

Report of: City Solicitor

**Report to: Inner West Community Committee (Armley, Bramley & Stanningley,
Kirkstall)**

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Date: 20th July 2021

For decision

Community Committee Appointments 2021/2022

Purpose of report

- 1 The purpose of this report is to note the appointment of Councillor Bithell as Chair of the Community Committee for 2021/22 as agreed at the recent Annual Council Meeting, and also to invite the Committee to make appointments to those positions detailed in section 6 / the appendices.

Main issues

Noting Appointment of Community Committee Chair for 2021/22

1. Members are invited to note the appointment of Councillor Bithell as Chair of the Community Committee for 2021/22, as agreed at the recent Annual Meeting of Council.
2. The Committee is also invited to note the appointment of Cllr Julie Heselwood as Deputy Chair of the Community Committee for 2021/22.

Appointments to Outside Bodies including Cluster Partnerships, Housing Advisory Panels and Local Care Partnerships

3. Member Management Committee annually determines which Outside Bodies will be delegated to Community Committees for appointment. Attached at Appendix 1 is the current schedule of organisations as delegated to the Community Committee.
4. Most recently, Member Management Committee agreed in 2019 that appointments to Local Care Partnerships be delegated to Community Committees for determination.

Appointments to Community Committee ‘Champions’

5. The Constitution requires that Community Committees appoint Member ‘Champions’ in several designated areas. Currently, these areas are: ‘Environment & Community Safety’; ‘Children’s Services’; ‘Employment, Skills & Welfare’; and ‘Health, Wellbeing & Adult Social Care’.

Appointment to Corporate Parenting Board

6. In recent years Community Committees have been used as the appropriate body by which local Elected Member representatives are appointed to the Corporate Parenting Board.

Schedule of Appointments

7. The Committee is invited to review the details in the table below together with the accompanying information which follows / is appended, and determine appoints for the 2021/22 municipal year:

Organisation / Outside Body	No. of Places	Current Appointee(s)
Mary Jane Butler	2	F Venner, H Bithell, J Illingworth
Bramley Poors Allotment Trust	1	K Ritchie
Clusters		
Bramley	1	C Gruen
ACES	1	J McKenna
Headingley/Kirkstall	1	H Bithell, F Venner, J Illingworth
LHAPs		
Inner West HAP	2	K Ritchie , J McKenna
Inner North West HAP	1	J Illingworth
LCPs		
Armley		L Cunningham
Bramley, Wortley & Middleton		
Champions		

Employment & Skills		J Heselwood / J McKenna
Health Wellbeing and Adult Social Care		L Cunningham / F Venner
Children's Services		H Bithell / C Gruen
Environment		J Illingworth / A Smart
Community Safety		K Ritchie
Corporate Parenting Board		C Gruen / H Bithell

Options

Outside Bodies

7. The Community Committee is invited to determine the appointments to those Outside Bodies as detailed within the table at section 6 / the appendices. The Council's Appointments to Outside Bodies Procedure Rules can be made available to Members upon request, however, a summary of the rules can be found at sections 8-14:
8. The Community Committee should first consider whether it is appropriate for an appointment to be of a specific office holder¹ either by reference to the constitution of the outside body concerned (if available), or in the light of any other circumstances as determined by the Community Committee. Such appointments would then be offered on this basis.
9. 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 Community Committee as a whole.
10. 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 1. Each appointment (including in-year replacements) runs for the municipal year, ending at the next Annual Council Meeting.
11. Elected Members 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 Community Committee and agreement sought as to whether the vacancy will be filled.
12. A vacancy occurring during the municipal year will normally be referred to the Community Committee for an appointment to be made, having regard to the principles described above.

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

13. Community Committees may review the list of organisations to which they are asked to make appointments at any time and make recommendations to Member Management Committee.
14. Please note, any appointments to those Outside Bodies detailed in the appendices / section 6 which are made by the Committee at today's meeting are subject to Member Management Committee approving at its first meeting of the municipal year, that arrangements for such appointments remain unchanged and that they continue to be made by this Community Committee.

Local Housing Advisory Panels

15. Ward Members play an important role in helping HAPs undertake their activity; sharing wider Community Committee priorities, giving updates about key pieces of work or projects, helping HAPs establish their priorities and by sharing local knowledge about community or environmental issues. Council nominations also help HAPs consider every opportunity to join HAP funding resources with local Community Committee or other funding sources for the benefit of communities. During 2021/22 HAPs continue to focus their interest and resources on supporting local community projects and activities in response to COVID-19, along with contributing to wider Best Council Plan priorities.

