

Report of the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods

North West Outer Area Committee

Date: 16th February 2009

Subject: Community Engagement: Calendar of Events

<p>Electoral Wards Affected: Guiseley & Rawdon Horsforth Otley & Yeadon</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ward Members consulted</p>	<p>Specific Implications For:</p> <p>Equality and Diversity <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Community Cohesion <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Narrowing the Gap <input type="checkbox"/></p>	
<p>Council Function <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Delegated Executive Function available for Call In <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Delegated Executive Function not available for Call In Details set out in the report <input type="checkbox"/></p>

Executive Summary

In November 2008, the Area Committee explored a framework for community engagement activities for Outer North West Leeds in 2009 and at its December meeting agreed how it would like to pursue this. This report sets out a proposed calendar of neighbourhood and community based events for the approval of the Area Committee. The calendar aims to introduce new ideas for reaching a wider sector of the community.

Purpose of this report

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the approval of Members for a timetable of events which will enable the Area Committee, with the support of the Area Management Team, to implement a calendar of communication and engagement activities.

Background

2. The Council's Executive Board has delegated responsibility for community engagement to the Area Committees through the Area Function Schedule. Part of this responsibility requires the production of a local plan which includes a calendar of planned communication and engagement activities.
3. At the last Area Committee meeting, members agreed to explore the suggestion of holding local community events. In the wards where there are already community

forums it is suggested that these events could be held at the forums. In those wards without a forum they will be advertised as widely as possible to relevant community groups, organisations and individuals. The events will enable local residents to identify local priorities and help to formulate any revisions to the Area Delivery Plan that may be needed.

Calendar of Planned Engagement Events in Outer North West Leeds

4. The existing **Community Forums** held in Guiseley & Rawdon and Yeadon will be held on a quarterly basis in their respective localities. The agendas will continue to be relevant and reflect community interests by looking at specific issues and discreet projects, such as youth provision, community greenspace, community centres, local health provision or public transport, which past experience suggests will attract greater numbers of attendees and involvement by residents.
5. It is proposed to hold three events in Spring 2009, in three of the four wards. It is hoped that a wide range of issues will be raised at these events, through discussions between residents, ward members and service delivery partners.
6. The events will be held from 3.00-7.00pm in accessible venues and will have a 'marketplace style' layout that will include stands reflecting the ADP themes, including Jobs and Skills, Environment, Community Safety, Older People & Health, Children and Young People. Key partners will be invited to display information about what they do and each service will be able to consult visitors on their key priorities to help assist in the implementation of the Leeds Strategic Plan and the Outer North West Area Delivery Plan in 2009/10.
7. The Area Management Team will prepare a stand which displays information about projects that have been funded by the Area Committee and with which the Area Management Team have been closely involved, for example the Town and District Centre Regeneration Schemes in Otley & Yeadon, community centre developments and activities and other local schemes. Attendees will be able to leave comments using a Post-it board or face-to-face discussions at the themed stands.
8. It is important to attract as many people as possible to these events to ensure a representative range of views are heard from all parts of the community especially, for instance, young people.
9. The following table summarises the planned calendar of events for 2009.

January - March	April - June	July - September	October - December
Community Forums			
Jan: Guiseley & Rawdon March: Yeadon	April: Guiseley & Rawdon June: Yeadon	July: Guiseley & Rawdon Sept: Yeadon	Nov: Guiseley & Rawdon Dec: Yeadon
Community Engagement Events			
Mar 10 Horsforth	Apr 1: Guiseley & Rawdon Apr 25: Yeadon		

Implications for Council policy and governance

Equality and diversity considerations

10. A key element of the Council's Equality and Diversity Scheme 2008 – 2011 states that Leeds is a city that values the contributions of all the people of Leeds and actively engages with all our diverse communities.
11. Equality monitoring, designed to ensure that we are reaching all sectors of the community and that barriers to participation in engagement activities are addressed, will include:
 - ensuring that effective promotion of community engagement activities targets all equality groups, plus other socially excluded communities, e.g. people reliant on state benefits or excluded because of education or skills levels;
 - assessing what barriers people may face in, for example, accessing services or getting their opinions heard;
 - annual monitoring of regular forums and networks through a standard monitoring form for completion by attendees;
 - use of a standard voluntary feedback and equality monitoring form at public events.

Legal and resource implications

12. There are no legal implications arising from this report.
13. The Area Management Team will be responsible for organizing and co-ordinating community engagement activities and equality monitoring under the direction of the Area Committee. Costs associated with holding forums and community events will be met from the Well-being Fund.

Recommendations

The Area Committee is requested to comment on and approve the calendar of communication and engagement activities for Outer North West Leeds in 2009.

Background Papers

none