



---

**Report of the Chief Democratic Services Officer**

**Member Management Committee**

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

**Subject: Local Authority Appointments to Outside Bodies – Local Government Association General Assembly and Urban Commission**

---

**Electoral Wards Affected:**

**Specific Implications For:**

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

---

**1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To seek Member representation on the Local Government Association General Assembly and Urban Commission.

**2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

2.1 The Local Government Association have written to all local authorities seeking nominations for their General Assembly and for Commissions for 2007/08.

2.2 As a major metropolitan authority, Leeds is entitled to four representatives on the General Assembly, which functions as a self styled 'parliament' of local government. The Association encourages those authorities entitled to three or four representatives on the General Assembly to allocate one of those positions to Minority Group Leaders on their Authorities.

2.3 Nominations are also being sought for representatives for the Urban and Rural Commissions. Leeds is entitled to provide 2 nominations for each Commission – either as two members, or as one member one officer. Leeds has traditionally agreed that it would have a member and officer representative on the Urban Commission, but would not take up the places available on the Rural Commission.

2.4 Nominations are required to meet the LGA deadline of 11<sup>th</sup> June for the Assembly, 22<sup>nd</sup> June for the Urban Commission and 27<sup>th</sup> July for the Rural Commission.

### 3.0 MAIN ISSUES

#### General Assembly

- 3.1 The Assembly meets 3 / 4 times a year to discuss issues of broad significance for local government. It provides a direct link to central government and a networking opportunity with other authorities.
- 3.2 It is suggested that Leeds takes advantage of the opportunity to nominate four representatives for the General Assembly. Cllr. Andrew Carter has suggested that this be agreed on the following basis:
- Conservative Group – 1 nominee, proposed as Cllr. Andrew Carter
  - Liberal Democrat Group – 1 nominee
  - Morley Borough Independent Group – 1 nominee
  - Labour Group – 1 nominee

#### Urban Commission

- 3.5 Involvement on the Urban Commission provides an opportunity for the city to engage with specific urban issues. For 2007 the work programme for the commission includes action on transport, thriving local economies and neighbourhood empowerment to support the work of the LGA's priority boards.
- 3.6 It is suggested that Leeds reconfirms its intention to take up its two places on the Commission. Members are asked to consider whether this should take the form of current representation (ie a member and senior officer) or whether they would wish to nominate two members. The view of the Leader of the Council, Cllr. Andrew carter, is that the current representation ought to be retained – ie one member, one officer, and that the member representative should be reserved for the Development and Regeneration Portfolio holder ie currently Cllr. Carter.
- 3.7 The view of Officers and Cllr. Carter is that it is not considered desirable for Leeds to take up positions on the Rural Commission at this stage.
- 3.8 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.
- 3.9 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.

3.10 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.

3.11 Members are asked to consider whether an appointment should be made to this body and to agree that an appointment would fall into the Strategic and Key category.

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

4.1 The member appointments referred to in 3.1 to 3.11 are in accordance with the Council's Constitution and as detailed in the Appointments to Outside Body Procedure Rules. Members will also be advised of the need to update their entry in the Members register of interests.

#### **5.0 LEGAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are no specific legal or resource implications in relation to these appointments.

#### **6.0 RECOMMENDATION**

6.1 Members are asked to agree:

- A maximum of four places for the LGA General Assembly as set out in para 3.2
- Representation on the LGA Urban Commission as set out in para 3.6