



Report of the Chief Democratic Services Officer

West (Inner) Area Committee

Date: 28th June 2007

Subject: Local Authority Appointments to Outside Bodies

Electoral Wards Affected:

Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Council Function

Delegated Executive Function available for Call In

Delegated Executive Function not available for Call In Details set out in the report

Executive Summary

This report outlines the procedures for Council appointments to outside bodies, and the Committee are requested to consider and appoint to those bodies listed at Appendix 2 to the report.

1.0 Purpose of this Report

1.1 This report outlines the Area Committee's role in relation to Elected Member Appointments to Outside Bodies and asks the Committee to :

- Agree the nominations to those organisations which fall to the Committee to make an appointment to.

2.0 Background

2.1 In April 2004 Full Council agreed that in future Elected Member appointments to Outside Bodies should be undertaken by a constituted body of Elected Members and that appointments to all outside bodies should, where appropriate, be made with due regard to proportionality within the law.

2.2 Attached at Appendix 1 is the agreed Appointment Procedure Rules¹ that have been adopted by Full Council. The procedure addresses previous concerns raised by Elected Members relating to proportionality; introduces appointment categories; and

¹ This Procedure is now incorporated into the Council's Constitution

places responsibility for appointment clearly with Elected Members both through this Committee and the Member Management Committee.

2.3 The Member Management Committee has responsibilities for Council Appointments to Outside Bodies and for exercising decision making in the following areas:

- Considering requests from all Outside Organisations seeking Elected Member representation
- Determining the category of appointment which will govern which Committee will make the appointments
- Making Elected Member appointments to Outside Bodies within the Strategic and Key Partnership category.

2.4 Full Council has agreed that due to the large number of organisations seeking Council representation, appointments within the Community and Local Engagement Category will be considered and approved by Elected Members serving on the relevant Area Management Committee.

2.5 In July 2004 the Member Management Committee met to consider allocation of appointments to each Area Committee. Attached at Appendix 2 are those that have been determined should be made by this Area Committee.

2.6 One of the delegated Member appointment functions which Area Committees have previously been asked to exercise is making Elected Member appointments to the Boards of Housing Management Arms Length Management Organisations. However, on the recommendation of the Executive Board, the Member Management Committee at its meeting on 22nd December 2006 resolved that in future appointments to the re-structured ALMO Boards (down from 6 to 3, with smaller numbers of Directors) would be made by the Member Management Committee itself, hence these appointments no longer appear in the schedule of appointments at Appendix 2.

3.0 The Appointment Procedure - Community and Local Engagement Category

3.1 The Area Committee must first consider whether it is appropriate for an appointment to be of a specific office holder² either by reference, if this is available, to the constitution of the outside body concerned or in the light of any other circumstances as determined by the Area Committee. Such appointments will then be offered on this basis.

3.2 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 as a whole.

3.3 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.

² For example it may be considered necessary or otherwise appropriate to appoint a specific Ward Member

- 3.4 Elected Members³ will fill all available appointments but 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 Area Committee and agreement sought as to whether the vacancy will be filled.
- 3.5 A vacancy occurring during the municipal year will normally be referred to the Area Committee for an appointment to be made, having regard to the principles as described above.
- 3.6 Area Management Committees may review the list of organisations to which they are asked to make appointments at any time and make recommendations to the Member Management Committee.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 The Area Committee is asked to confirm the nominees to work with the Outside Bodies identified in the Schedule at Appendix 2, having regard to the Appointment Procedure Rules outlined in this report and detailed at Appendix 1.

³ Section 249 Local Government Act 1972 states that Aldermen and Honorary Freemen may attend and take part in civic ceremonies but do not have the right to attend Council/committee meetings or receive any allowances or payments under a Members Allowance Scheme. This establishes the principle that such persons should not to be treated as Councillors, and therefore cannot be appointed to outside bodies in place of a Councillor if the request from an organisation is for a Councillor