The Community Committee in their 2021/22 round of nominations, is therefore requested to:

- a. Nominate up to 1 Ward Member per Ward within the Inner West HAP area
- 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 2).

Local Care Partnerships

16. Local Care Partnerships (LCPs) bring health and care providers together with other partners and local communities to improve people's experience of care to be more personalised and joined up. The second purpose and to tackle the health inequalities that exist both within local communities and across Leeds. LCPS are aligned to Primary Care Network boundaries; NHS funded collaborations of GP practices working together locally to share resources and extend their offer. Further information on Local Care Partnerships and their current priorities can be found on their website <http://inspiringchangeleeds.org/local-care-partnerships/> From July 2019 forwards Community Committee meetings agreed individual arrangements for representation from Members at Local Care Partnership meetings. Members raised that representation on LCPs could helpfully be aligned with the existing Community Committee Health Champion role for some committees, as well as consider how wider elected members were included. Community Committees recognised there were already good relationships in place between some Members and individual GPs but that the picture varied significantly from GP practice to GP practice.

In 2019 a number of LCPs were newly formed and others yet to come together. Proposals were put forward on a 'best fit' approach to membership, mapping the geography of LCPs to Community Committee boundaries. Appendix 3 captures this best fit.

All LCPs are now in place and meet on a regular (usually monthly) basis. During COVID these meetings have been virtual which has resulted in a greater breadth of partners being able to attend and contribute regularly. This includes participation by Members. LCPs have played a vital role in the local coordination of the COVID response. As we emerge from COVID it is likely that most LCP meetings will remain virtual with quarterly in person meetings to facilitate networking and strengthen relationships.

Members are an integral part of Local Care Partnerships and we are requesting that the links between Local Care Partnerships and Community Committees are retained and strengthened. Community Committees are therefore requested to nominate members to the LCPs aligned to their Committee.

A key change in the Appendix from the 2019 position is an upcoming split of the Armley Local Care Partnership into Armley and Bramley, Wortley & Middleton. Member input is invited on the Bramley, Wortley & Middleton Local Care Partnership, in addition to the West Leeds LCP.

Community Committee ‘Champions’

17. The Community Committee Champions role aims to provide a local “lead” perspective and further facilitate local democratic accountability; particularly in conjunction with the relevant Executive Member. It is formally defined as covering the following areas:
 - To provide local leadership and champion the agenda at the Community Committee.
 - To represent the Community Committee at relevant meetings, forums and local partnerships.
 - To build links with key services and partners.
 - To provide a link between the Community Committee and the Executive Member to ensure local needs are represented, issues are highlighted, best practice is shared and to facilitate local solutions to any issues.
 - To maintain an overview of local performance.
 - To consult with the Community Committee and represent local views as part of the development and review of policy.
18. As set out in the Constitution, the Community Committee is invited to appoint to the Community Lead Member roles detailed in section 6.
19. Given that these roles may need to be tailored to best reflect specific local needs and circumstances, Community Committees may wish to consider splitting 2 of the roles namely:
 - Environment & Community Safety – with one Member focusing on the environment agenda and another on community safety.
 - Health, Wellbeing and Adult Social Care – with one Member covering the public health and wellbeing agenda and another focusing upon adult social care.

Corporate Parenting Board

21. Under the Children's Act 1989, all local Councillors are corporate parents, this means they have responsibilities relating to the quality of services for those children who have been taken into care by the local authority (children looked after).
22. Executive Board has previously agreed a clearer framework for the corporate parenting role in Leeds. This included establishing a core group of councillors with a special interest in leading the work on Corporate Parenting - the 'Corporate Parenting Board'. This core group includes representation from each of the 10 Community Committees and takes particular responsibilities relating to influencing, performance monitoring, and governance of those issues and outcomes that affect looked after children.
23. In February 2015, Executive Board approved a report that proposed a number of developments to enhance the Corporate Parenting Board, including a better link to the 'Care Promise' for looked after children and more regular involvement from senior leaders and partners both within and outside of the Council. The Board considers 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 Community Committee and champion the importance of effectively supporting those children. This is an important role within the overall framework of support and accountability for looked after children's services. The March 2015 Ofsted report for Leeds highlighted the positive benefits and impact of the Board's work.
24. The Community Committee is asked to appoint one representative to the Corporate Parenting Board for the duration of the 2020/21 municipal year. The Committee may consider it appropriate to combine the role with that of the Committee's Children's Services 'Champion'.
25. It should be noted that membership of the Corporate Parenting Board is encouraged for any Elected Members with a particular interest in the outcomes of looked after children, therefore whilst each Community Committee is asked to appoint one Member (to ensure an even geographic spread), it is possible for additional Members to participate. Therefore, additional Members with a particular interest are advised to approach the Chair of the Corporate Parenting Board or make the relevant officers aware.

