

# **Appendix 1 – (Working with) Communities Board**

## **DRAFT Terms of Reference**

### **Purpose**

The purpose of the Communities Board is to provide strong and effective leadership, to support partnership work that takes action to deliver the aspirations of the Vision for Leeds. In particular, its key objectives are to join up activities to maximise outcomes, and to create a culture where partnership work in the interests of local people is built into the way all agencies, sectors and organisations act.

### **Strategic Leadership**

The board will lead the long-term strategy for the city for communities and co-ordinate the partnership actions to achieve the priorities in the city priority plan.

### **Accountability**

The Communities Board is not a separate legal entity. Each partner on the Board retains its own functions and responsibilities, for example for Leeds City Council – its role in the Board is accountable to the Leeds City Council Executive Board.

Strategic direction for the Board will be derived from the Vision for Leeds 2030. The Board provides a focus for the agreement of shared action between partners and constructive challenge to make sure that the partnership work improves outcomes. To meet this objective this board will also have a role to performance manage the delivery of the City Priority Plan Priorities for Communities.

### **Roles**

The chair will be the Executive Board Member for Neighbourhoods, Planning & Support Services.

The vice-chairs will be selected from the third sector members.

Executive accountability will be with Leeds City Council via the Assistant Chief Executive, Customer and Communities.

Servicing and support will be the responsibility of Leeds City Council

### **Responsibilities**

The Communities Board will:

- § lead the delivery of the communities themes in the Vision for Leeds and the City Priority Plan;
- § develop, deliver and report on an action plan to deliver the objectives in the city priority plan;
- § provide a framework within which partners may agree to commission services together, with pooled or aligned budgets;
- § act as an advocate for the contribution which these themes make to public policy and partnership working in the city, and support the culture and practice of partnership working;
- § develop and sponsor new activities, which support the aspirations of the Vision for Leeds for communities

- § tackle underperformance against the priorities and targets;
- § identify opportunities for greater efficiency, effectiveness and economy of delivery through a common approach and innovative solutions to areas of policy, planning, performance management, consultation, reporting and communication, resource allocation and delivery of services in the city and take action as appropriate;
- § evaluate the impact of interventions, capture learning and disseminate good practice across partners in the Leeds Initiative; and
- § influence local, regional and national government policy initiatives linked to these themes.

The Communities Board will have specific oversight of workstreams on:

- § The “Best City for Communities” development programme
- § Work on a citywide approach to community relations including maintaining links with the Safeguarding Communities work
- § The work of the Leeds Migration Partnership
- § Work with the Leeds Poverty Challenge
- § Agreement on the development of the current strands of work of the BME Challenge Forum and the work of the Gypsy Traveller and Roma Strategy Group
- § Links to the Area Leadership Teams to cement locality working to the working with communities agenda

### **Linkages**

This group is one of five Strategic Partnership Boards and together these bodies are responsible for the entire Vision for Leeds and the City Priority Plan. It has links to a wider network of partnerships, some of which it will commission to deliver areas of its agenda, and it will link with the agendas of other partnership boards, specifically the Safer Leeds Executive, Third Sector Partnership.

### **Equality and community engagement**

The board will have due regard to equality in all its activities, and will take steps to demonstrate it has consulted with communities appropriately in all its decisions.

### **Membership**

The membership of the group will be chosen to reflect a cross sector balance of expertise and knowledge in the following areas:

- § Black and minority ethnic communities
- § Community Development
- § Community participation
- § Community relations
- § Community safeguarding
- § Criminal justice or anti-social behaviour
- § Equalities law and practice
- § Faith communities
- § Giving or philanthropy
- § Gypsy or Traveller or Roma communities

- § Intercultural working
- § Intergenerational working
- § Local community action
- § Migrant communities
- § Public communications
- § Public health
- § Volunteering

The cross sector balance will reflect all relevant sectors to the agenda, specifically including:

- § Elected members
- § Community sector
- § Further or Higher education sector
- § Health and wellbeing
- § Housing
- § Locality working
- § Police
- § Third sector

### **Officers in attendance**

Officers from Leeds City Council and other partners will be invited to attend the board at the discretion of the Chair. Their role will include advising the group, preparing agendas, minutes, reports and briefings for the Board, and following up actions arising from discussions and decisions made by the board.

### **Openness**

Meetings are not open to the public, but papers, agendas and minutes will be published on the Leeds City Council website promptly. A forward plan of meetings will be published on the Leeds City Council website.

These Terms of Reference were agreed:

**Date:**

**Signed:**

**XXX Chair, Communities Board**