

**Report of: City Solicitor**

**Report to: Inner South Community Committee, Beeston and Holbeck, City and Hunslet and Middleton Park**

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**Date: 10<sup>th</sup> June 2015**

**For decision**

## **Community Committee Appointments 2015/2016**

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### **Purpose of report**

- 1 The purpose of this report is to invite the Committee to make appointments to the following, as appropriate:-
  - Those Outside Bodies as detailed at Appendix 1;
  - One representative to the Corporate Parenting Board;
  - The Committee's 'Community Lead Members', as listed; and
  - Those Children's Services Cluster Partnerships, also as listed.

### **Main issues**

1. **Outside Bodies**
2. Member Management Committee annually determines which Outside Bodies will be delegated to Community Committees for appointment. Attached at Appendix 1 are those organisations that Member Management Committee has determined should continue to be made by this Community Committee.
3. **Community Lead Members**
4. In May 2013, Executive Board recommended that Area (Community) Committees appoint Area Lead Members, in accordance with the defined roles as subsequently presented to the Annual Council Meeting as part of the Council's Executive Arrangements.

## **5. Children's Services Cluster Partnerships**

6. In June 2013, Member Management Committee resolved that the nomination of Elected Member representatives to the local Children's Services Cluster Partnerships be delegated to Area (Community) Committees for determination.

## **7. Corporate Parenting Board**

8. In recent years Community Committees have been seen as the appropriate principle body by which local Elected Member representatives are appointed to the Corporate Parenting Board.

## **Options**

### **9. Outside Bodies**

10. The Community Committee is requested to determine the appointments to those Outside Bodies as detailed within Appendix 1. The Council's Appointments to Outside Bodies Procedure Rules can be made available to Members upon request.
11. The Community Committee should first consider whether it is appropriate for an appointment to be of a specific office holder<sup>1</sup> either by reference to the constitution of the outside body concerned (if available), or in the light of any other circumstances as determined by the Community Committee. Such appointments would then be offered on this basis.
12. 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 Community Committee as a whole.
13. All appointments are subject to annual change unless otherwise stated within the constitution of the external organisation, which will therefore be reflected on the table at Appendix 1. Each appointment (including in-year replacements) runs for the municipal year, ending at the next Annual Council Meeting.
14. Elected Members will fill all available appointments but it is recognised that Political Groups may not wish to take up vacancies which are made available to them. In such circumstances, vacancies will be notified to the Community Committee and agreement sought as to whether the vacancy will be filled.
15. A vacancy occurring during the municipal year will normally be referred to the Community Committee for an appointment to be made, having regard to the principles described above.
16. Community Committees may review the list of organisations to which they are asked to make appointments at any time and make recommendations to Member Management Committee.

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<sup>1</sup> For example it may be considered necessary or otherwise appropriate to appoint a specific Ward Member

## 17. Appointments 2015/2016

18. This year there are 7 appointments to be made in relation to the following organisations:-

### **Belle Isle Elderly Winter Aid**

Belle Isle Elderly Winter Aid is a registered charity (701895), founded in 1986. Their aim is to assist older people to remain living in their homes for as long as possible. This is done by providing activities and services to address the issues and problems, which older people say affect their quality of life and their ability to manage to maintain independence and continue to live at home.

**This is an annual appointment and the Council's current representative is Councillor Blake.**

### **Belle Isle Tenant Management Organisation (BITMO)**

In 1991, Leeds City Council established the Belle Isle North Estate Management Board (EMB) in partnership with local tenants. The EMB only managed the north of Belle Isle - which benefited with investment via the Estate Action programme in the late 1980s and early 1990s. The southern half of the estate remained largely unimproved and required major improvements. The consultation and the subsequent creation of the six ALMOs in Leeds began a debate about the future of the EMB, and of the future of the whole of the Belle Isle area.

From the time that the estate was built until the 1980s Belle Isle had been one area. In 1984 the Council decentralised the housing service, and created a larger number of smaller community based housing management areas. This led to the creation of the Belle Isle North and Belle Isle South housing areas. It had always been the hope of the EMB to bring together the north and south parts of Belle Isle back into one housing area.

Over a period of five years, a group of tenants on the Belle Isle Estate worked towards tenant management for the whole area. The formation of the Belle Isle Group (B.I.G.) led to the eventual serving of a 'Notice to Manage' and the establishment of the Belle Isle Tenant Management Organisation (BITMO).

