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**Report of the North East Area Manager**

**North East (Inner) Area Committee**

**Date: 10<sup>th</sup> September 2007**

**Subject: Co-opted Representatives to the Area Committee**

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**Electoral Wards Affected:**

Chapel Allerton  
Moortown  
Roundhay

Ward members consulted  
(referred to in this report)

**Specific Implications For:**

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Council  
Function

Delegated Executive  
Function available  
for Call In

x

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

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**Executive Summary**

This report provides information on the constitutional background for the appointment of co-opted representatives to an Area Committee, the citywide situation and options for Members to consider with regards to arrangements for inner north east.

## **Purpose of this report**

1. This report provides the constitutional background for Area Committees to appoint co-opted representatives to support the work of the Committee.
2. It details the situation with other Area Committees across Leeds with regards to co-opted representation.
3. Finally, the report offers options for the Area Committee to consider regarding possible co-opted members sitting on this Committee.

## **Constitutional Background**

4. Under Article 10 of the Council's Constitution, there is provision for Area Committees to appoint up to 5 non-voting co-opted members to support the work of the Committee. Co-opted members can participate in debates but have no voting rights. No co-opted member can be appointed for a period beyond the next Annual Meeting of the Council.

## **Citywide Situation**

5. East Inner and West Outer have co-opted representatives appointed to their Area Committees. No other Area Committee has any co-opted representatives.

### **East Inner Area Committee**

6. The Area Committee has five geographically based forums covering the whole inner area. They have just appointed five co-opted representatives, each one representing one of the forums. There is a formal process for the selection of candidates from each forum.
7. There is a criteria for the appointment of co-opted members. These include the requirement that the individual must:
  - Live or work within an East Leeds forum area
  - Be willing to support the ethos of Area Management
  - Represent the interests of all individuals and organisations making up the forum
  - Not act to further own interests to benefit self / or own organisation without regard for the best interests of the forum
8. The full Area Committee then assesses the applications and agrees to elect individuals to represent each forum area for one municipal year, at the first Area Committee meeting of that year.

## **West Outer Area Committee**

9. The West Outer Area Committee have made available places for three co-opted representatives, one representing each of the three wards that make up the Area Committee. The Area Committee have also expressed the view that any co-optees should be able to represent the whole area and should be able to contribute specific expertise to assist the Committees deliberations, for example through their involvement in business, with young people or the voluntary sector.
10. Members themselves put forward individuals who they feel represent their area and have specific expertise, then the full Area Committee are asked to agree and adopt them as co-opted representatives.

## **Options for North East Inner**

11. The West Outer and East Inner Area Committees have co-opted representatives who can contribute to discussions at Committee meetings but have no voting rights. Their co-opted representatives have therefore been involved with discussions around the Area Delivery Plans for their respective Committee amongst other issues.

### **a) Existing methods of ensuring representative views are heard by the Area Committee**

12. The Open Forum at the beginning of each Area Committee meeting provides an opportunity for any member of the public to make a representation to the Committee on any subject matter.
13. The Community Engagement Strategy agreed by the Area Committee in June aims to ensure that local people are involved with drawing up the Area Delivery Plan for 2008/09 and that local views are therefore represented and heard by the Area Committee. The Area Committee may wish to consider allowing time for the strategy to be implemented before making any changes.
14. The Area Committee established a set of working groups based around priority themes in 2005. The groups have no decision making powers but do table recommendations for consideration by the Area Committee. Currently the Youth Issues and Well-Being Fund working group are active and contribute valuable recommendations to help inform Area Committee discussion and decisions. The working groups involve officers and invited representatives from the voluntary / education / other sectors depending on the issue being discussed. The Committee may wish to consider that these groups provide adequate opportunity for representative views to be heard, and that co-opted representation on the full Area Committee is therefore unnecessary.

### **b) Possible co-opted representatives on the Area Committee**

15. If the Area Committee decides that they would like to appoint co-opted representatives for 2007/08 municipal year then it is suggested that the individuals, where possible, represent their sector across the whole inner area. The particular issue raised at the last Area Committee meeting in the Open Forum concerned the need for voluntary sector organisations to be represented on the Area Committee.
16. Leeds VOICE facilitate the North East Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector (VCFS) Forum which is made up of representatives from voluntary organisations across the north east wedge. A representative from the VCFS Forum has been appointed to the North East District Partnership to represent voluntary sector views

on the Executive Board, and a similar arrangement, ensuring the representative has an inner north east focus, could be made for appointing a co-opted representative to this Area Committee. It would be important for the individual to represent the sector across all three wards and not be single issue, or organisation based.

17. The Area Committee may also like to consider appointing a representative of young people's views if they wish to co-opt representatives. The inner north east area has youth forums, established by the Youth Service, covering all three wards. The young people could be asked to nominate a representative. Alternatively, an individual from Leeds Youth Council who is a pupil at one of the inner north east High Schools could be approached to sit as a co-opted representative on the Area Committee.

### **Corporate Context**

18. The Area Committee may also be aware that cross sector representation is available through the North East District Partnership. Currently there is a citywide review of the roles of the District Partnership and Area Committees. It might be premature at this time to pre-empt the outcome of these discussions and reviews by appointing co-opted representation. The Area Committee may wish to revisit the issue once the District Partnership review and Area Management Board outcomes are known. The Area Management Team will ensure the VCFS forum are supplied with papers and minutes of the Area Committee meetings. The inner north east youth forums will also be approached and asked if they would like to receive copies.

### **Recommendations**

19. The Area Committee is requested to;
  - a) consider if they wish to have any co-opted representation on the Area Committee and if so,
  - b) consider the suggestions and indicate if they wish to go ahead with two co-opted representatives, one from the VCFS Forum and a young person from one of the youth forums or Leeds Youth Council