

Report of the City Solicitor

Report to West (Outer) Area Committee

Date: 4th June 2014

Subject: Election of Community Committee Chair for the 2014/2015 Municipal Year

Are specific electoral Wards affected?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<i>If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):</i> Calverley & Farsley, Farnley & Wortley, Pudsey		
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" 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
<i>If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number:</i> Appendix number:		

Summary of main issues

1. Area Committee Procedure Rules require that the Chair of each Area Committee will be elected from amongst the City Councillors eligible to serve on that Committee.
2. Following the closure of nominations for the position of Chair, and prior to the Annual Council Meeting, Area Committees are required to meet to elect a Chair of the Community Committee for the forthcoming Municipal Year.
3. Therefore, the Area Committee is recommended to elect a Chair for the 2014/2015 Municipal Year, from amongst the nominations which have been received. The Area Committee will be informed at the meeting of the nominations which have been received for the position of Chair.

Recommendations

4. Members of the Area Committee are recommended to elect a Community Committee Chair for the 2014/2015 Municipal Year, from amongst the nominations which have been received.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to explain the arrangements for the election of Chairs for Community Committees and that in line with this process, to recommend that this Area Committee elect a Member to the position of Community Committee Chair for the 2014/2015 municipal year.

2 Background information

- 2.1 Article 10 of the Council's Constitution sets out the composition, functions and role of Area Committees.
- 2.2 Paragraph 5 of the Area Committee Procedure Rules deals with the process by which Community Committee Chairs are elected. Attached as appendix 1.
- 2.3 Whilst recommending that an appointment be made to the position of Community Committee Chair for the forthcoming municipal year, this report follows the Council's Area Committee Procedure Rules. This is due to the fact that the Area Committee Procedure Rules remain operational until any amendments to them are formally agreed which reflect the proposed establishment of Community Committees.

3 Main issues

- 3.1 The Area Committee Procedure Rules state that the Chair will be elected from amongst the City Councillors eligible to serve on that Committee.
- 3.2 Each Political Group with Members elected within an Area Committee's boundary may submit a nomination from amongst Members on the Area Committee to Chair that Committee, via the Group Whip. An independent Member may also put forward a nomination.
- 3.3 The deadline for the submission of nominations for the position of Chair was 5.00pm on 3rd June 2014. The Area Committee will be notified at the meeting of the nominations which have been received, prior to the election taking place.
- 3.4 The Procedure Rules state that following the closure of nominations and before the Annual Council Meeting, Area Committees will meet to agree the election of Chair for the forthcoming Municipal Year.
- 3.5 The Chair will be elected by an overall majority of first votes cast by those Members eligible to do so and present at the meeting. The Member presiding at the meeting as Chair will have no second or casting vote. If no overall majority is achieved, then the nominee with the smallest number of votes will be eliminated from consideration and the vote repeated.
- 3.6 Where an overall majority of votes cannot be obtained, or it is not possible to hold or convene a quorate meeting of the Area Committee, or for any other reason a decision is not possible in advance of the Annual Council Meeting, then the appointment will be made at the Annual Council Meeting.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

4.1.1 All Group Whips and Independent Members have been given due notice of the deadlines relating to the submission of nominations for the position of Community Committee Chairs, and have been provided with details of the process.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

4.2.1 There are no specific implications relating to equality and diversity or cohesion and integration arising from this report.

4.3 Council policies and City Priorities

4.3.2 Operational and effective Community Committee meetings, which facilitate a widely accessible but robust decision making forum are in line with the Council's Policies and City Priorities. In order for such meetings to take place, an eligible City Councillor must be properly elected to the position of Community Committee Chair.

4.4 Resources and value for money

4.4.3 There are no direct resource implications arising from the submission of this report to the Area Committee.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

4.5.4 This report is not subject to Call In, as the Executive and Decision Making Procedure Rules state that the power to Call In decisions does not extend to those decisions taken by Area Committees.

4.5.5 The process summarised above regarding the election of Community Committee Chairs is in line with current Procedure Rules.

4.6 Risk Management

4.6.6 There are no risks directly arising from the submission of this report to the Area Committee, however, not electing a Chair for the 2014/15 municipal year at this meeting will mean that the matter would have to be resolved at the Annual Council Meeting.

5 Conclusions

5.1 The Area Committee Procedure Rules state that the Chair of each Committee will be elected from amongst the City Councillors eligible to serve on that Committee, and that between the closure of nominations (5.00pm, 3rd June 2014) and the Annual Council Meeting (6.00pm, 9th June 2014), the Area Committee will meet to agree the election of Chair for the forthcoming Municipal Year. The Committee therefore is recommended to elect a Chair at this meeting for the 2014/2015 Municipal Year, from the nominations which have been received.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 Members of the Area Committee are recommended to elect a Community Committee Chair for the 2014/2015 Municipal Year, from amongst the named nominations which have been received.

7 Background documents¹

None

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.