

Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Customer Access & Performance)

Report to North West (Outer) Area Committee

Date: 27th June 2012

Subject: Nominations to Area Committee Sub Groups

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Armley, Bramley and Stanningley	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
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? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. This report sets out the roles of the Inner West Area Committee Sub Groups and seeks nominations for the position of Chair and Elected Member representation to each group.
2. The report also asks for nominations for Elected Member Theme Champions for Health and Community Safety.

Recommendations

3. Members are asked to:
 - i) Agree a sub group structure for the inner West area.
 - ii) Nominate an Elected Member representatives for the Environment Sub Group (if applicable).
 - iii) Nominate Elected Member theme champions for Health, Community Safety and Fuel Poverty

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to set out options for sub groups in the inner West area and outlines the role of Elected Member theme champion for Health and Community Safety.
- 1.2 The report also seeks nominations for elected Member representatives from each ward to the agreed sub groups and theme champions.

2 Background information

- 2.1 The inner West Area Committee currently has one sub group covering the Environment theme. It meets approximately bi-monthly and has one Member from each ward attending.
- 2.2 The main purpose of the Environment Sub Group is to influence key priorities in relation to services, monitor performance and develop the service level agreement
- 2.3 The sub groups are provided with officer support by the Area Support Team and operate in an advisory capacity. Key messages are passed to the Area Committee through the Area Update report.
- 2.4 This report highlights the current arrangements for elected member representation to these sub groups and theme champions, and seeks Members views on the sub group structure and representation for 2012-13.

3 Main issues

Environment Sub Group

- 3.1 The Environment Sub Group meets on approximately a bi-monthly basis. It receives update reports from the Locality Team and other services as required, including Parks and Countryside, Grounds Maintenance and Refuse Collection. It oversees the Service Level Agreement in relation to the delegated functions of cleansing and environmental enforcement services.
- 3.2 The current Elected Member representation to the Environment Sub Group is:

Councillor Janet Harper (Armley)
Councillor Ted Hanley (Bramley and Stanningley)
- 3.3 The Committee is asked to agree Member representation from each ward.

General Purposes Sub Group

- 3.4 Members are asked to consider whether they would like to establish a General Purposes sub group, replacing the Environment Sub Group, to oversee the environmental and future delegated functions, and create closer ties with key services.
- 3.5 It is proposed that all six Members of the Area Committee be invited to attend the General Purposes Sub Group that will meet six times a year. The Environmental

Services delegation will be a permanent agenda item, and other services will be invited as required. The Sub Group will enable Members to better scrutinise the delivery of services in the inner West area and ensure they meet the needs of the local communities.

3.6 Future agenda items could include the following:

- Neighbourhood Policing Team Inspector
- West North West Homes / Morrisons
- Extended Services Cluster updates
- Anti-social behaviour and the new 'Troubled Families' agenda

3.7 The General Purposes Sub Group would also be asked to consider applications to the Well-being commissioning round and oversee the development of the Area Committee's Business Plan.

3.8 Members are asked to consider whether they would like to establish a General Purposes Sub Group. This group would be chaired by the Area Committee Chair and tasked with overseeing future service delegations and the delivery of the Business Plan by looking more in depth at individual services and themes.

Community Safety Theme Champion

3.9 The Divisional Community Safety Partnership (DCSP) would like to strengthen links between Elected Members and area based Tasking meetings. In the proposal at Appendix 1, the Community Safety Champion will now have more of a role in the Tasking meetings to better reflect the views of local residents in the priority setting process, and give a new perspective to discussions about tackling persistent issues.

3.10 The current Community Safety Champion role has been shared between Cllr McKenna and Cllr Lowe. Members are asked consider the new responsibilities for the Community Safety Theme Champion, and nominate an Elected Member to fulfil this role.

Health Theme Champion

3.11 The role of the champion is to provide each Area Committee with a Member focus of health and wellbeing issues on behalf of the Area Committee as a whole. The role may overlap with other theme champions and partnerships. The main purpose of the role is:

- To promote commitment to the wider health and wellbeing agenda through the active engagement of elected members, local authority services, and local partners
- To increase understanding of the health and wellbeing needs of local people and the issues and barriers they encounter in their daily lives
- To contribute to improving health and reducing health inequalities for local people

- To understand the priorities and issues of local neighbourhoods in the area and to support their development
- To champion the effective integration (partnership working) of health and wellbeing services and initiatives.
- To work with the Health Improvement Manager to shape regular health and wellbeing agenda items of interest to members
- Attendance at the Local Health and Wellbeing Partnership

3.12 The role of the health and wellbeing champions does not involve any formalised decision-making responsibilities or accountabilities (other than the expectation of regular reporting to the relevant Area Committee, with support from the Health Improvement Manager). However, it is a key influencing and advocacy role that is likely to evolve and develop as more is learnt about how it can impact positively local people's lives, especially with Public Health leadership coming to the Local Authority in April 2013.

Fuel Poverty Theme Champion

3.13 The Leeds Affordable Warmth partnership has been established to address fuel poverty problems and is seeking representation from each Area Committee to represent the views from a locality perspective and influence decisions on service provision. Members are asked to note the enclosed Appendix 2 setting out the role and agree a fuel poverty champion from the Area Committee.

4. Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

4.1.1 Elected members have been consulted on the content of this report.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

4.2.1 There are no equality and diversity issues in relation to this report.

4.3 Council policies and City Priorities

4.3.1 The Area Committee Functions and Priority Advisory Functions were approved by the Executive Board in June 2009. This approval was rolled forward to 2010/11 and 2011/12 and is also being rolled forward to 2012/13 with amendments to the environmental delegation. The Area Functions are included in the Council's Constitution (Part 3, section 3c).

