youth Activities Funding (YAF) and the impact it makes, as well as the role the Community Committees undertake in bringing communities together.

The report also outlines the social media activity that takes place through the Community Committee structures, which ensures we reach a large number of residents every month through local stories and conversations. Local councillors have been at the centre of these developments, leading and shaping our local response.

Finally the report looks ahead to the next steps to be taken for the Community Committees in 2020 to 2021 and also makes reference to the Coronavirus pandemic by mentioning the significant challenges, as well as opportunities that the virus has presented, including:

- continuing to engage local people on the issues that matter to them most and which the council and its partners can work on together to improve their lives;
- deploying the leadership contributions of our Community Committees in supporting the council's aim to deliver in key areas such as tackling domestic violence, health and wellbeing and in the Climate Emergency conversations in Leeds;
- focusing more closely on the areas in most need, ensuring services and partners work closely together locally to deliver better outcomes for Leeds' most deprived neighbourhoods and developing stronger more resilient communities.
- continuing the momentum brought about by the Coronavirus pandemic to ensure that the local leadership provided through our elected members and Community Committees continues to be at the heart of developing local and city wide structures.
- developing 'hybrid' committee meetings that utilise available Leeds City Council technology, alongside a physical meeting to engage with a much wider audience.

2. Recommendations

Members of council are asked to:

- receive the annual report; and
- note the work now being progressed to further improve the effectiveness, community engagement role and improvement work of the Community Committees.

1. Corporate considerations

1.1 Consultation and engagement

The Community Committee has previously been consulted on projects and Chairs have been consulted on stories contained within the Annual Report.

1.2 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration

All funded projects are assessed in relation to Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration. In addition, the Communities Team ensures that the funding process complies with all relevant policies and legislation.

1.3 Council policies and the Best Council Plan

Projects submitted to the Community Committee for funding 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
7. Climate Emergency

A number of Community Committees in 2020/21 engaged with residents, as well as young people on Climate Emergency, as they took part in a number of workshops across Leeds. Valuable feedback from all the consultative workshops in 2019 has been collated by the Climate Emergency Team and this will feed in to future plans to tackle the climate crisis in the city.

1.4 Resources, procurement and value for money

Aligning the distribution of Community Committee funding to local priorities will help to ensure that the maximum benefit can be provided.

1.5 Legal implications, access to information, and call-in

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

1.6 Risk management

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

2. Conclusions

The Annual Report provides up to date information on the work of the Community Committees.

3. Recommendations

Members of council are asked to:

- receive the annual report; and
- note the work now being progressed to further improve the effectiveness, community engagement role and improvement work of the Community Committees.

4. Background documents¹

There are no background documents associated with this paper.

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.