



Report of the East North East Area Manager

Inner North East Area Committee

Date: 16th March 2009

Subject: Environmental Action Teams and Streetscene Services

Electoral Wards Affected:

Roundhay
Chapel Allerton
Moortown

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Council
Function

Delegated Executive
Function available
for Call In

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

Executive Summary

This report provides a response to issues raised by councillors at the February Area Committee in relation to papers presented on the Environmental Action Teams and Streetscene Services.

Senior officers from the services will be present to go through their responses and answer any further questions that may arise.

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to provide a response to the Area Committee on issues raised and clarification that was sought in relation to reports presented to the February Area Committee by Environmental Action Teams and Street Scene Services. It was resolved at the February Area Committee that representatives from the departments be invited to the March Area Committee and present feedback to members to facilitate this. Appendices 1 and 2 presented with this report provide the information requested by members.

Background Information

2. A report was submitted to the February Area Committee covering the roles of the **Environmental Action Teams**. From this report it was agreed that:
 - ✓ The existing Monthly Ward Member Meetings organised by Area Management be used as the mechanism for engagement/consultation with Councillors by the EAT (Area Management to circulate the list of dates for 2009).
 - ✓ Councillor Lobley agreed as the Area Committee's Environmental champion to sit on any potential area-based environmental partnership
 - ✓ The Area Committee's existing community engagement framework is used as the mechanism for local service consultation and planning with residents – e.g. the ward planning/action/celebrating cycle events.
 - ✓ The Area Delivery Plan provides the mechanism for agreeing the area's priorities at the beginning of the year and for monitoring performance against relevant strategic outcomes/indicators for which the EAT are the lead
 - ✓ The Area Committee receives a bi-annual report on specific EAT service delivery/outputs
3. Additional queries and points were raised in relation to the need for flexibility in setting some service priorities at Area Committee level and not across an area covering several Area Committees.
4. Also the Area Committee felt that, whilst internally it may be of use to have a risk and impact grid, the reality was that they expected the service to be flexible to the needs of the local area and the local hot issues. They requested that ward members be used more for highlighting problems which don't seem to be addressed rather than setting the working pattern of the staff for their daily work.
5. It was also suggested that the role of tasking meetings should be better exploited as a way of using local intelligence, linking with members and utilising partner resources to support Area Delivery Plan outcomes around cleaner neighbourhoods etc.
6. Appendix 1 provides the response to these issues.
7. A further report was submitted to the February Area Committee covering the roles of **Streetscene Services**. From this report it was agreed that:

- ✓ The existing Monthly Ward Member Meetings organised by Area Management be used as the mechanism for engagement/consultation with Councillors by Streetscene (Area Management to circulate the list of dates for 2009).
- ✓ Councillor Lobley agreed as the Area Committee's Environmental champion to sit on any potential area-based environmental partnership
- ✓ The Area Committee's existing community engagement framework is used as the mechanism for local service consultation and planning with residents – e.g. the ward planning/action/celebrating cycle events.
- ✓ The Area Delivery Plan provides the mechanism for agreeing the area's priorities at the beginning of the year and for monitoring performance against relevant strategic outcomes/indicators for which Street scene are the lead
- ✓ The Area Committee receives a bi-annual report on specific Streetscene service delivery/outputs.

8. The Area Committee raised concerns and queries relating to the methods used for recording and gathering data relating to NI 195 and information provided in the report and requested feedback from Streetscene services along with representation to the next area committee to discuss these issues including:

- How is the data gathered for NI195 – what is actually being said in the report – is it being said that the way it is currently being measured across the city does not allow for meaningful disaggregation down to ward or Area Committee level? If so, what is being suggested as an alternative – resident satisfaction and how would that be gathered?
- When realistically will the Area Committee have the baseline in place and how can this be checked and challenged?

9. Appendix 2 provides response to these matters.

Recommendations

10. The Area Committee is requested to:

- (a) note the content of this report and responses made to the questions raised at the February meeting as set out in Appendix A and B.
- (b) Agree the reporting procedures and local targets proposed by the services.

Background Papers

- Area Committee Report: Relationship and Reporting Between Health & Environmental Actions Service, Including Environmental Action Teams and Area Committees (February 2009)
- Area Committee Report: Relationship and Reporting between Street Scene Services and Area Committees (February 2009)
- Minutes of the Inner North East Area Committee, February 2009