

Report of: Jill Wildman, Chief Officer Housing Management

Report to: Inner South Community Committee, Beeston and Holbeck, Hunslet and Riverside and Middleton Park Wards.

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For decision

Community Committee nominations to Housing Advisory Panels (HAP)

Purpose of report

1. To seek Ward Councillor nominations from the Inner South Community Committee to the Inner South Housing Advisory Panel (HAP)

Main issues

2. There are 11 HAPs across the city, in geographical alignment with Community Committee's, with the exception of the East Inner Community Committee – which is split into two HAPs due to the large number of Council homes.
3. During 2017/18, Housing Leeds undertook a review of HAPs that included the views of Ward Members, tenants and others. A key theme of the review was to explore how HAPs can work more closely with Community Committees.
4. Ward Members play an important role in helping the HAPs undertake their role and helping tackle shared local priorities, this may include:
 - a. Sharing with local HAPs the Community Committee priorities, giving updates about key pieces of work or projects that the HAP may be able to help support.

- b. Helping the HAP establish their priorities, sharing local knowledge and insight about local community or environmental issues.
 - c. Encouraging tenants on the HAP to be involved and contribute to Community Committee meetings and workshops.
 - d. When appropriate, helping join up HAP funding with local Community Committee funding and other funding sources.
 - e. To support the overall focus on the community, helping bring Tenant Engagement forums together with Community Committee led activity.
5. Community Committees in their June 2018 round of nominations are requested to:
- a. Nominate up to 1 Ward Member per Ward within the HAP area (with the exception of Outer East which has 1 Ward, where 2 nominations from the same Ward are welcomed).
 - b. To undertake the above on the basis that all nominations are for full members, with HAP voting rights.
 - c. Take into account the number of Council homes in each Ward. For Wards with relatively few Council homes nominations are sought on an optional basis. (See Appendix 1)
6. Council nominations to the panel will continue to help develop local working relationships, especially between the local housing teams, the Tenant Engagement Service and the local Communities Teams.

Corporate considerations

7.

a. Consultation and engagement

This report facilitates the necessary consultation and engagement with Community Committee Members in respect of appointments to the designated positions and Outside Bodies. Given that the Community Committee is the relevant appointing body, there is no requirement to undertake a public consultation exercise on such matters

b. Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration

Council representation on Housing Advisory Panels enables those appointed Members to act as a conduit in terms of linking the Council's policies and priorities. It also encourages joint working between services to support local projects; these would potentially include matters relating to equality, diversity, cohesion or integration.

c. Council policies and city priorities

Council representation on, and engagement with Housing Advisory Panels, to which the Community Committee has authority to appoint, is in line with the Council's Policies and City Priorities.

d. Resources and value for money

Council representation on the HAPs encourages closer working relationships, in particular the opportunities for the joint funding of projects that meet local needs.

e. Legal implications, access to information and call in

In line with the Council's Executive and Decision Making Procedure Rules, the power to Call In decisions does not extend to those decisions taken by Community Committees.

f. Risk management

In not appointing to the HAPs, there is a risk that the Council's designated representation would not be fulfilled and the opportunities and benefits to local tenants and residents not maximised.

Conclusion

8. The Housing Service is seeking nominations to the Inner South Housing Advisory Panel. Community Committees are requested to nominate up to 1 Ward Councillor per Ward within the HAP area. The nominations to the HAPs will continue to help the service build positive working relationships with the Committee and to ensure local priorities are reflected in panel activity.

Recommendations

9. The Inner South Community Committee is requested to nominate up to 1 Ward Member from each of the Beeston and Holbeck, Hunslet and Riverside and Middleton Park Wards within the HAP area.

Background information

- Key functions of Housing Advisory Panels remain in principle the same as during 2017/18, and are to:
 - Be aware of the needs of local communities and wider Council priorities and use HAP funds to support a range of community and environmental projects that help support these.
 - Work with local housing and other Council teams to help review and monitor the delivery of local services and help shape services that meet the local communities needs.

- More information is available from www.leeds.gov.uk/hap or from the Tenant Engagement Service, 0113 378 3330 or email housingadvisorypanel@leeds.gov.uk