In order to achieve full TMO status the organisation had to consult with local residents, and make sure that the local community was in support of the idea. The result of the ballot that took place showed that 94% of the people who voted were in favour of local Tenant Management. Consequently, the unification of the estate and the creation of the new organisation took place in October 2004.

Belle Isle Tenant Management Organisation is the biggest Tenant Management Organisation outside London, and is responsible for more than 2000 homes and employs 32 members of staff.

**These are annual appointments and the Council's current representatives are Councillors Blake and Truswell.**

## **Holbeck Elderly Aid**

Holbeck Elderly Aid is a registered charity (1075934) working with older people (60+) in the community. Its aims are to promote independent living, improved quality of life and prevention of social isolation. The charity is one of the Neighbourhood Network schemes for older people.

**This is an annual appointment and the Council's current representative is Councillor Ogilvie.**

## **Middleton Elderly Aid**

Middleton Elderly Aid is a registered charity (1100601) which supports the older adult residents of Middleton, to enable them to live safely and independently in their own homes. The charity provides social activities, such as luncheon clubs, trips and outings and home services, including handyperson jobs, gardening, etc.

**This is an annual appointment and the Council's current representative is Councillor Groves.**

## **Housing Advisory Panels**

Members are invited to appoint 2 representatives to the Inner South Housing Advisory Panel (HAP). The Committee's representatives on the HAP during 2014/15 were Councillors Ogilvie and Truswell. In considering this matter, Members may wish to bear in mind whether or not it would be appropriate to appoint Members from those Wards which have a higher number of Leeds City Council homes.

## **19. Community Lead Member Roles**

20. The Community Lead Member role aims to provide a local "lead" perspective and further facilitate local democratic accountability; particularly in conjunction with the relevant Executive Member. It is formally defined as covering the following areas:

- To provide local leadership and champion the agenda at the Community Committee.
- To represent the Community Committee at relevant meetings, forums and local partnerships.
- To build links with key services and partners.
- To provide a link between the Community Committee and the Executive Member to ensure local needs are represented, issues are highlighted, best practice is shared and to facilitate local solutions to any issues.
- To maintain an overview of local performance.
- To consult with the Community Committee and represent local views as part of the development and review of policy.

21. As set out in the Constitution, the Community Committee is invited to appoint to the following Community Lead Member roles, in respect of:

- **Environment & Community Safety**
- **Children's Services**

- **Employment, Skills and Welfare**
- **Health, Wellbeing and Adult Social Care**

22. In recognition of the differing size of individual Community Committees and that these roles may need to be tailored to best reflect specific local needs and circumstances, Community Committees may wish to consider splitting two of the roles namely:

- Environment & Community Safety – with one Member focusing on the environment agenda and another on community safety.
- Health, Wellbeing and Adult Social Care – with one Member covering the public health and wellbeing agenda and another focusing upon adult social care.

### 23. **Corporate Parenting Board**

24. Under the Children’s Act 1989, all local Councillors are corporate parents, this means they have responsibilities relating to the quality of services for those children who have been taken into care by the local authority (children looked after).

25. Executive Board has previously agreed a clearer framework for the corporate parenting role in Leeds. This included establishing a core group of councillors with a special interest in leading the work on Corporate Parenting - the 'Corporate Parenting Board'. This core group includes representation from each of the 10 Community Committees and takes particular responsibilities relating to influencing, performance monitoring, and governance of those issues and outcomes that affect looked after children.

26. In February 2015, Executive Board approved a report that proposed a number of developments to enhance the Corporate Parenting Board, including a better link to the 'Care Promise' for looked after children and more regular involvement from senior leaders and partners both within and outside of the Council. The Board considers information including fostering services, residential care, looked after children's educational attainment and their voice and influence across the city. Representatives are asked to link back to local looked after children's issues through their Community Committee and champion the importance of effectively supporting those children. This is an important role within the overall framework of support and accountability for looked after children’s services. The March 2015 Ofsted report for Leeds highlighted the positive benefits and impact of the Board’s work.

27. The Community Committee is asked to appoint one representative to the Corporate Parenting Board for the duration of the 2015/16 municipal year. The Committee may consider it appropriate to combine the role with that of the Community Lead Member for Children’s Services.

28. It should be noted that membership of the Corporate Parenting Board is encouraged for any Elected Members with a particular interest in the outcomes of looked after children, therefore whilst each Community Committee is asked to appoint one Member (to ensure an even geographic spread), it is possible for additional Members to participate. Therefore, additional Members with a particular interest are advised to approach the Chair of the Corporate Parenting Board.

