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## Report of The Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods

### Outer North East Area Committee

Date: 5 July 2010

Subject: Area Committee Roles for 2010/11

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<b>Electoral Wards Affected:</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> Ward Members consulted (referred to in report)	<b>Specific Implications For:</b> Equality and Diversity <input type="checkbox"/> Community Cohesion <input type="checkbox"/> Narrowing the Gap <input type="checkbox"/>	
Council Function <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Delegated Executive Function available for Call In <input type="checkbox"/>	Delegated Executive Function not available for Call In Details set out in the report <input type="checkbox"/>

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## Executive Summary

This report presents the Area Committee with a summary of their Area Functions and Priority Advisory Functions for 2010/11. As there are no significant changes proposed to the functions agreed by the Executive Board for 2009/10, it has been agreed that this approval is rolled forward to 2010/11.

### 1.0 Purpose Of This Report

1.1 To provide the Area Committee with a summary of the Area Functions and Priority Advisory Functions for 2010/11.

### 2.0 Background Information

2.1 In 2009/10 the Executive Board agreed the number of functions to be delegated to the Area Committees. The Area Functions are included in the Council's Constitution (Part 3, section 3C), these are updated annually and presented to each of the 10 Committees.

2.2 This report does not propose any changes to the Terms of Reference for Area Committees or to their relationship to the Executive Board and its Members for 2010/11.

### **3.0 Main Issues**

- 3.1 In 2009/10 Area Committees and service managers across the Council, delivered a programme of local service delegations across a wide range of service areas. The implementation of these has been taking place throughout the year.
- 3.2 This report does not propose any significant alterations to the number or scope of Area Functions delegated to Area Committees in 2009/10. The Area Committee Functions and Priority Advisory Functions were approved by the Executive Board in June 2009, this approval is to be rolled forward to 2010/11.
- 3.3 A summary of the functions to be rolled forward to 2010/11 is appended to this report. A full schedule of the Area Functions and Priority Advisory Functions for Area Committees for 2010/11 is currently being finalised and will be distributed to Committee Members in July 2010.
- 3.4 In order to assess the effectiveness of Area functions, a review will be undertaken in 2010/11 involving Area Committee Members, the responsible Service function leads and Area Teams.
- 3.5 The review will aim to identify progress to implement the functions; gain a better understanding in practical terms of how Area Committees can support service delivery at local level; gain an understanding of the challenges and opportunities they have encountered, and begin to understand how we can make the functions more realistic and deliverable moving forward. The review will also seek to identify further service areas where delegated powers could be assigned to the Area Committees in future.

### **4.0 Implications For Council Policy and Governance**

- 4.1 The work described in this report and the recommendation fits with existing Council policy and governance arrangements. Area Committees' Executive Functions are exercised concurrently by Area Committees, the Executive Board and by Directors under the officer delegation scheme (executive functions).
- 4.2 Decisions taken by Area Committees, in relation to executive functions, remain subject to call in.
- 4.3 Officers will provide proper advice and support to Area Committees and their Chairs to ensure that delegated Executive Functions continue to be exercised in accordance with the Area Committee Procedure Rules.

### **5.0 Legal and resource implications**

- 5.1 The budgets to deliver the 2010/11 Area Functions, were agreed by Full Council on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2010.
- 5.2 Any proposed changes to resources relating to Area Functions would need to be made in consultation with the relevant service Director/Chief Officer(s) and with the agreement of the Area Committee and Executive Board, where appropriate.

5.3 There are no new resource or legal implications arising from the proposed extended priority advisory functions of the Area Committees.

## **6.0 Conclusions**

6.1 In 2009/10 the Executive Board agreed the number of functions to be delegated to the Area Committees. The Area Functions are included in the Council's Constitution (Part 3, section 3C), these are updated annually and presented to each of the 10 Committees.

6.2 There are no significant changes proposed to the Area Functions approved by the Executive Board in 2009/10. It has therefore been agreed that this approval is extended to 2010/11.

6.3 In order to assess the effectiveness of Area functions, a review will be undertaken in 2010/11 involving Area Committee Members, the responsible Service function leads and Area Teams.

## **7.0 Recommendations**

7.1 The Outer North East Area Committee is asked to note:

7.1.1 The summary of approved the Area Functions and designated priority functions for 2010/11 which are appended to this report.

### **List of Background Documents:**

Area Committees Terms of Reference

Council Constitution