



Report to Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee

Report of: Janet Sharpe (Interim Director of Housing & Neighbourhood Services)

Subject: Local Area Partnerships and Community Engagement

Author of Report: Martin Hughes, Locality Team Manager
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Summary:

Following a request from a member of the public at the last meeting of the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee, this report sets out what community engagement activity the Locality Management Team and Councillors have lead on in their wards and with the Local Area Partnerships

Type of item: The report author should tick the appropriate box

Reviewing of existing policy	
Informing the development of new policy	
Statutory consultation	
Performance / budget monitoring report	
Cabinet request for scrutiny	
Full Council request for scrutiny	
Community Assembly request for scrutiny	
Call-in of Cabinet decision	
Briefing paper for the Scrutiny Committee	X
Other	

The Scrutiny Committee is being asked to:

Acknowledge the report and provide any comments.

Background Papers:

None

Category of Report: OPEN

Report of the - Director of Housing and Neighbourhood Services

Title of report - Local Area Partnerships and Community Engagement

1. Introduction/Context

- 1.1 Following a request from a member of the public at the last meeting of the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee, this report sets out what community engagement activity the Locality Management Team and Councillors have lead on in their wards and with the Local Area Partnerships

2. Main body of report, matters for consideration, etc

- 2.1 The new model of locality based working was adopted by cabinet in July 2013. This encouraged Councillors to take the lead on engaging communities within their ward and ensure services deliverers are responding to local priorities and issues. Part of that process has been to establish a named Councillor for each ward to act as a first point of contact
- 2.2 The new model was launched in September 2013 and has been in operation for 14 months. It focuses on community engagement at a ward level. Local councillors decide what mechanisms they wish to use to engage with their community. This is implemented with support from Locality Officers.
- 2.3 Since September 2013 councillors across the city have engaged with residents in a variety of ways –
- Hosting their own public ward meetings (sometimes on a specific topic, eg. libraries, leisure facilities, shopping centres, transport). A list of all recorded meetings over the last 12 months is attached as Appendix 1
 - Attending existing community meetings, e.g. Forums, TARAs, etc.
 - Attending local community events and festivals
 - Walkabouts
 - Distributing questionnaires
 - Flyers
 - Councillor surgeries
- 2.4 Social media has been developed for all of the areas. Each area has a blogs, twitter and a facebook page. Locality Officers also send out direct emails to community organisations and residents. Residents are encouraged to sign up to the local blogs or twitter pages to keep up to date with the latest news for the area.
- 2.5 Articles are often included in city-wide or neighbourhood newsletters. These range from articles promoting specific local events that Councillors or the Local Area Partnership are leading on, or general articles describing the model and providing key contacts.

- 2.6 Councillors and Locality Officers have attended city-wide events to promote locality working, e.g. Tenants Conference.
- 2.6 Community Engagement is only one component of this locality based working model. Promoting local democracy, supporting councillors in their community leadership role, partnership development (primarily through the Local Area Partnerships) and grant giving all form part this model. A review of the model will be taking place over the next few months and presented to the Cabinet Member for Communities and Public Health at the end of the financial year.

3 What does this mean for the people of Sheffield?

- 3.1 Locality based working provides Sheffield residents and community organisations with the opportunity to -
- get involved in local democracy
 - have their say and identify local priorities
 - discover what is happening in their area
 - promote events that they are involved with
 - access funding for local activity
 - work in partnership with councillors and service providers to tackle local priorities
 - hold councillors and service deliverers to account

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 That the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee acknowledge the report and provide comment.

APPENDIX 1 – List of Councillor led public meetings/events supported by the Locality Management Team (Sep '13 – Nov '14)

North

- Ecclesfield Library Public Meeting
- Stannington Ward Public Meeting
- East and West Ecclesfield Ward Public Meeting
- North Active Consultation Events (x4)
- North Area Volunteer Fair
- Cabinet in the Community

Central

- Central ward public event promoting local services
- Central ward public meeting on permit parking meeting
- Broomhill Library Meeting
- Winn Gardens Health Partnership meeting
- Netherthorpe, Upperthorpe, Langsett and Walkley Community Safety Group (x4)
- Central Area Planning and Licensing Meeting
- Central Area One Community Network Meetings (Health) (x3)

South

- Stall at Heeley Festival
- Stall at Gleadless Valley Festival
- Stalls at Newfield School parents evenings (x2)

North East

- Burngreave ward public meetings (x2)
- Burngreave walkabout
- Firth Park walkabouts (x4)
- Shiregreen and Brightside ward public meetings (x3)
- North East Area Environmental Meetings (x3)
- Cabinet In The Community

South East

- Frecheville Library meeting
- Gleadless Library meeting
- Birley Blitz Community Litter Pick
- Beighton Community Litter Pick
- Big Local events (Westfield) (x6)
- Cabinet in the Community 20/02/14

South West

- Ecclesall Ward Public Meeting (x 3)
- Dore & Totley Transport and Highways Public meeting
- Bolehills Park and Recreation Ground Meeting
- Cabinet in the Community

East

- East LAP Consortium (monthly meeting with VCF reps)
- East Public meetings (x3)
- Cabinet in the Community