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## Report of the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods

### General Purposes Committee

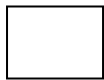
Date: 6th September 2010

Subject: Area Committees: Amendments to Composition

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#### Electoral Wards Affected:

All Wards in Inner and Outer North West Area Committees



Ward Members consulted  
(referred to in report)

#### Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

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## 1.0 Purpose Of This Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is present the Administration's proposals to change the ward composition of two area committees. By doing so it is considered anomalies in the demographic and socio-economic profiles of the current committees in the North West of the city can be resolved. The changes aim to produce committees composed of wards with comparable profiles.

## 2.0 Background Information

2.1 The Council established Area Committees in 2004 to ensure that the planning and delivery of services reflected local priorities across the city. Area Committees play an important role in the delivery and coordination of local services. They aim to improve the quality of life across the city by strengthening the role of elected members in making decisions which impact upon the areas they represent, and by engaging local people in discussion about the issues that matter to them most.

2.2 Each Area Committee produces an Area Delivery Plan setting out the key actions and improvement priorities for their area. The plans also provide a mechanism for directing resources and a framework for investing Well Being budgets in each of the areas.

2.3 Ten Committees were established with the intention that they should be similar in size and be of a similar character in terms of local population and conditions so that common approaches to addressing the needs and aspirations of local communities could be more easily developed.

2.4 Hence the division into Inner and Outer groups of wards. However the designation of ward groupings in 2004 did leave some outstanding anomalies. In particular the designation of Weetwood ward as an Inner ward is not justified by its profile, given its

far greater match in terms of demography and position in the Leeds Neighbourhood Index with Outer wards.

### **3.0 Changes to the composition of Area Committees**

3.1 The Administration proposes changes to the composition of the Inner North West and Outer North West Area Committees as follows:

<b>Area Committee</b>	<b>Current Wards</b>	<b>Proposed Wards</b>
<b>Inner North West</b>	Headingley HydePark/Woodhouse Kirkstall Weetwood	Headingley HydePark/Woodhouse Kirkstall
<b>Outer North West</b>	Otley/Yeadon Guiseley/Rawdon Adel/Wharfedale Horsforth	Otley/Yeadon Guiseley/Rawdon Adel/Wharfedale Horsforth Weetwood

3.2 These changes to two existing Area Committees would resolve the anomaly of an Outer profile ward being in an Inner Area Committee. Weetwood ward's age profile and home ownership profile and its position in the Leeds Neighbourhood Index, which measures relative social and economic conditions at neighbourhood level across the city, are much closer to Outer rather than Inner wards. Its needs would be more appropriately addressed as part of an Outer Area Committee Plan. There would be an impact in terms of the size of the Outer North West Area Committee, which would increase to 5 wards, with a population of 112,000 and 15 ward members. The next largest Area Committee, Outer South has a population of 90,000. The impact on Inner North West which currently has a population of 102,700 would be a reduction of 25,400 leaving it at 77,600, the second largest of the Inner Area Committees, which average around 70,000.

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

4.1 Amendments to the composition of Area Committees are governed by Article 10 of the constitution. The amendments to Article 10 which would be necessary to enable implementation of the Administration's proposals are set out in Appendix 1. Changes to Articles of the constitution will need to be first considered by the General Purposes Committee, with the matter being determined by a meeting of Council based on the recommendation made by the General Purposes Committee.

### **5.0 Legal and Resource Implications**

5.1 No changes are proposed to the overall resource allocation, however, the proposed area committee boundary change would result in a revised allocation of well-being revenue grant between Area Committees. Based on the revised methodology for the allocation of well-being grant approved at Executive Board, the Outer North West Area Committee would gain £54,843 which would be lost from the Inner North West Area Committee allocation.

## **6.0 Recommendations**

- 6.1 The General Purposes Committee is asked to consider the proposals to change the composition of the area committees as set out in this report and agree recommendations to be put to Full Council for approval.

### Background Documents

None