

**Report of ENE Area Leader**

**Report to Inner East Area Committee**

**Date: 6<sup>th</sup> September 2012**

**Subject: Area Update Report**

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Gipton & Harehills, Burmantofts & Richmond Hill, Killingbeck & Seacroft	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

**Summary of main issues**

1. This report provides Members with recommendations from its sub groups and has minutes attached
2. The report also invites the Area Committee to nominate a representative to sit on the city wide Corporate Carers Group.
3. It gives members an update on community engagement activity across the Inner East and provides key messages on work being carried out which is pertinent to the priorities of the Area Committee.

**Recommendations**

4. That Members note the contents of the report and where appropriate make a nomination for the Inner East Area Committee Corporate Carer Group representative.

## **1 Purpose of this report**

- 1.1** To provide members with an overview of the work being carried out to address Area Committee priorities
- 1.2** To ask members to nominate a Corporate Carer Group representative for the Inner East.

## **2 Background information**

- 2.1** At its meeting in June 2012 the Area Committee agreed to holding four sub groups to assist in carrying out Area Committee business. Membership was agreed to be one member of each ward sitting on each sub group, officers are invited to advise as appropriate.

The Environmental Sub Group and Community Centres Working Group are established and run 6 yearly following the Area Committee cycle. At the June meeting it was also agreed to implement a Planning and a Health & Wellbeing sub group, these groups have yet to meet.

- 2.2** In 2010-11 a new Community Engagement Strategy was approved and adopted by the Area Committee; prior to this the Community Engagement Strategy was based around holding three community events per year in each ward.

The new approach was adopted to address concerns regarding the number of residents attending events and the volume of resource required to facilitate the events. It was recognised that new approaches and methods of engagement were required to ensure that a true representation of the local community was achieved.

The new engagement strategy adopted in 2010 included the development of a "community leadership team" for each priority neighbourhood. This is to help provide that facility and support residents' civic role within their neighbourhood. A revised version of this strategy was approved by the Inner East Area Committee as part of its 2012-13 Business Plan in March 2012.

- 2.3** As part of its Business Plan the Inner East Area Committee promotes a partnership approach to neighbourhood improvement. In line with this a number of locality and theme based working groups exist across the Inner East, concentrating on combining resources to achieve best value for money and the most effective service to local residents.

## **3 Main Issues**

### **3.1 Sub Groups**

At its meeting in June 2012 the Inner East Area Committee agreed membership of a number of sub groups to make recommendations for progress against key headings in the Area Committee work plan. The headings below contain updates on the work carried out by these sub groups.

### 3.1.1 Environmental Sub Group

The sub group met on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2012. Main agenda items were progress made against Environmental Improvement Zones, the way in which EIZ updates would be reported to members, and derelict site developments. Minutes are appended at **Appendix A**.

### 3.1.2 Community Centres Working Group

The working group met on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2012. Main issues discussed were IT provision in all centres and the futures of both Nowell Mount Community Centre, and South Gipton Community Centre. Further detail regarding the working groups recommendations on IT infrastructure are at 3.3.2. Full minutes are appended at **Appendix B**.

### 3.1.3 Health & Wellbeing sub group

Discussions are under way to hold an inaugural meeting with the intention of meeting 6 yearly following the Area Committee cycle.

### 3.1.4 Corporate Carer

Under the Children's Act 1989, all local Councillors are corporate parents (usually referred to as corporate carers in Leeds), this means they have responsibilities relating to the quality of services for those children who have been taken into care by the local authority (looked after children). In July 2006 the Council's Executive Board agreed a clearer framework for the corporate carer role in Leeds. This included establishing a core group of councillors with a special interest in leading the work on Corporate Parenting - the 'Corporate Carer' group.

This core group includes representation from each of the 10 Area Committees in the city and takes particular responsibilities relating to influencing, performance monitoring, and governance of those issues and outcomes that affect looked after children. The group meet approximately once a month (though the regularity of these meetings is under review and may become bi-monthly) and consider information including fostering services, residential care, looked after children's educational attainment and their voice and influence across the city.

Representatives are asked to link back to local looked after children's issues through their Area Committee and champion the importance of effectively supporting those children.

At its meeting in June, the Inner East Area Committee nominated Councillor Vonnie Morgan as the Area Committee lead on the Area Children's partnership, but specific reference was not made to the Corporate Carers group. The Area Committee is asked to appoint one representative to the Corporate Carers Group for the remainder of the municipal year.

## 3.2 **Community Engagement**

In line with the Inner East Area Committee Community Engagement Strategy, the section below provides members with an update on work carried out to engage residents in their local neighbourhood.

### 3.2.1 Chapelton & Harehills Forum

A new forum has been established to promote community cohesion within and between the communities of Chapelton & Harehills. It was launched in May with a well attended and lively meeting and a further meeting took place in July. Key actions agreed by the forum are to focus on joint youth and community activities, and a women's group which would bring together women from across both communities to share their skills & interests and explore & celebrate cultural differences. Currently a future role for the forum is being considered including governance arrangements and opportunities for positive partnership working.

