

**Report of East North East Area Leader**

**Report to Inner North East Area Committee**

**Date: 15<sup>th</sup> October 2012**

**Subject: Future Approaches to Priority Neighbourhoods**

Are specific electoral Wards affected?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Chapel Allerton, Moortown and Roundhay		
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input checked="" 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?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:		

**Summary of main issues**

1. This report considers the progress made in relation to the priority neighbourhoods in the inner north east since the implementation of the new approaches in 2010.
2. Regular reports have been made to the Area Committee on progress on the neighbourhood improvement plans (NIP), demonstrating work undertaken and in roads into issues in neighbourhoods, a flavour of these are highlighted below.
3. A suggested future direction and focus of attention for the Neighbourhood Manager for inner north east is included and the report seeks Area Committee approval to extend the contract of the Neighbourhood Manager in the area for a further 2 years using Wellbeing funds from 2013/14 and 2014/15, subject to the availability of funds.

**Recommendations**

4. Note the content of this report and the achievements made in the priority neighbourhoods in inner north east.
5. Members are asked to consider the extension of the Neighbourhood Managers contract further two years from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015, subject to availability of funds, with a report provided at the December Area Committee with cost implications for the Well Being Fund if supported.
6. Approve the priority neighbourhoods being proposed for Inner North East from 2013/14

## **1 Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 This report seeks to extend the funding for the Neighbourhood Manager role within the inner north east for a further two years from April 2013 when the current funding approval and contract expires.
- 1.2 Regular progress reports have been provided to the Area Committee as set out in the background papers, this report highlights some of the successes within the priority neighbourhoods since the Area Committee began funding the post in 2010.
- 1.3 To agree the future focus for the work of the Neighbourhood Manager.

## **2 Background information**

- 2.1 A report was presented to the Area Committee in October 2009 setting out the vision for the future direction and focus for priority neighbourhoods and seeking funding of a Neighbourhood Manager for three years following the end of Safer, Stronger Communities Fund (SSCF) funding.
- 2.2 The aspiration was to embed a jointly owned and coordinated neighbourhood management service in our most deprived neighbourhoods and for the Neighbourhood Manager to lead a new 'team' approach to the management of the neighbourhood.
- 2.3 A key objective of the Neighbourhood Manager role is to build on the 'Team Neighbourhood' approach in neighbourhoods and support the leadership roles of Councillors. The background papers show the journey, achievements and successes but more needs to be done to provide long term solutions within the priority neighbourhoods.
- 2.4 The current funding period ends on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013 so it is now appropriate to consider future approaches, priority neighbourhoods and funding.

## **3 Main issues**

- 3.1 Significant progress has been made in Meanwood, Chapeltown and Stonegates estate since 2010 following the end of SSCF funding, regular reports have been provided to the Area Committee as set out in the background documents, but some of the key achievements are set out below.

### **Stonegates:**

- 3.2 The Stonegates estate was not originally included as a priority neighbourhood; however it was identified by local members as a problem due to anti social behaviour (ASB) causing tension in the local community.
- 3.3 Work was undertaken by the neighbourhood manager to draw together agencies and provide a coordinated programme of action to tackle the issues. This work has resulted in an 80% reduction in ASB in the last year.

- 3.4 One of the major benefits is the Guidance and Support model that was developed as part of the work is the close relationships developed has enabled both enforcement and support agencies to work together delivering solutions in a restorative way (high challenge, high support). The improved integrated working has provided learning which can be replicated in other areas.
- 3.5 The model of working has been nominated for Partnership of the year award for West Yorkshire Police after the results have indicated a decrease in ASB of over 80% between summer 2011 and 2012 are compared. This is supported by surveys of residents and anecdotal information from frontline staff who report that the area is improved.

