



Report of the East North East Area Manager

North East (Inner) Area Committee

Date: 2nd February 2009

Subject: Community Engagement Report

Electoral Wards Affected:

Chapel Allerton
Moortown
Roundhay

Ward members consulted
(referred to in this report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Council
Function

Delegated Executive
Function available
for Call In

x

Delegated Executive
Function not available for
Call In Details set out in the
report

Executive Summary

This report provides Members with a plan for the spring 2009 community engagement events as part of the agreed area community engagement strategy. The report presents the proposed format of the engagement events and asks the Area Committee to support proposals.

Purpose of this report

1. The purpose of this report is to present a format for the next community engagement events in March within the agreed framework of an annual cycle of community engagement activity based on the service planning cycle of the Area Delivery Plan.

Background

2. The Area Committee has made a commitment to help local people to have a greater voice and influence over local decision making and delivery of services and to build the role of the voluntary, community and faith sectors.
3. The Area Committee has agreed a community engagement strategy which includes the commitment to undertake 3 events each year in each ward based on a cycle of: priority setting – promising actions – celebrating communities.
4. The involvement of the main local service providers in the events is key – so that the events can inform their contributions to the Area Delivery Plan.

Spring Community Engagement Events

5. Last year the Area Committee organised three events in each ward with different objectives for each event. It is suggested that the three events this year follow a similar pattern:
 - Spring – to inform residents of **actions** planned by the council and it's partners for the coming year
 - Summer – celebration event which encourages **community cohesion**
 - Autumn – **prioritising** event in which residents have the opportunity to influence actions for the coming year

The cycle will allow residents to inform the Area Delivery Plan and receive feedback.

Aims and Objectives for Spring event

6. The aims and objectives of the event include:
 - To enable residents to comment or influence the priorities presented at the event
 - To present a plan to the public of priorities/actions for the year
 - To provide residents with the opportunity to debate issues of importance to the ward
7. To achieve these aims it is suggested that the event has two aspects– an action focussed market place scenario, in which each section of the ADP is represented along with the various partners who deal with these priorities – and a debating area, where issues of local interest can be discussed through either workshops or forums.
8. This format would allow for market place activity and debates or workshops to happen simultaneously, giving residents more freedom to take part in the activity that interests them. Workshops or debates could take place over the course of the event with breaks in between to encourage movement and mingling.

We will be inviting representatives from our key partners to present their actions and develop workshop activity. We would also look to involve local community groups in the activities and therefore create a larger base for attracting residents to the event.

Publicity

9. The promotion of the event is crucial to the success of the event. Several possibilities for publicity include:
- Leaflets – sent to everyone on community and residents mailing lists and every school child in area
 - Probation services can leaflet drop a targeted area. One suggestion is targeting areas which will be interested in particular debates.
 - Posters and flyers in local shops.
 - E-flyer to Leeds Voice. VAL and Community Cascade to send out on their mailing list
 - Banners – one banner for each ward to be put up outside the venue
 - Ask community groups attending to invite their associates and members along
 - Partners mailing lists – we should be encouraging partners attending to try to get their associates to attend

Chapel Allerton

10. The event in Chapel Allerton will take place on Saturday 14th March between 12 and 2pm at a venue near both Chapel Allerton and Chapeltown, such as the Polish Centre. A possible subject for the workshop/debating area is employment and Leeds Chamber of Commerce have already shown an interest in helping to run a workshop on this topic.

Moortown

11. The event in Moortown will take place on Tuesday 3rd March at a central venue, possible Carr Manor School or Stainbeck Church.

Roundhay

12. The event in Roundhay is currently planned to take place on Wednesday 25th March at Roundhay School (this is currently subject to change depending on members and the venue's availability). Possible issues to be discussed in workshops or debates include Old Park Road parking, SEC Lighting, crime prevention methods and the Mansion.

Recommendations

13. The Area Committee is requested to note the contents of this report and support the proposals for the spring community engagement events.