

DELEGATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES TO AREA COMMITTEES - update

Environmental Services Delegation

Further to the report submitted to the last Area Committee, the following provides a brief update on the progress towards achieving the delegation of environmental services from June/July 2011.

Work is progressing on the development of a Service Level Agreement (SLA) for each Area Committee, with a generic template being agreed by Area Chairs on 11th February. A first draft of the Outer North East Area Committee SLA will be shared with Members at a workshop scheduled to take place on 29th March, 10am-1pm, to which you will have received an invitation on 31st January. To inform the detail of the SLAs, service resources have been allocated across the City on a wedge basis, detail of which will be available at the March workshops, if not already shared with Members. Members will have further opportunity to input and comment on their SLA prior to the final version being presented for approval at the June/July Area Committee.

Appointment of the three Locality Manager posts, who will manage service delivery to meet the requirements of their respective area's SLAs, is due to take place in March. Area Chairs will be involved in part of the recruitment process for the posts, with the final decision on appointments however, remaining with senior officers. As soon as the appointments are formalised Members will be informed of who their Locality Manager is.

At their last meeting, Area Chairs discussed the potential roles of Deputy Area Chair, Environmental Champion and Environment Sub-group. Presently, some Area Committees have one or more of these roles, whilst others have none. It was agreed that whilst the roles will remain informal, i.e. have no decision making authority, they will be a valuable mechanism for dealing with the SLA and service delivery matters in a timely manner between formal Area Committee meetings. With regard to the function that a sub-group could undertake this would be especially relevant prior to and during the initial stages of the delegation. Once the delegation is in place and effective then local arrangements can be made as to how to deal with operational issues and the SLA, agreed as a wedge and/or between the Area Committees and their Locality Manager. In some cases the sub-group may be a time limited 'task and finish group', in other areas the sub-group may fulfil a more ongoing role of overseeing the SLA outside of formal Area Committee business.