



Report of the Director of Environment & Neighbourhoods

Outer North East Area Committee

Date: 7th February 2011

Subject: Delegation of Environmental Services

Electoral Wards Affected:

ALL

Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Council Function

Delegated Executive Function available for Call In

Delegated Executive Function not available for Call In Details set out in the report

Executive Summary

It is proposed to delegate a range of environmental services to Area Committees from June/July 2011.

The delegation will be supported by a new service delivery structure, via three Environmental Locality Teams, which will be recruited prior to the delegation being formally adopted.

In order to achieve a strong and positive basis to the delegation, a programme of Member and officer workshops and consultations will be delivered, ensuring a common understanding of the delegation exists and that roles and responsibilities within the new ways of working are clearly defined. Work to deliver this programme has already started, and will continue to be delivered until commencement of the delegation.

A Service Level Agreement per Area Committee will be developed, in consultation with Area Chairs and Members, forming the basis for service delivery during the first year of the delegation.

1.0 Purpose of this Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Area Committee with an update on progress towards achieving delegation of certain environmental services from the next municipal year (June 2011).
- 1.2 The report also presents proposals for the involvement of Members throughout this preparatory stage.

2.0 Background Information

- 2.1 On 6th August 2010, Area Chairs proposed that a range of environmental services be delegated to Area Committees. A briefing note on proposals was presented to Area Chairs on the 8th October, where a report was requested for submission to the October/November round of Area Committees.
- 2.2 Area Chairs received a further report at their 3rd December 2010 meeting, which provided a general update on progress, plus proposals for a programme of Member involvement in developing the delegation.
- 2.3 The scope of the delegation includes the following services:
 - Mechanical street cleansing;
 - Manual street cleansing (litter picking);
 - Litter bin emptying;
 - Flytipping removal & enforcement;
 - Leaf clearing;
 - Dog controls (strays, fouling);
 - Highways enforcement;
 - Graffiti enforcement work
 - Domestic and commercial waste storage & transportation control;
 - Overhanging vegetation control; and
 - Litter control (FPNs, flier controls etc.)

2.4 Refuse and recycling collection services and city-centre street cleansing activities are excluded from the scope of the delegation.

2.5 The delegation of services will be controlled, monitored and reviewed through a Service Level Agreement (SLA). There will be one SLA per Area Committee, which will take account of events and occurrences distinct to each locality.

3.0 Progress update

- 3.1 A project team has been established to drive the development of the delegation, working in partnership with Members and officers.
- 3.2 A programme of work has been developed with a view to approval for the delegations being sought from Executive Board in March 2011. If approved, the SLAs will be developed and approval sought at the first Area Committee meetings of the 2011/12 municipal year, in June and July.

3.3 Existing Services

Information relating to the existing level of services included within the scope of the proposed delegation have been collated and mapped on an Area Committee basis. This information was presented to Members at a series of workshops from 10th -13th January 2011. At those workshops, Members considered current service levels in their ward and gave views on local priorities relevant to the service areas proposed for delegation.

3.4 Delivery Team Structure

It is proposed that three Environmental Locality Teams will be created, one working to each 'wedge' of the city (West/ North West, East / North East and South). Each team will include officers who deliver all the services listed at 2.3. Appendix 1 shows how the proposed delegation will work, through working to Service Level Agreements.

The exact structure of the teams has yet to be finalised and will evolve as part of the wider restructuring process currently taking place within the Environment & Neighbourhoods directorate. Whilst the Locality Managers will be selected in February 2011, the full internal recruitment to the final structure will be by May 2011, for the teams to be in place prior to the delegation being in place from June/July.

3.5 Officer Involvement

Briefing sessions have been held with officers from Area Management, the Health & Environmental Action Service and Streetscene services to ensure good awareness of the proposed delegation and what it may mean for them. Further workshop sessions are scheduled with officers over the next few months, some of which may be run jointly with Members.

3.6 Member Involvement

A programme of workshops and meetings has been developed to allow Members the opportunity to be involved in the preparation for the delegation, including the development of Service Level Agreements. Attached at appendix 2 is the proposed programme.

Phase 1 of the programme has already been delivered. A session was held for Members of the Outer North East Area Committee on Wednesday 12th January to discuss the general principles of delegating services, the perceived challenges and opportunities and how these might best be overcome. In summary, some of the comments and outcomes from the Outer North East Area Committee session were:

- Would like direct contact with one responsible officer;
- Some equipment inhibits service delivery, e.g. small vans which need frequent emptying;
- Some areas, e.g. industrial estates, get higher level of service than is probably necessary;
- Dog fouling hotspots identified;
- Parish Council's need to be involved; and
- Litter bins, especially around bus stops an issue, need more regular emptying.

Phase 2 of the programme will take place in February and March, with the Service Level Agreement for each Area Committee being developed in more detail, including area-specific information on local occurrences and events.

Phase 3 will take place after May and will involve the finalisation of SLAs, prior to seeking formal approval by each Area Committee in June/July.

4.0 Implications for Council Policy and Governance

- 4.1 The delegation will contribute towards the realisation of the Council's Strategic Plan aim of achieving a *'cleaner, greener and more attractive city through effective environmental management'*.
- 4.2 The implications on governance arrangements are currently being explored by the Corporate Governance Unit, to ensure the delegation of services is properly approved and that decisions are made in accordance with the Council's constitution.

5.0 Legal and Resource Implications

- 5.1 At this time, no legal implications have been identified, although work is underway to ensure that in delegating services, the Council continues to meet its statutory and legal obligations to the residents of Leeds.
- 5.2 The delegation of services will not in itself result in any additional resource requirement.

6.0 Budget Implications

- 6.1 The resource allocations to Area Committee are still to be worked up at this stage. The information provided by Members at the workshops held in mid January will be used to start this aspect of the work in earnest. The stages of development of the SLA, at appendix 2, show the continuing dialogue with Members where views on resource requirements can be shared and debated.

7.0 Conclusion

- 7.1 Considerable planning and preparatory work has taken place to set firm foundations for the delegation of environmental services to commence from June 2011.
- 7.2 It is hoped that through active involvement in the development of Service Level Agreements, Members' concerns over the delegation will be positively addressed.
- 7.3 Members will receive regular communications on progress towards achieving delegation of environmental services via Area Committees, briefings and workshop sessions.

8.0 Recommendations

- 8.1 The Area Committee is asked to note the contents of the report, specifically the programme of Member involvement, and to agree to a further progress report being submitted to the next meeting.

Background papers:

none

Delegation of Environmental Services





