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## Report of the Chief Democratic Services Officer

### Report to Member Management Committee

Date: 31<sup>st</sup> May 2007

### Subject: LOCAL AUTHORITY APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

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**Electoral Wards Affected:**

**Specific Implications For:**

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

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## 1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report outlines the roles and responsibilities of the Member Management Committee in relation to Elected Member Appointments to Outside Bodies.
- 1.2 The report also provides an update on the Members currently serving on outside bodies and details appointments made since the last meeting of this Committee in February 2007.

## 2.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1 This report outlines the Member Management Committee's role in relation to Elected Member Appointments to Outside Bodies and asks the Committee to;
  - Agree a schedule detailing those organisations that the Council will continue to make an appointment to;
  - Agree the nominations to those organisations which fall to the Committee to make an appointment to.

## 3.0 RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MEMBER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

- 3.1 Each year the Member Management Committee is required to review the list of notified Outside Bodies and determine whether the Council should make/continue to make an appointment to those bodies. The process by which this is undertaken is detailed in the Appointment to Outside Bodies Procedure Rules (an extract of which is listed below, a copy of the procedure rules are appended to this report at Appendix 1 and are subject to approval at the Annual General Meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> May 2007).

## Extract from the Appointments to Outside Bodies Procedure Rules

2.2 *Each year the Member Management Committee will review the list of notified Outside Bodies and will determine whether the Council should make/continue to make an appointment to those bodies.*

2.3 *Determination will be based on one or more of the following criteria being met.*

- *The proposed appointment is a statutory requirement, or*
- *The proposed appointment would be consistent with the Council's policy or strategic objectives, or*
- *The proposed appointment would add value to the Council's activities*

3.2 The current schedule of bodies to which appointments are made is attached at Appendix 2. This schedule was agreed by Member Management Committee in June 2006 and identifies those appointments which fall to the Committee to make.

3.3 In relation to these appointments the Member Management Committee is asked to :-

- confirm that the Council will continue to make an appointment to those organisations listed;
- confirm the allocation of responsibility for appointments to the Member Management Committee
- consider those Members which they would wish to appoint to serve on the organisations listed in Appendix 2

3.4 The Appointments Procedure advises the Member Management Committee to have regard to the principle of securing an overall allocation of places which reflects the proportion of Members from each Political Group on the Council as a whole and to have regard to a Members current interests prior to making any appointment to avoid any potential conflict of interest.

3.5 The Member Management Committee is asked to note that Elected Members should normally fill all available appointments and that all appointments are subject to annual change unless otherwise stated in the constitution of the external organisation. Each appointment (including in-year replacements) runs for the municipal year, ending at the next Annual Council Meeting.

3.6 It is recognised that Party Groups may not wish to take up vacancies which are made available to them. In such circumstances vacancies will be notified to the Member Management Committee and agreement sought as to whether the vacancy will be filled.

3.7 A vacancy occurring during the municipal year will normally be referred to the Member Management Committee for an appointment to be made, having regard to the principles as described above

#### **4.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR COUNCIL POLICY AND GOVERNANCE**

- 4.1 The appointment of Elected members to the Outside Bodies detailed in the attached schedule contributes to the Council's strategic functions, priorities and community leadership role.

#### **5.0 POSITION STATEMENT**

- 5.1 The Member Management Committee met on a number of occasions in the last Municipal Year to make Elected Member appointments to Outside Bodies. The attached schedule at Appendix 2 details the current position.
- 5.2 Member Management Committee is asked to consider the vacancies detailed in Appendix 2 and make appointments to them.
- 5.3 In considering these vacancies the Committee is asked to specifically consider the following issues:-