4.4 Resources and Value for Money

4.4.1 There are no resource implications as a result of this report.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

4.5.1 There are no legal implications or access to information issues. This report is not subject to call in.

4.6 Risk Management

4.6.1 There are no risk management implications to this report.

5 Conclusions

5.1 The Inner West Environment Sub Group has played an important role in developing the service level agreement for delegated environmental services. The sub group will continue to meet bi-monthly to oversee the delegation and monitor the performance of other environmental services in the inner West area.

5.2 A proposal is put forward to establish a General Purposes sub group to oversee future service delegations and the delivery of the Area Committee's Business Plan.

3.2 Members are asked to consider the request from service managers from Heath Improvement and Community Safety to nominate theme champions for Community Safety, Health and Fuel Poverty.

6 Recommendations

6.1 Members are asked to:

i) Agree a sub group structure for the inner West area.

ii) Nominate an Elected Member representatives for the Environment Sub Group (if applicable).

iii) Nominate Elected Member theme champions for Health, Community Safety and Fuel Poverty

4 Background documents¹

4.1 The Council's Constitution (Part 3, section 3c).

¹ 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.

The Role of Elected Members as the Community Safety Champion

Background

A review of Tasking Meetings across the city has been undertaken by the Divisional Community Safety Partnership (DCSP) to seek to strengthen the process. One of the agreed actions was to engage more closely with Ward Members directly on targeted areas of work.

The Inner West Area Committee has requested a nominated Elected Member to be the Community Safety Champion. The Community Safety Champion attends DCSP meetings in order to create and develop links between the Area Committee and the DCSP. The DCSP is a strategic group and so the Members are involved in delivering and monitoring the Community Safety Action Plan for the areas they serve.

Local Tasking meetings exist to problem solve crime issues in local communities. There are Tasking meetings in Inner West cover Armley and Bramley Stanningley Wards. There is an opportunity to improve the way that community safety is addressed by supporting Members to be involved in Tasking meetings.

The role of the Community Safety Champion in Tasking meetings

To developed in order to:

- Provide a more direct link between Area Committee and Tasking Meetings across the Inner West Tasking Meetings)
- Support the direct input and feedback at Tasking, from Ward Members via the nominated Area Committee representative
- Contribute funding resources for Tasking representatives to support targeted, additional provision.

The Area Committee Community Safety Champion is well placed to develop their role to include a responsibility for Member involvement in Tasking. The Champion has an understanding of the Inner West community safety agenda in addition to a knowledge of local issues. She/he will be able to bring this perspective to discussions about local issues. Clearly the Community Safety Champion will be more familiar with the problems and solutions that have arisen in their own ward. However, for the majority of community safety issues similar responses can be applied irrespective of which neighbourhood they are in. The Chair of the Tasking meeting will work with the Community Safety Champion to ensure that the issues they raise are indicative of the issues raised by partners across the area. By developing Member involvement through the Community Safety Champion will help to ensure that their input retains a wider perspective than could be brought by individual ward member.

The key tasks that the Community Safety Champion will fulfil in Tasking are as follows:

1. To improve communication with residents

Members have dialogue with residents who raise issues with them directly rather than or sometimes as well as requesting a service from an agency. Their involvement in the Tasking process gives the Member a better understanding of what's involved in addressing these issues. It also gives an insight and up to date knowledge of what's being done which they can then share with the community. In turn, this will enhance Elected Members accountability to their constituents.

2. To give a different perspective

Local people have a relationship with Councillors that is different than the one they have with agencies. Councillors therefore represent a different perspective when working out ways to tackle issues affecting local people. Bringing this to the table can help find new ways of tackling old problems.

3. To encourage engagement and involvement of partner agencies

Councillors have a role to play in ensuring the quality of the service that's being delivered. They can help to get the right people around the table and also to ensure that action is being carried out.

The Community Safety Champion would be expected to link in with/attend both the North West Divisional Community Safety partnership meetings and Tasking meetings in the Area Committee area they serve. A communication mechanism will be established so that the Champion is able to raise issues on behalf of other Elected Members at the Tasking meetings. The nature of issues raised would need to be monitored in order to ensure they are appropriate for Tasking rather than straightforward requests for service or information that should be dealt with through the usual channels.

Fuel Poverty Area Committee Champions Role

Inquiry into Fuel Poverty (April 2012) Recommendation number 8

- (i) That Area Committees nominate a Fuel Poverty Champion to drive forward local action in addressing fuel poverty problems associated with their particular areas
- (ii) That the Area Committee Fuel Poverty Champions liaise with their respective locality Health and Wellbeing Improvement Managers to agree the appointment of one Fuel Poverty Champion

Current position

- Citywide Affordable Warmth Partnership – meets quarterly
- Membership is made up of elected members from each political group
- Chaired by elected member. For 2012 it is Cllr David Blackburn

Potential role of Fuel Poverty Area Committee Champion if agreed

- To attend on behalf of the area committee the citywide Affordable Warmth Partnership
- To represent views from a locality perspective
- To be aware of neighbourhoods / vulnerable groups of high need
- To promote programmes addressing fuel poverty e.g. Wrap up Leeds, Green doctor, Warm home service etc.
- To signpost and support local people to access the services that are available (financial support and affordable warmth provision)
- To influence and inform decision makers on local needs for future service provision
- To lobby local energy providers and funding providers to address the needs of vulnerable households.
- To report back to area committee on progress made / highlight issues

To be supported by:

The lead officer for citywide partnership and locality Health and Wellbeing Improvement Managers.