Children's Services Cluster Partnerships

26. Clusters are local partnerships that include, amongst others: the Children's Social Work Service, schools, governors, Police, Leeds City Council youth service, Youth Offending Service, Children's Centres, Housing services, third sector, health, local elected members and a senior representative from children's services. Local clusters are key to the Children & Families Trust Board partnership and delivery arrangements.
27. They aim to:
 - enable local settings and services to work together effectively to improve outcomes for children, young people and their families;
 - build capacity to improve the delivery of preventative and targeted services to meet local needs;
 - create the conditions for integrated partnership working at locality level;

- promote the Children & Young People’s Plan and the ambition of a child friendly city across the locality.
28. A “well-coordinated locality and cluster approach results in early identification and extensive work with families according to need.” (Ofsted report, March 2015).
 29. Clusters began life as extended services for schools and have grown to engage a wide range of partners who provide early help and early intervention and prevention. In April 2011, the Children & Families Trust Board and Schools Forum agreed the adoption of a minimum standard for the terms of reference across the cluster partnerships, which included elected members as standing members of the governance group for each partnership.
 30. Elected Members also sit alongside a senior leader (Local Authority Partner) from the Children’s Services directorate to be part of the Council’s representation on each cluster partnership.
 31. In June 2013 Member Management Committee delegated the nomination of Elected Member representatives to local Children’s Services Cluster partnerships to Community Committees. This was with the aim of establishing a clear formal link between those Committees and Clusters. It was also with the intention of building closer working arrangements to better support the needs children and families across the city.

Corporate considerations

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

Both the Community Committee Champion roles and the Corporate Parenting role aim to champion, address and monitor issues arising in their respective fields, whilst also providing clear links with the relevant Executive Member, Council officers and partner agencies. As such, these roles would also look to address any equality, diversity, cohesion or integration issues arising in their specific areas.

Also, Council representation on Outside Bodies and Children’s Services Cluster Partnerships will enable those appointed Members to act as a conduit in terms of promoting the Council’s policies and priorities. As such, this would potentially include matters relating to equality, diversity, cohesion or integration.

c. Council policies and city priorities

Council representation on, and engagement with those Outside Bodies, partnerships and organisations to which the Community Committee has authority to appoint, is in line with the Council’s Policies and the Best Council Plan’s ‘Best City Priorities’.

d. 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.

If a Councillor is nominated to an Outside Body by the Council then that Councillor receives full indemnity from the Council. For example should someone attempt to take action against a Councillor personally in their role as a Council appointed trustee/director of an Outside Body; then the Council would cover the cost of defending the action against that Councillor, and if the action were successful the Council would cover any compensation which the Councillor had to pay. The only exception to this is for "fraud, or other deliberate wrongdoing or recklessness". The indemnity applies to a company, trust, or charity and whether a Councillor is nominated as a director or trustee. If a Member has not been nominated by the Council, then the indemnity will not apply, and the Member should check that the trust, company etc. has got appropriate insurance cover for its trustees/directors.

e. Risk management

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

Conclusion

32. The Community Committee is asked to consider and determine the appointments to those designated Outside Bodies, partnerships and organisations as detailed within the report and appendix.

Recommendations

33. The Community Committee is asked to consider and confirm appointments to those positions detailed in section 6 / the appendices, having regard to the Appointments to Outside Bodies Procedure Rules, as summarised in this report;
34. The Committee is also invited to note the appointment of Councillor Bithell, as Chair of the Community Committee for the duration of 2021/22, as agreed at the recent Annual Meeting of Council.

Background information

- None