

Report of: the Director of Environment & Housing, Neil Evans

Report to: Outer East Community Committee (Cross Gates and Whinmoor, Garforth and Swillington, Kippax and Methley and Temple Newsam)

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Date: 16 June 2015

For decision

Outer East Community Committee nominations to the ‘Outer South East’ Housing Advisory Panel (HAP).

Purpose of report

1. To seek two Councillor nominations from the Outer East Community Committee to the Outer South East Housing Advisory Panel (HAP).

Main issues

2. The Housing Service amended its management boundaries to come into line with those of Community Committees and the wider delivery of Council services in April 2014, as part of the integration of the service back to within direct Council control.
3. Prior to this, the Temple Newsam Ward was ‘split’ into two former ALMO areas and covered by two former ‘Area Panels’ – now called Housing Advisory Panels. With the alignment of boundaries, the whole of the Temple Newsam Ward is now included within the Outer South East HAP. The Halton Moor estate being formerly part of the Outer East Area Panel, and Halton Village, Cricklegates and surrounding homes coming within the Outer South East Area.
4. The current Council nominations are Councillors Andrea McKenna (Garforth and Swillington Ward) and Pauleen Grahame (Crossgates and Whinmoor Ward). Councillor Kathryn Mitchell was previously nominated by the Outer East Community Committee before the alignment of boundaries was fully implemented.

5. All four wards within the Committee area include a large number of Council owned homes and therefore nominations from any of the four wards are welcomed.
6. Council nominations to the panel will continue to help develop local working relationships, especially between the local housing teams, the Tenant and Community Involvement Service and the Area Support Teams.
7. The membership of HAPs is made up of up to 10 tenants (1 of whom can be a Leaseholderer) and two Councillors based on nominations from the Community Committee.

Corporate considerations

8.

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

Council representation on Housing Advisory Panels enables those appointed Members to act as a conduit in terms of linking the Council's policies and priorities. It also encourages joint working between services to support local projects, these would potentially include matters relating to equality, diversity, cohesion or integration.

c. Council policies and city priorities

Council representation on, and engagement with Housing Advisory Panels, to which the Community Committee has authority to appoint, is in line with the Council's Policies and City Priorities.

d. Resources and value for money

Council representation on the HAP encourages closer working relationships, in particular the opportunities for the joint funding of projects that meet local needs.

e. 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.

f. Risk management

In not appointing to the HAP, there is a risk that the Council's designated representation would not be fulfilled and the opportunities and benefits to local tenants and residents not maximised.

Conclusion

9. The housing service has now aligned its structure to Community Committee areas, and as such is seeking nominations to this altered HAP area. The nominations from the Outer East Committee will help continue to build positive working relationships between the Committees and to ensure local priorities are reflected in panel activity.

Recommendations

10. The Outer East Community Committee is requested to nominate two Ward Councillors to the Outer South East Housing Advisory Panel.

Background information

- Key functions of Housing Advisory Panels are to:
 - Understand the needs of local communities and develop, support and invest appropriately;
 - Ensure that there are high standards of service delivery within each area through monitoring, reporting and influencing; and
 - Perform an advisory role on the quality of service delivery and act as a consultative group about future service provision and investment in their area.
 - More information is available from www.leeds.gov.uk/hap or from the Tenant and Community Involvement Service, 0113 378 3330 or housingadvisorypanel@leeds.gov.uk