

**Report of: Liz Cook, Chief Officer - Housing Management**

**Report to: Inner East Community Committee, Burmantofts & Richmond Hill, Gipton & Harehills and Killingbeck & Seacroft Wards**

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**Date: 18 June 2015**

**For decision**

## **Inner East Community Committee nominations to the ‘Inner East’ and ‘Outer East’ Housing Advisory Panels (HAPs)**

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### **Purpose of report**

1. To seek two Ward Councillor nominations from the Inner East Community Committee to both the Inner East and Outer East Housing Advisory Panels (HAPs).

### **Main issues**

2. The housing service amended its management boundaries to come into alignment with Community Committees and other Council services in April 2014, as part of the integration of the service back to within direct Council control.
3. As the number of Council homes covered by the Inner East Community Committee is large (over 11,000 of the city's total 56,000) the service split the Community Committee area into two separately funded and resourced HAPs - Inner East HAP (for Burmantofts and Richmond Hill and Gipton and Harehills Ward) and Outer East HAP (for Killingbeck and Seacroft Ward).
4. Membership of HAPs is made up of up to ten tenants (one of whom can be a Leaseholder) and two Councillors based on nominations from the Community Committee.

5. In line with the terms of reference and membership requirements of the panels, two Councillor nominations for each HAP are requested. However, the service recognises that for the Outer East HAP, only three Ward Councillors are available for appointments to a range of Outside Bodies and organisations. The service therefore wishes to work flexible with Ward Members for this particular HAP and Ward Councillors may wish to continue to work on the basis of one Councillor nomination.
6. The current nominations from the Inner East Community Committee are Councillors Brian Selby (Killingbeck and Seacroft Ward) for the Outer East HAP and Ron Grahame (Burmantofts and Richmond Hill Ward) and Kamila Maqsood (Gipton and Harehills Ward) for the Inner East HAP.
7. All wards within the Inner East Committee area include a large number of Council owned homes and therefore nominations from any of the Wards for the appropriate HAP are welcomed.
8. Council nominations to the panel will continue to help develop local working relationships, especially between the local housing teams, the Tenant and Community Involvement Service and the Area Support Teams. Closer working between these teams and services will also help maximise the opportunities for the joint funding of local projects. To help with communication and awareness, the Inner East and Outer East HAPs will also share their agendas and reports with all Ward Members within the Inner East Community Committee, not just those who are appointed as HAP members.

## **Corporate considerations**

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### **a. Consultation and engagement**

This report facilitates the necessary consultation and engagement with Community Committee Members in respect of appointments to the designated positions and Outside Bodies. Given that the Community Committee is the relevant appointing body, there is no requirement to undertake a public consultation exercise on such matters

### **b. Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration**

Council representation on Housing Advisory Panels enables those appointed Members to act as a conduit in terms of linking the Council's policies and priorities. It also encourages joint working between services to support local projects; these would potentially include matters relating to equality, diversity, cohesion or integration.

### **c. Council policies and city priorities**

Council representation on, and engagement with Housing Advisory Panels, to which the Community Committee has authority to appoint, is in line with the Council's Policies and City Priorities.

#### **d. Resources and value for money**

Council representation on the HAPs encourages closer working relationships, in particular the opportunities for the joint funding of projects that meet local needs.

#### **e. Legal implications, access to information and call in**

In line with the Council's Executive and Decision Making Procedure Rules, the power to Call In decisions does not extend to those decisions taken by Community Committees.

#### **f. Risk management**

In not appointing to the HAPs, there is a risk that the Council's designated representation would not be fulfilled and the opportunities and benefits to local tenants and residents not maximised.

### **Conclusion**

10. The housing service has now aligned its structure to Community Committee areas, and as such is seeking nominations to the relevant HAP area. The Inner East Community Committee is requested to nominate two Ward Councillors to each HAP. The nominations from the Inner East Committee will continue to help the service build positive working relationships with the Committee and to ensure local priorities are reflected in panel activity.

### **Recommendations**

11. The Inner East Community Committee is requested to nominate:

- a. Two Ward Councillors to the Inner East HAP from the Burmantofts and Richmond Hill and Gipton and Harehills Wards, and;
- b. Two Ward Councillors to the Outer East HAP from the Killingbeck and Seacroft Ward (subject to point 5 above).

### **Background information**

- Key functions of Housing Advisory Panels are to:
  - Understand the needs of local communities and develop, support and invest appropriately;
  - Ensure that there are high standards of service delivery within each area through monitoring, reporting and influencing; and
  - Perform an advisory role on the quality of service delivery and act as a consultative group about future service provision and investment in their area.
  - More information is available from [www.leeds.gov.uk/hap](http://www.leeds.gov.uk/hap) or from the Tenant and Community Involvement Service, 0113 378 3330 or email [housingadvisorypanel@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:housingadvisorypanel@leeds.gov.uk)