### 3.2.2 Burmantofts Neighbourhood Improvement Board

The inaugural meeting was held on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2012 with Cllr Gruen as the Chair and Cllr Khan as Co Chair, it was well attended. The purpose of the NIB is to forge an effective working approach between local Councillors, statutory organisations voluntary sector and the local community to deliver sustainable change for local people living in the NIB area. An action plan for the NIB will be drawn up by the Neighbourhood Manager in advance of the next meeting to be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> September.

### 3.2.3 Seacroft CLT

At its meeting in August, the CLT voted for Rod Manners to be elected Seacroft Cooptee to the Area Committee.

## 3.3 **Key Messages**

Updates are provided below on any significant developments made, or proposed, which are pertinent to the priorities of the Area Committee.

### 3.3.1 Inner East Worklessness Group

The Area Support team are currently pulling together data on the worklessness situation within priority neighbourhoods in the Inner East. This information will be used to inform an outcome based accountability workshop in October involving a range of partners and resulting in a clear and focused action plan to address worklessness in this area. It will also take into account joint work currently being undertaken by Area Support Team, Childrens Services, and Employment & Skills, initiated by the Area Leadership Team, to reduce numbers of young people who are not in employment, education or training.

### 3.3.2 IT provision in Community Centres.

Inner East Community Centres Working Group are keen to ensure as many community centres as possible have IT available for new and current users. This is particularly important due to the low levels of home computer ownership in Inner East Leeds and the Welfare Reform changes coming into force, whereby people will have to claim benefits online. Members are also keen to increase the number of sessions and support for local people to get back into jobs and training across the area and provision of computers would help with this.

An exercise has been undertaken to assess which facilities already have IT infrastructure in place. From this work, the Community Centres Working Group have selected a number of centres which they'd like to prioritise for installation of IT:

#### **First Phase**

- South Gipton Community Centre (new facility, due to open this month)
- Kentmere Community Centre
- **Second Phase**
- Henry Barran Community Centre
- Crossgates Community Centre

There are already IT connections in some of these centres which may need upgrading. Burmantofts & Richmond Hill already have Richmond Hill Community Centre with a fully functioning IT suite and Lincoln Green Community Centre is in the process of having the IT re-instated at the facility. Ebor Gardens will be looked at separately at a later date. There are no plans to install IT at either Alston Lane or Nowell Mount Community Centres. This will be reviewed once the first and second phases of IT installation are completed.

It is proposed that LCC Corporate ICT Services are commissioned to carry out full site surveys on the centres above and provide costings to make IT fully functioning. It will be requested that LLN and LCC network connections are installed as part of any work undertaken at the facilities. It is suggested that a joint proposal for funding is developed for a contribution from Inner East Area Committee and the relevant ENEHL Area Panel to support the installation of the IT systems. Members need to be aware that there may be costs associated with the surveys being carried out and would have to cover such charges even if they decide not to proceed with full IT installation at the sites.

## **4 Corporate Considerations**

### **4.1 Consultation and Engagement**

- 4.1.4 In each other the priority neighbourhoods, there are a range of different community engagement and consultation methods being employed. In Gipton and Seacroft area, a Community Leadership Team is the main community involvement mechanism in place. Harehills priority neighbourhood links with the community via the Chapeltown & Harehills Forum. In terms of Burmantofts & Richmond Hill, two community forums have been operational, a Community Leadership Team is forming and residents are involved in the Burmantofts Neighbourhood Improvement Board. These collectives have been directly involved in the priority setting for the current priorities we are working towards as part of the Neighbourhood Improvement Plans, which in turn link into the Area Committee Business Plans and Charter priorities.

### **4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration**

- 4.2.1 An equality screening document was completed as part of the development of; Neighbourhood Improvement Plans; 'Local Management Teams' which are a central function of the officer working groups; and Community Leadership Teams.

### **4.3 Council policies and City Priorities**

- 4.3.1 The priorities of the Area Committee Business Plan directly link into the council 'Best City' priorities for Leeds

#### **4.4 Resources and value for money**

- 4.4.1 The Team Neighbourhood approach brings a range of services together to utilise officer resources more effectively on tackling key neighbourhood issues
- 4.4.2 In order to achieve priorities, funding sources will be joined up together as far as possible to maximise the way in which funding is invested on local priorities

#### **4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In**

- 4.5.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report.
- 4.5.2 There is no exempt or confidential information
- 4.5.3 In line with the Council's Executive and Decision Making Procedure Rules, agreed at Full Council May 2012, all decisions taken by Area Committees are not eligible for Call In

#### **4.6 Risk Management**

- 4.6.4 There are no major risks associated with the content of this report.

### **5 Conclusions**

- 5.1 As highlighted above, there are a number of actions ongoing to achieve Area Committee priorities and fulfil its work programme, but despite this, the Area Support Team recognises that there is still a significant amount of work to be done to achieve the Area Committee priorities. Therefore this report will be a regular item at the Inner East Area Committee to update you of progress.

### **6 Recommendations**

- 6.1 Inner East Area Committee are asked to note the contents of this report and comment as appropriate.

### **7 Background documents<sup>1</sup>**

- 7.1 Minutes of the 21<sup>st</sup> June 2012 Area Committee
- 7.2 Minutes of 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2012 Area Committee

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<sup>1</sup> The background documents listed in this section are available for inspection on request for a period of four years following the date of the relevant meeting. Accordingly this list does not include documents containing exempt or confidential information, or any published works. Requests to inspect any background documents should be submitted to the report author.