##### Leeds Ahead Board

- 5.4 Leeds Ahead has approached the City Council to provide an elected member representative on the Leeds Ahead Board. The Group have specifically requested that Cllr. Harris, in his role as Executive Member with responsibility for Narrowing the Gap be asked to take up this position.
- 5.5 Leeds Ahead is now an independent not-for-profit company with a specific brief of engaging the private sector in supporting the Narrowing the Gap agenda. It provides businesses of all sizes with the opportunity of becoming involved in actively supporting neighbourhood activity in Leeds. Its focus is on linking business expertise, time, services and products into supporting the public and voluntary sector agencies and projects that are charged with delivering regeneration on the ground. Its remit extends to recruiting private sector support to District Partnerships and other leadership roles.
- 5.6 Present partners in Leeds Ahead include Leeds City Council's Regeneration and Jobs and Skills teams, JobCentre Plus, the Groundwork Trust and Education Leeds, as well as a plethora of voluntary sector organisations. Leeds Ahead is heavily supported by the Leeds Initiative and further supported by Leeds Chamber, the Federation of Small Businesses and the Asian Business Development Network.
- 5.7 Leeds Ahead has recently been established as a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee reports to a Board which includes Leeds Initiative. It has already attracted private sector support of £180,000 over the next 3 years and aims to become a fully sustainable social enterprise within 3 years.
- 5.8 Executive Board on 24<sup>th</sup> January approved a financial contribution from the Council to the value of £100,000 to the organisation, for a specific project to generate an additional £400,000 in cash and in kind from the private sector to support the narrowing the gap priorities of District Partnerships. This was in recognition of the unique role, capacity and capability of Leeds Ahead and its partner organisation Leeds Community Foundation, to deliver on this critical aspect of the narrowing the gap agenda.

## Leeds Community Foundation

- 5.9 Leeds Community Foundation have approached the City Council to provide an elected member representative on their Development Committee. The Group have also specifically requested that Cllr. Harris, in his role as Executive Member with responsibility for Narrowing the Gap be asked to take up this position.
- 5.10 Community Foundations are independent, non-profit organisations that promote and support local voluntary and community activities in defined geographical areas. They have two key roles. One is to act as a “donor services agency”, working with individuals and companies to establish and then manage charitable funds. The second is to act as the bridge with the local community and voluntary sector, ensuring that grants are used to address real needs, problems and issues. Their aim is to provide a permanent resource for local communities.
- 5.11 Following an initial report into the feasibility of establishing such an organisation in Leeds, the Leeds Community Foundation was formally registered both as a charity and a company limited by guarantee and a Board of Trustees / Directors was appointed. Successful applications for funding were made to Yorkshire Forward and the European Community European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).
- 5.12 The Leeds Community Foundation works with individuals, companies, grant-making trusts and other organisations. Donors can help by making donations, donating shares land or property, leaving a legacy or by initiatives such as payroll donations, providing sponsorship or joining a membership scheme or setting up a grant making trust.
- 5.13 Since its establishment in January 2005, the Foundation has distributed over £300,000 in grants (including £100k in private funds) to local groups. It has established a board of 8 trustees with voluntary sector and business representation and has begun to make approaches to key individuals and organisations, in Leeds.
- 5.14 Given the clear capacity of both organisations to deliver on specific aspects of the narrowing the gap agenda, and their strong desire to work closely with the council, it is suggested that an appointment to the Board of Leeds Ahead and the Development Committee of Leeds Community Foundation is consistent with the Council's policy and strategic objectives and would significantly add value to the Council's activities.
- 5.15 The Appointments to Outside Bodies Procedure Rules state that where a request to make an appointment is received then determination of this will be based on one or more of the following criteria being met:
- the proposed appointment is a statutory requirement;
  - the proposed appointment would be consistent with the Council's policy or strategic objectives; and/or
  - the proposed appointment would add value to the Council's activities.
- 5.16 Where an organisation is deemed to have met one or more of these criteria, Members are requested to allocate it to one of the following categories:
- Strategic and Key Partnerships – participation contributes to the Council's strategic objectives and community leadership role
  - Community and Local Engagement – not necessary to fulfil strategic or key partnership role but, nonetheless, beneficial in terms of leading, engaging and supporting the community from an area or ward perspective.

- 5.17 The appointing body for Strategic and Key Partnerships is the Member Management Committee. The appointing body for Community and Local Engagement is the appropriate Area Committee.
- 5.18 Members are asked to consider whether an appointment should be made to the Leeds Ahead Board and Leeds Community Foundation and to agree that these appointments would fall into the Strategic and Key category. Members are also asked to agree that these appointments be reserved to the Executive Member with responsibility for Narrowing the Gap

### IGEN

- 5.19 Members are asked to note that Councillor Bentley has resigned as the Council representative from the IGEN Board due to a possible conflict of interest with her other commitments.
- 5.20 Members are asked to consider appointing a representative to this organisation.
- 5.21 Appointments made since February 2007  
Since the last meeting of the Committee there have been no appointments using the delegations made by this Committee to the Assistant Chief Executive(Corporate Governance).

## **6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 The Member Management Committee is asked to:-
- Note the Appointments to Outside Bodies Procedure Rules at Appendix 1
  - Agree the schedule at Appendix 2 detailing those organisations that the Council will continue to make an appointment to;
  - Agree the nominations to those organisations which fall to the Committee to make an appointment to;