### **Meanwood**

- 3.6 The setting up of the facility at Beckhill House (facilitated by the Neighbourhood Manager) has enabled a number of partnership initiatives to be delivered in the heart of the Beckhill estate. These have included the youth sessions and the Giz a Job project being delivered from the centre as well as drop in sessions for families; leading to successes across a range of services for children and families on the estate, particularly engagement with the hard to reach.
- 3.7 The Meanwood Community Leadership Team (CLT) is now set up and running although there is some work to be completed recruiting additional membership and embedding this with the Management Team (Beckhill Implementation Group or BIG). Given that the management team and preventative tasking are also in place the team neighbourhood model can now be considered fully operational within the Meanwood area.
- 3.8 Illegal loan sharks are a particular concern in this area so one major piece of work planned for the autumn is to work with Trading Standards to improve training for frontline staff and start a publicity campaign to inform residents of the issue and encourage reporting.
- 3.9 Environmental issues within Meanwood continue to improve although monitoring is required to ensure that fly tipping and vegetation cutting back is completed effectively. A meeting has been arranged between ENEHL and ENE Street scene Locality Team to ensure that there is no evidence of fly tipping being removed without processing. There have been a number of Fixed Penalties served and the issues have improved but additional work is still required to keep on top of it.
- 3.10 One of the major work areas in Meanwood has been around the employment and training sector. The Giz a Job project has proved successful with 7 residents being nominated into the project and over 50% finding employment following this. Work needs to continue to increase the number of referrals to the scheme.
- 3.11 The Crime and ASB impacts since May 2010 have been similarly positive with an overall reduction of crime of 43% and ASB of 63%. This is due in the main to the improvements in partnership working and an intelligence led approach to identification and punitive action of the individuals responsible and from improving the links between the various agencies to provide a greater range and effectiveness of interventions.

- 3.12 Neighbourhood Index has showed an overall improvement since the 2009 baseline (rising 2 places and scoring significantly higher) and in particular environmental improvement (with significant improvement in 2011 and now above the city average), Economic activity (which has risen steadily year on year) and school absenteeism (which saw a significant decrease in 2011). It is also envisaged that the community safety data will improve following a blip in 2011 given the information in 3.10.

### **Chapelton**

- 3.13 Chapelton continues to be an area of concern in relation to community relations and the links to Harehills, with a need to greater links to address community cohesion. The Neighbourhood Manager has undertaken significant work in building relations with community leaders which proved invaluable in building bridges to take the work around the Chapelton and Harehills forum forward.
- 3.14 Work has commenced regarding tackling nuisance sites, the Sikh and former Hindu Mandir through the derelict properties group alongside the Jyoti which has been managed and construction is nearing completion.
- 3.15 The Neighbourhood Manager played a significant role in funding, siting and resolving the barriers to the installation of new CCTV cameras in key locations in the Chapelton area.
- 3.16 The priority work in the last six months has been around encouraging agencies to develop work around the employment and training agenda within Chapelton. There have been positives within this including; a full Service Level Agreement developed between UNITY Enterprise and CYDC relating to the Uhuru project, Unity are now funded to deliver sessions and receive referrals from ENEHL tenants in addition to their own (which means the two largest housing providers within Chapelton are now able to refer their tenants in the programme).
- 3.17 Environmentally there has been some success relating to the new Environmental Improvement Zones initiative being progressed through the ENE localities Team. There are three zones within the Chapelton and Scott Hall neighbourhood with evaluation on the initial zone (Savilles / Mexborough) expected shortly. The second area is the Granges / Hamiltons area with work expected to start on this in October 2012 and will form part of the strategy around bonfire night
- 3.18 Over the past two years partnership approaches have been applied to the prevention of ASB on Bonfire night and surrounding period, this has seen significant successes with a reduction in incidents and increase in positive engagement with young people.
- 3.19 The Team neighbourhood model is now almost complete with the major gap remaining around engagement with the community. There is a piece of work around the joint Chapelton and Harehills forum which is being developed at this time and offers an opportunity to provide this function. The remaining elements of the model are now in place and operating effectively.

- 3.20 The Neighbourhood Index in Chapeltown is not as positive as the Meanwood information and illustrates that Chapeltown has a greater range of issues and requires more sustained working before significant improvements become visible. Overall the Neighbourhood Index ranking has remained low and increases in 2011 are as much that other areas have deteriorated more than Chapeltown. There have been improvements however with Community Safety continuing to improve and economic activity showing signs of improvement in 2011. In addition, educational attainment (although well below the city average) improved significantly in 2011 and the major health issue within Chapeltown (Infant Mortality) has also shown a significant improvement over the last 3 years.

