

Report of the Chief Officer (Democratic and Central Services)

Report to South (Inner) Area Committee

Date: 20th June 2012

Subject: Local Authority Appointments to Outside Bodies

Are specific electoral Wards affected?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Beeston & Holbeck, City and Hunslet and Middleton Park		
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number:		
Appendix number:		

Summary of main issues

1. This report outlines the procedures for Council appointments to outside bodies, and the Committee is requested to consider and appoint to those bodies listed at Appendix 2 to the report.

Recommendations

2. The Area Committee is asked to confirm the nominees to work with the Outside Bodies identified at Appendix 2, or agree any changes to the schedule, having regard to the Appointments to Outside Bodies Procedure Rules, as outlined in this report and as detailed at Appendix 1.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 This report outlines the Area Committee's role in relation to Elected Member Appointments to Outside Bodies and asks the Committee to determine the appointments to those organisations which fall to the Committee to make an appointment to.

2 Background information

- 2.1 In April 2004 Full Council agreed that in future, Elected Member appointments to Outside Bodies should be undertaken by a constituted body of Elected Members and that appointments to all outside bodies should, where appropriate, be made with due regard to proportionality within the law. Attached at Appendix 1 is the agreed Appointments to Outside Bodies Procedure Rules.

- 2.2 The Member Management Committee has responsibilities for Council appointments to Outside Bodies and for exercising decision making in the following areas:

- Considering requests from Outside Organisations seeking Elected Member representation;
- Determining the category of appointment which will govern which Committee will make the appointments;
- Making Elected Member appointments to Outside Bodies within the Strategic and Key Partnership category.

- 2.3 Due to the large number of organisations seeking Council representation, Council agreed that appointments within the Community and Local Engagement Category will be considered and approved by Elected Members serving on the relevant Area Committee.

- 2.4 In July 2004 the Member Management Committee met to consider allocation of appointments to each Area Committee. Attached at Appendix 2 are those that have been determined should be made by this Area Committee.

3 Main issues

- 3.1 The Area Committee is requested to determine the appointments to those Outside Body appointments as detailed within Appendix 2.

- 3.2 The Area Committee must first consider whether it is appropriate for an appointment to be of a specific office holder¹ either by reference, if this is available, to the constitution of the outside body concerned or in the light of any other circumstances as determined by the Area Committee. Such appointments will then be offered on this basis.

¹ For example it may be considered necessary or otherwise appropriate to appoint a specific Ward Member

- 3.3 Nominations will then be sought for the remaining places, having regard to trying to secure an overall allocation of places which reflects the proportion of Members from each Political Group on the Area Committee as a whole.
- 3.4 All appointments are subject to annual change unless otherwise stated within the constitution of the external organisation, which will therefore be reflected on the table at Appendix 2. Each appointment (including in-year replacements) runs for the municipal year, ending at the next Annual Council Meeting.
- 3.5 Elected Members² will fill all available appointments but it is recognised that Political Groups may not wish to take up vacancies which are made available to them. In such circumstances, vacancies will be notified to the Area Committee and agreement sought as to whether the vacancy will be filled.
- 3.6 A vacancy occurring during the municipal year will normally be referred to the Area Committee for an appointment to be made, having regard to the principles as described above.
- 3.7 Area Committees may review the list of organisations to which they are asked to make appointments at any time and make recommendations to the Member Management Committee.

4 Appointments 2012-2013

- 4.1 This year there are **8** appointments to be made in relation to the following organisations:-

Belle Isle Elderly Winter Aid

Belle Isle Elderly Winter Aid is a registered charity (701895), founded in 1986. Their aim is to assist older people to remain living in their homes for as long as possible. This is done by providing activities and services to address the issues and problems, which older people say affect their quality of life and their ability to manage to maintain independence and continue to live at home.

This is an annual appointment and the Council's current representative is Councillor Blake.

Belle Isle Tenant Management Organisation (BITMO)

In 1991, Leeds City Council established the Belle Isle North Estate Management Board (EMB) in partnership with local tenants. The EMB only managed the north of Belle Isle - which benefited with investment via the Estate Action programme in the late 1980s and early 1990s. The southern half of the estate remained largely unimproved and required major improvements. The consultation and the

² Section 249 Local Government Act 1972 states that Aldermen and Honorary Freemen may attend and take part in civic ceremonies but do not have the right to attend Council/committee meetings or receive any allowances or payments under a Members Allowance Scheme. This establishes the principle that such persons should not to be treated as Councillors, and therefore cannot be appointed to outside bodies in place of a Councillor if the request from an organisation is for a Councillor

subsequent creation of the six ALMOs in Leeds began a debate about the future of the EMB, and of the future of the whole of the Belle Isle area.

From the time that the estate was built until the 1980s Belle Isle had been one area. In 1984 the Council decentralised the housing service, and created a larger number of smaller community based housing management areas. This led to the creation of the Belle Isle North and Belle Isle South housing areas. It had always been the hope of the EMB to bring together the north and south parts of Belle Isle back into one housing area.

Over a period of five years, a group of tenants on the Belle Isle Estate worked towards tenant management for the whole area. The formation of the Belle Isle Group (B.I.G.) led to the eventual serving of a 'Notice to Manage' and the establishment of the Belle Isle Tenant Management Organisation (BITMO).

In order to achieve full TMO status the organisation had to consult with local residents, and make sure that the local community was in support of the idea. The result of the ballot that took place showed that 94% of the people who voted were in favour of local Tenant Management. Consequently, the unification of the estate and the creation of the new organisation took place in October 2004.

