



Report of the Environment and Neighbourhoods Regeneration Service

Inner North West Area Committee

Date: 25th February 2010

Subject: Neighbourhood Index

Electoral Wards Affected:

ALL

Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

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 members with a brief as to what the Neighbourhood Index is, and how it can be used to better understand the demographic of, and the issues facing, the individual neighbourhoods throughout the city.

1.0 Purpose Of This Report

1.1 The purpose of the report is to inform members of how and why the Neighbourhood Index was developed, and the area profile information for the inner North West area.

2.0 Background Information

2.1 The City Council has worked with partner organisations to develop an enhanced area profiling system at the neighbourhood level.

2.2 The result of this work is the production of a "Neighbourhood Index" for the city, which provides the Council and its partners with a robust evidence base by which to plan service interventions and to begin to identify and guide resources into the areas of greatest need.

- 2.3 It contributes to a more sophisticated understanding of the problems and issues facing local communities, the people in those communities, and provides a framework to bench mark progress in key neighbourhoods and communities.

3.0 What is the Neighbourhood Index

- 3.1 The Neighbourhood Index is a tool which brings together a wealth of information that paints a broad picture of an area and helps to describe local conditions. It is a multiple domain and indicator based system that measures outcomes rather than activities and inputs, and which can be used to measure the general “health” and the relative success of neighbourhoods across the city.
- 3.2 The aim has been to provide a framework for the exchange, analysis and sharing of information amongst partners/ project deliverers/ local communities that:
- Can consistently gather, collate, analyse and present information about neighbourhoods
 - Can identify areas of need and analyse relevant data on the critical issues facing target neighbourhoods.
 - Provides an agreed mechanism for reporting progress in neighbourhoods and in particular target areas, and that monitors success in meeting targets.
- 3.3 The index is constructed from 26 indicators that have been grouped into the following seven domains:
- Economic activity
 - Low income
 - Education
 - Health
 - Community Safety
 - Environment
 - Housing

5.0 How the Neighbourhood Index can be used

- 5.1 The Neighbourhood Index has been developed as a means of using small area data to increase the understanding of some of the key issues that impact on the City’s communities and neighbourhoods. Although it is just one tool in the “strategic intelligence tool-box” it is hoped that it will contribute to a more sophisticated understanding of the problems and issues facing local communities and the people in those communities, and provide a framework to benchmark progress in key neighbourhoods over time.
- 5.2 It is anticipated that the neighbourhood Index could be used to:
- Provide a focus for the ‘narrowing the gap’ agenda, seeking to narrow the gap between the richer and poorer areas of the city.
 - Identify the critical issues facing neighbourhoods and help determine the priorities for inclusion in Area Delivery Plans
 - Help measure the impact of interventions and to monitor the change over time in neighbourhoods.
 - Help inform the commissioning of services and make the case for changes in service delivery in neighbourhoods

- Support funding bids
- Initiate other detailed studies and research programmes.

6.0 Standard Outputs

- 6.1 The Index brings together large amounts of data from a variety of sources and uses GIS technology to create profiles of individual neighbourhoods. In addition to these area profiles, the standard outputs also include:
- an Annual Report which provides a summary of the headline results
 - set of city-wide maps (Atlas of Local Conditions)
 - set of tables showing the comparative position of neighbourhoods across the range of indicators and within each domain
- 6.2 In future years the standard outputs will also include reports showing change over time, on either a geographic or thematic base that will provide the basis for any trend analysis work.

7.0 Appendices

- 7.1 A more in-depth report is available in the presentation 'Leeds Neighbourhood Index' which is appended.
- 7.2 Appendix 2 provides the Neighbourhood Index data for the inner North West.

8.0 Recommendations

- 8.1 Councilors are asked to note the contents of this report, and refer the data in Appendix 2 to the relevant sub groups to inform discussions on work programmes.

Background papers:

Appendix 1 – Neighbourhood Index presentation

Appendix 2 – Inner North West Neighbourhood Index