

Joint Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Customer Access and Performance) and the Chief Officer (Democratic and Central Services)

Report to North East (Outer) Area Committee

Date: 10th September 2012

Subject: Appointment of Area Committee Representation upon Leeds Initiative Area Based Partnership Groups/Corporate Carers' Group

Are specific electoral Wards affected?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): <i>Alwoodley, Harewood, Wetherby</i>		
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. In recent years, Area Committees have appointed representatives to Leeds Initiative Area Based Partnership Groups. Each group is centred around a theme, such as 'community safety' or 'health and wellbeing'. 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 was considered by Member Management Committee in June 2012. At this meeting, Member Management Committee resolved that Area Committees continue to appoint representatives to the newly aligned theme based Leeds Initiative Partnership Groups. Therefore, this report invites the Area Committee to appoint to those Partnership Groups listed within section 3.
2. Between June and September 2011, at the request of the Executive Member for Children's Services, Area Committees appointed representatives to the Council's Corporate Carers' Group. Therefore, this report also gives the Area Committee the opportunity to review its previous appointment to the Corporate Carers' Group for the remainder of this municipal year.

Recommendations

3. The Area Committee is invited to appoint one representative to each of the Leeds Initiative Area Based Partnership Groups, as listed within section 3 of this report, and also appoint one representative to the Council's Corporate Carers' Group.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 This report provides background to local Member representation upon Leeds Initiative Area Based Partnership Groups and also the Council's Corporate Carers' Group, and invites the Committee to determine the Elected Member appointments to those groups, as listed within section 3.

2 Background information

2.1 Area Based Partnerships – General Information

- 2.2 In December 2010 Executive Board approved new arrangements setting up a Main Leeds Initiative Board and 5 strategic partnership boards to take forward the agreed priorities in the city priority plan. It is for these partnerships to decide if there is benefit in creating more local based bodies to take forward those priorities locally.
- 2.3 At present there are two partnerships which are organised in this way . The Health and Wellbeing board has created Local Health and Wellbeing partnerships, and the Safer Leeds Executive (part of the Safer and stronger communities partnership) which has created Divisional community Safety partnerships.
- 2.4 In each case the appointment of one Councillor is requested from the Area Committee to sit on each partnership as a representative who will highlight relevant local concerns on behalf of the Area Committee, and also act as champions for Health and Wellbeing matters and Community Safety matters respectively.
- 2.5 In November 2008, Member Management Committee resolved that the appointment of Elected Member representation to Area Based Partnership Groups fell within the 'Community and Local Engagement' category of the Council's Outside Bodies Procedure Rules, and therefore the appointment process should be undertaken by Area Committees. Area Committees have since annually appointed representatives to each Leeds Initiative Area Based Partnership Group.
- 2.6 Given the significant reconfiguration which has been made to the structure of Leeds Initiative, the overarching matter of Elected Member representation on Leeds Initiative bodies was recently considered by Member Management Committee. The Committee resolved that the appointment of representation to the newly aligned Leeds Initiative Area Based Partnership Groups continue to be delegated to Area Committees. Therefore, the Area Committee is invited to appoint one representative to each of the Leeds Initiative Area Based Partnership Groups listed within section 3 of this report, in line with the Council's Appointments to Outside Bodies Procedure Rules (included at appendix 1).
- 2.7 As Member Management Committee has designated that such appointments fall within the 'Community and Local Engagement' category of the Council's Outside Bodies Procedure Rules, the Committee should have regard to the following when considering such appointments:-

- When making Elected Member appointments, the Area Committee will first consider whether it is appropriate for an appointment to be of a specific office holder, such as a specific Ward Member. Such appointments will then be offered on this basis;
- 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.
- All appointments are subject to annual change, unless otherwise stated within the constitution of the body. Each appointment (including in-year replacements) runs for the municipal year, ending at the next Annual Meeting of Council. A vacancy arising during the municipal year will normally be referred to the Area Committee for an appointment to be made, having regard to the principles described above.

2.8 Area Health and Wellbeing Partnerships / Divisional Community Safety Partnerships

2.9 These themed partnerships provide a forum to support local action against the priorities in the City Priority Plan and the Vision for Leeds.

2.10 The Area Committee is invited to appoint one representative to the relevant Health and Wellbeing Partnership

2.11 The Area Committee is invited to appoint one representative to the relevant Divisional Community Safety Partnership.

2.12 Corporate Carers' Group

2.13 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.

2.14 The Area Committee is invited to appoint one representative to the Corporate Carers' Group for the remainder of the municipal year.

3 Main issues

3.1 Having regard to the information detailed at Section 2 above, the Area Committee is invited to make the following appointments for the remainder of the municipal year:-

- One Area Committee representative to the Council's Corporate Carers' Group;
- One Area Committee representative to the Area Health and Wellbeing Partnership;
- One Area Committee representative to the Divisional Community Safety Partnership.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

4.1.1 This report facilitates the necessary consultation and engagement with Area Committee Members in respect of appointments to Leeds Initiative Area Based Partnership Groups and the Corporate Carers' Group.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

4.2.2 There are neither equality and diversity, nor cohesion and integration implications arising from this report.

4.3 Council policies and City Priorities

4.3.3 Council representation on, and engagement with those Leeds Initiative Area Based Partnership Groups and Corporate Carers' Group is in line with the Council's Policies and City Priorities.

4.4 Resources and value for money

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

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

4.5.1 In line with the Council's Executive and Decision Making Procedure Rules, all decisions taken by Area Committees are not eligible for Call In.

4.6 Risk Management

4.6.1 In not appointing to those Leeds Initiative Area Based Partnership Groups and the Corporate Carers' Group listed within section 3, there is a risk that the area's designated representation on such partnerships would not be fulfilled.

5 Conclusions

5.1 Having regard to the Appointments to Outside Bodies Procedure Rules, the Area Committee is invited to determine the appointments to those Leeds Initiative Area Based Partnership Groups detailed at Section 3 of the report. The Area Committee is also invited to consider appointing one representative to the Council's Corporate Carers' Group for the remainder of the municipal year.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 The Area Committee is invited to appoint one representative to each of the Leeds Initiative Area Based Partnership Group, as listed within section 3 of this report, and also appoint one representative to the Council's Corporate Carers' Group.

7 Background documents¹

- 7.1 Appointments to Outside Bodies Procedure Rules
- 7.2 Report to Member Management Committee, 18th November 2008, entitled, 'Area Based Partnerships'
- 7.3 Report to Member Management Committee, 19th June 2012, entitled, 'Appointment of Members to Leeds Initiative Partnership Boards'
- 7.4 Report to Area Committees, June/July 2012, entitled, 'Local Authority Appointments to Outside Bodies'

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.