Belle Isle Tenant Management Organisation is the biggest Tenant Management Organisation outside London, and is responsible for more than 2000 homes and employs 32 members of staff.

These are annual appointments and the Council's current representative are Councillors Blake and Groves.

Holbeck Elderly Aid

Holbeck Elderly Aid is a registered charity (1075934) working with older people (60+) in the community. Its aims are to promote independent living, improved quality of life and prevention of social isolation. The charity is one of the Neighbourhood Network schemes for older people.

This is an annual appointment and the Council's current representative is Councillor Ogilvie.

Middleton Elderly Aid

Middleton Elderly Aid is a registered charity (1100601) which supports the older adult residents of Middleton, to enable them to live safely and independently in their own homes. The charity provides social activities, such as luncheon clubs, trips and outings and home services, including handyperson jobs, gardening, etc.

This is an annual appointment and the Council's current representative is Councillor Groves.

ALMO Inner South Area Panel

Although the appointments to the ALMO Board of Directors are now made by the Member Management Committee (see Paragraph 2.6), the Area Committee appoints to the ALMO Area Panels.

Corporate Carers Group

Under the Children's Act 1989, all local Councillors are corporate parents (usually referred to in Leeds as corporate carers), this means they have responsibilities relating to the quality of services for those children who have been taken into care by the local authority (looked after children). In July 2006 the Council's Executive Board agreed a clearer framework for the corporate carer role in Leeds. This included establishing a core group of councillors with a special interest in leading the work on Corporate Parenting - the 'Corporate Carer' group. This core group includes representation from each of the 10 area committees in the city and takes particular responsibilities relating to influencing, performance monitoring, and governance of those issues and outcomes that affect looked after children. The group meet approximately once a month (though the regularity of these meetings is under review and may become bi-monthly) and consider information including fostering services, residential care, looked after children's educational attainment and their voice and influence across the city. Representatives are asked to link back to local looked after children's issues through their Area Committee and champion the importance of effectively supporting those children.

In 2011, the South (Inner) Area Committee appointed Cllr G Driver to this position. As Cllr G Driver is no longer a Member of Council, the Committee is being requested to appoint to the vacancy which currently exists for the South (Inner) Area Committee representative of the Corporate Carers Group.

The Area Panels have two main roles.

- § Ensuring that the organisation is providing a good service to its customers; and
- § Delivering environmental and community safety schemes that benefit its customers.

The panels have a wide responsibility that is set out in their Terms of Reference including:

- § Business and Delivery Plans
- § Tenant Inspections
- § Performance
- § Tenant Participation
- § Tenancy Management
- § Repairs and Improvements
- § Lettings
- § Tenant Satisfaction
- § Staffing
- § Service Development.

Although generally the panels will be monitoring and measuring the organisation's performance across these headings they will, in time, get involved in more detailed work such as:

- § Consulting on contracts for Grounds Maintenance and Repairs
- § Recommending priorities for inclusion in Business Plan
- § Leading a tenant Inspection
- § Developing strategies for Hard to Reach Groups
- § Be involved in deciding how to enforce tenancy conditions
- § Participating in contract evaluation
- § Making recommendations for Local Lettings Policies
- § Recommending changes in service delivery
- § Getting involved in induction of new staff.

These are annual appointments and the Council's current representatives are Councillors Iqbal and Ogilvie.

4.2 Area Based Partnership Groups

Following a decision by Member Management Committee in 2008, in recent years, Area Committees have appointed to area based partnership groups. Specifically, Area Committees have appointed Members acting as local 'champions' in respect of each theme based Leeds Initiative partnership group.

Given the significant reconfiguration which has been made to the structure of Leeds Initiative, the overarching matter of Elected Member representation in respect of Leeds Initiative is scheduled to be considered by Member Management Committee in the new municipal year. Following Member Management Committee's consideration of this matter, further details will be provided to Area Committees at the earliest opportunity.

5 Corporate Considerations

5.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 5.1.1 This report facilitates the necessary consultation and engagement with Area Committee Members in respect of appointments to the designated Outside Bodies.

5.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 5.2.1 There are neither equality and diversity or cohesion and integration implications arising from this report.

5.3 Council policies and City Priorities

5.3.1 Council representation on, and engagement with those Outside Bodies to which the Area Committee has authority to appoint, is in line with the Council's Policies and City Priorities.

5.4 Resources and value for money

5.4.1 There are neither resource or value for money implications arising from this report.

5.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

5.5.1 The matters detailed within this report are in relation to Area Committees' Council Functions, and as such, any decisions arising from it are not eligible for Call In.

5.6 Risk Management

5.6.1 In not appointing to those Outside Bodies listed within Appendix 2, there is a risk that the Council's designated representation on such organisations would not be fulfilled.

6 Conclusions

6.1 Having regard to the Appointments to Outside Bodies Procedure Rules (attached at Appendix 1), the Area Committee is asked to determine the appointments to those designated Outside Bodies detailed within Appendix 2.

7 Recommendations

7.1 The Area Committee is asked to confirm the appointments to those Outside Bodies identified within Appendix 2, or agree any changes to the schedule, having regard to the Appointments to Outside Bodies Procedure Rules, as outlined within this report and as detailed at Appendix 1.

8 Background documents³

8.1 Appointments to Outside Bodies Procedure Rules

8.2 Area Committee Procedure Rules

8.3 Area Committees' Terms of Reference

³ The background documents listed in this section are available for inspection on request for a period of four years following the date of the relevant meeting. Accordingly this list does not include documents containing exempt or confidential information, or any published works. Requests to inspect any background documents should be submitted to the report author.