### 29. **Children’s Services Cluster Partnerships**

30. Clusters are local partnerships (25 in total plus a SILC partnership) that include, amongst others, the Children’s Social Work Service, schools, governors, Police, Leeds

City Council youth service, Youth Offending Service, Children’s Centres, Housing services, third sector, health, local elected members and a senior representative from children’s services. Local clusters are key to the Children & Families Trust Board partnership and delivery arrangements. They aim to:

- enable local settings and services to work together effectively to improve outcomes for children, young people and their families;
- build capacity to improve the delivery of preventative and targeted services to meet local needs;
- create the conditions for integrated partnership working at locality level;
- promote the Children & Young People’s Plan and the ambition of a child friendly city across the locality.

31. A “well-coordinated locality and cluster approach results in early identification and extensive work with families according to need.” (Ofsted report, March 2015).
32. Clusters began life as extended services for schools and have grown to engage a wide range of partners who provide early help and early intervention and prevention. In April 2011, the Children & Families Trust Board and Schools Forum agreed the adoption of a minimum standard for the terms of reference across the cluster partnerships, which included elected members as standing members of the governance group for each partnership.
33. Elected Members also sit alongside a senior leader (Local Authority Partner) from the Children’s Services directorate to be part of the Council’s representation on each cluster partnership.
34. In June 2013 Member Management Committee delegated the nomination of Elected Member representatives to local Children’s Services Cluster partnerships to Area (Community) Committees. This was with the aim of establishing a clear formal link between those Committees and Clusters. It was also with the intention of building closer working arrangements to better support the needs children and families across the city.
35. The Committee is invited to nominate Members to each cluster partnership within their area. The table below sets out the suggested numbers, Ward links and current representation as a basis for discussion:

<b>Cluster</b>	<b>Number of Elected Members suggested</b>	<b>Suggested Ward link</b>	<b>Current Elected Member Representation</b>
Beeston and Cottingley and Middleton	2	1 Beeston and Holbeck	Councillor Ogilvie
		1 Middleton Park	Councillor Groves
JESS (Joint extended schools and services: beeston Hill, Holbeck, Belle Isle and Hunslet)	3	1 Beeston and Holbeck	Councillor Gabriel
		1 City and Hunslet	Councillor Iqbal
		1 Middleton Park	Councillor Blake

## **Corporate considerations**

### **a. Consultation and engagement**

This report facilitates the necessary consultation and engagement with Community Committee Members in respect of appointments to the designated positions and Outside Bodies. Given that the Community Committee is the relevant appointing body, there is no requirement to undertake a public consultation exercise on such matters.

### **b. Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration**

Both the Community Lead Member roles and the Corporate Parenting role aim to champion, address and monitor issues arising in their respective fields, whilst also providing clear links with the relevant Executive Member, Council officers and partner agencies. As such, these roles would also look to address any equality, diversity, cohesion or integration issues arising in their specific areas.

Also, Council representation on Outside Bodies and Children's Services Cluster Partnerships will enable those appointed Members to act as a conduit in terms of promoting the Council's policies and priorities. As such, this would potentially include matters relating to equality, diversity, cohesion or integration.

### **c. Council policies and city priorities**

Council representation on, and engagement with those Outside Bodies, partnerships and organisations to which the Community Committee has authority to appoint, is in line with the Council's Policies and City Priorities.

### **d. Legal implications, access to information and call in**

In line with the Council's Executive and Decision Making Procedure Rules, the power to Call In decisions does not extend to those decisions taken by Community Committees.

### **e. Risk management**

In not appointing to those Outside Bodies or Cluster Partnerships listed within the report, there is a risk that the Council's designated representation on such organisations would not be fulfilled.

## **Conclusion**

36. The Community Committee is asked to consider and determine the appointments to those designated Outside Bodies, partnerships and organisations as detailed within the report and appendix for the duration of the 2015/16 municipal year.

## **Recommendations**

37. The Community Committee is asked to confirm appointments to the following:-

- (i) The Elected Member representatives to work with the Outside Bodies identified at Appendix 1, or agree any changes to the schedule, having regard to the Appointments to Outside Bodies Procedure Rules, as outlined in this report;
- (ii) Committee Members to those Community Lead Member roles, as listed;
- (iii) Member representatives to the local Children's Services Cluster Partnerships relevant to the Community Committee, as listed; and
- (iv) One representative to the Corporate Parenting Board.

### **Background information**

- None