### **Suggested Future Management of Priority Neighbourhoods**

- 3.21 It is suggested that for the coming two years that the focus of the priority neighbourhoods within inner north east are reviewed and a shift is made to work in the areas where most needed.
- 3.22 **Chapeltown** remains a key focus area of work and it is suggested that it remains to be so for the coming period, building on the work of the Neighbourhood Manager forging relationships, will support maintaining the momentum of the Chapeltown and Harehills forum and support community representatives to build community cohesion.
- 3.23 Work to address employment, income deprivation, and challenging derelict sites will continue to be a focus for the future and the Neighbourhood Manager will take this work forward considering future sustainability and facilitating the creation of sustainable communities.
- 3.24 It is suggested that given the progress made in the **Meanwood** and **Stonegates** estates that steps have been made to create a sustainable model that can now be maintained through the structures and processes that are in place so it is suggested that the Neighbourhood Manager maintains a watching brief to ensure that these are sustained and improved upon.
- 3.25 Focus will be maintained on the **Stonegates** and **Meanwood**, but due to improved partnership infrastructure that can keep things moving in a positive direction capacity for the Neighbourhood Manager to focus on other geographical areas within inner north east can be created. It is suggested that the **Brackenwoods** and **Queenshills** are included within the remit of the Neighbourhood Manager with consideration of programmes of intervention/support to maximise opportunities and tackle issues.
- 3.26 Whilst the Brackenwoods and Queenshills areas statistically do not show the same level of need as Meanwood and Chapeltown, the infrastructure in place to support the needs of these neighbourhoods and prevent them from slipping down the neighbourhood index ranking is not strong and would benefit from focussed attention.
- 3.27 One of the major elements of the Neighbourhood Manager role is to develop and improve the partnerships between agencies working at a local level and to improve the overall infrastructure to alter working practises and improve overall

performance. It is this infrastructure which has brought about improvements and it is recommended that the 'team' approach and infrastructure be considered for the above neighbourhoods in INE to bring similar improvements.

- 3.28 It is timely to consider the approaches and ensure that sustainable solutions are implemented within all of the priority neighbourhoods given the challenging economic times that we are in and there is an increasing need to us to do more for less. By building partnerships with front line staff and the residents through 'Team Neighbourhood' approach we have achieved significant improvements e.g. and 80% reduction in ASB on the Stonegates Estate and provided a foundation for further work.

## **4 Corporate Considerations**

### **4.1 Consultation and Engagement**

- 4.1.1 Consultation is undertaken through the community leadership team and forum meetings enabling residents and Elected Members to influence the priorities and work of the Neighbourhood Manager.
- 4.1.2 Through the Neighbourhood Improvement Plans the work is monitored and progress reported.
- 4.1.3 The Chapel Allerton Community first panel has been set up and is working around the allocation of funding provided for Chapel Allerton by the Community Development Foundation (CDF). The group is made up of residents and business representatives from across the ward and has proved very successful in both developing the members on the panel and in spending the funding allocation.

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

- 4.2.4 Equality and Diversity are monitored through the Neighbourhood Improvement Plans and in identifying inequalities and looking to resolve these, this information forms a crucial part of all work in priority neighbourhoods.

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

- 4.3.1 The work in the priority neighbourhoods links directly to the priorities set out in the vision for Leeds and the City Business Plan

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

- 4.4.2 This project looks to better integrate and streamline existing resources creating an integrated approach to issues with associated improvements in value for money.

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

- 4.5.3 In line with the Council's Executive and Decision Making Procedure Rules, all decisions taken by Area Committees are not eligible for Call In.

## **4.6 Risk Management**

4.6.1 Not applicable in this instance.

## **5 Conclusions**

5.1 The approach being taken in both the Meanwood and Chapeltown priority neighbourhoods is working and progress is being made. In particular, the work in Meanwood is proving successful and popular with both residents and partners. It is suggested that if the Area Committee extend the funding for the Neighbourhood Manager for a further two years it will enable further work to be undertaken to replicate the model in additional neighbourhoods in the inner north east.

## **6 Recommendations**

6.1 Note the content of this report and the achievements made in the priority neighbourhoods in inner north east.

6.2 Members are asked to consider the extension of the Neighbourhood Managers contract further two years from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015, subject to availability of funds, with a report provided at the December Area Committee with cost implications for the Well Being Fund if supported.

6.3 Approve the priority neighbourhoods being proposed for Inner North East from 2013/14

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

7.1 Priority Neighbourhoods – Building on the Intensive Neighbourhood Management Approach

7.2 Inner North East Area Committee Priority Neighbourhoods Update Reports:

- September 2012
- March 2012
- January 2012
- October 2011
- June 2011
- January 2011
- October 2010

---

<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.