



Report of the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods

Inner West Area Committee

Date: 28th June 2007

Subject: Area Functions Schedule 2007/8

Electoral Wards Affected:

Armley,
Bramley & Stanningley

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 details the updated Area Function Schedules for 2007/08, based on the functions delegated to the Area Committees at the present time.

It is anticipated that a further report will be brought to Area Committee in the near future once the Executive Board has agreed outline proposals for the delegation of a number of further functions to the Area Committees.

1.0 Purpose Of This Report

- 1.1 To provide Inner West Area Committee with details of the updated Area Functions Schedule for 2007/8. This is based upon the functions delegated at this time.

2.0 Background Information

- 2.1 The first Executive Functions were delegated to the Area Committees in September 2004 and covered services relating to community safety, streetscene and children and young people. The Council also gave Area Committees a responsibility to promote the social, economic and environmental well being of their areas and dedicated revenue and capital budgets to support this function. From June 2006, Area Committees also became responsible for the portfolio of community centres vested with the then Neighbourhoods and Housing Department.

2.2 Currently area management arrangements are being reviewed by senior officers through the corporate Area Management Review Board. Councillor Chapman, Lead Member, has sought views from elected members and has met with the Chairs of the Area Committees to discuss any future developments. The outcomes of this work will inform a report to the Executive Board in the near future. It is anticipated that this will cover proposals for the delegation of a number of additional functions to the Area Committees.

3.0 Main Issues

3.1 **Area Function Schedules for 2007/08.** Schedules, detailing the functions currently delegated, are attached as Appendix 1 of this report. They cover:

3.1.1 **Youth Service** – an updated schedule for the Youth Service is covered.

3.1.2 **Community Centres** – an updated schedule for the portfolio of centres previously delegated is covered. Further work is being carried out on the portfolio of centres which are transferring from the former Learning and Leisure Department. This involves analysing 2006/07 actual budgets in order to ensure that accurate budgets at a centre level are secured.

3.1.3 **CCTV Cameras** – an updated schedule is included.

3.1.4 **Neighbourhood Wardens** – the updated schedule is based on the Council and external resources (mainly NRF) secured for this service for 2007/08 and reflects the current pattern of deployment of wardens across the city. In addition a number of areas are funding extra wardens with Area Committee / ALMO contributions.

3.1.5 **PCSOs** – an updated schedule is included which reflects the increase in resources in order that 15 PCSOs are now deployed in inner west.

3.1.6 **Waste Management – Recycling Banks** – an updated schedule is included.

3.1.7 **Public Conveniences** – an updated schedule is included.

3.1.8 **Well Being Budgets** - the revenue wellbeing allocation reflects a 2% inflationary uplift on last year's figures. The total capital allocation is £1mn per year for the next three years and the figures represent the allocation for 2007/08. As with previous years, it is anticipated that any unspent revenue and capital balances at the end of March 2007 will be carried forward into the current financial year. In addition to these figures, the Executive Board agreed a £500,000 one off release of General Fund Reserves at its meeting in April to accommodate a further £50,000 allocation for each Area Committee on a non recurring basis. This element of Wellbeing budget must be spent in the current financial year.

3.1.9 This extra allocation has been added to the revenue Wellbeing budget and has been earmarked by the Executive Board for two areas of strategic importance for the Council as a whole. These are:

- Carrying out a conservation area review of conservation areas in their geographical area; - (This is a Best Value indicator for the Council and it is felt that it is best addressed at a local level)
- Introducing residents' only parking / extra parking provision in particular areas of concern.

3.2 The Authority to exercise these functions will continue to be held concurrently by the Executive Board, Area Committees and relevant Directors (within their scheme of delegated authority). Any proposed changes to area committee budgets relating to these services would need to be made in consultation with the relevant service Director(s) and with the agreement of the Area Committee and Executive Board where appropriate.

4.0 Implications For Council Policy and Governance

4.1 The work described in this report and the recommendation fits with the existing Council policy and governance arrangements.

5.0 Legal and Resource Implications

5.1 There are no new resource or legal implications arising from the updated Area Function Schedules.

6.0 Conclusions

6.1 The attached appendix details all functions currently delegated to the Area Committee.

7.0 Recommendations

7.1 Area Committee are asked to approve updated Area Function Schedules for 2007/08.