

Report of: Chief Officer Housing Management

Report to: Inner West Community Committee, Armley, Bramley and Stanningley and Kirkstall Wards.

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Date: 24 June 2015 For decision

Inner West Community Committee membership of the ‘Inner West’ Housing Advisory Panel (HAP).

Purpose of report

1. To clarify to the Inner West Community Committee the current position in terms of Ward Councillor membership of the Inner West Housing Advisory Panel (HAP).

Main issues

2. As the Inner West Committee will be aware, at the time of the creation of the Community Committees (as distinct from Area Committees), the Kirkstall Ward moved to the Inner West Community Committee. Whilst this created a more balanced committee structure the change had a number of implications for the local Inner North West and Inner West HAPs.
3. At a similar time the housing service amended its management boundaries to come into line with those of Community Committees as part of the integration of the service back to within direct Council control. However, the decision was taken to keep the Kirkstall Ward within the Inner North West HAP area, and to not transfer to the Inner West HAP to match the updated Community Committee boundaries.
4. The Kirkstall Ward remained in the Inner North West HAP area for a number of reasons. Of the existing tenant members a number lived in the Kirkstall Ward, which had it transferred would have left the Inner North West HAP with very few members to work

effectively and the Inner West HAP with a number above its membership criteria. The tenant Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the two HAP had also recently been selected for a two year term, and the Chairs and Vice Chairs felt this commitment should be honored.

5. The current Council nominations for the Inner West HAP are Councillor Kevin Ritchie (Bramley and Stanningley Ward) and Councillor James McKenna (Armley Ward). However, reflecting that the Inner North West HAP currently retains the Kirkstall Ward, Councillor John Illingworth from the Inner West Committee is by local agreement a member of the Inner North West HAP.
6. All wards within the Inner West Community Committee include a large number of Council owned homes and so future nominations to the local HAP from any Ward are welcomed.
7. For all but the Inner West and Inner North West Community Committees, the housing service is requesting Community Committees to re-confirm their nominations to local HAPs in the city. However, as there are practical implications for the successful running of the two HAPs and the need to take into account the interests of tenant HAP members, local Councillors and housing management operations, it is proposed that the current arrangements remain as they are and no new nominations by the Committee are made at this time. The service will lead on consulting with all interested stakeholders and look at how this management and boundary alignment can be addressed during 2015.
8. The Committee may wish, however, to change the Councillor members of the Inner West HAP if roles and responsibilities have changed so that HAP membership and the broader range of other commitments can be realistically maintained.
9. Councillor membership of the Inner West HAP (and the Inner North West HAP through Councillor Illingworth) 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.
10. The standard membership of HAPs is made up of up to 10 tenants (one of whom can be a Leaseholder) and two Councillors based on nominations from the Community Committee.

Corporate considerations

11.

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 Housing Advisory Panel encourages closer working relationships, in particular 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

Ordinarily, not appointing to the Housing Advisory Panel risks the Council's designated representation not being fulfilled. However, both the Inner West and Inner North West HAPs currently have active Council members and Council representation remains strong.

Conclusion

12. Existing Council representation on the Inner West HAP continues to work well locally, and through local arrangement, the Committee retains a link to the Inner North West HAP via Councillor Illingworth. To allow a period of consultation, and in recognition of the impact to HAPs and the wider housing management service, it is proposed to keep Council membership the same and not appoint in this period of Committee nominations to Outside Bodies and organisations.

Recommendations

13. It is proposed that the current Council representation on the Inner West and Inner North West HAP remains as is and no new nominations by the Committee are made. The service will lead on consulting with all interested stakeholders and look at how this management and boundary alignment can be addressed during 2015.

14. The Committee may wish to select alternative Councillors for HAP membership in the interim to enable Committee members to undertake their range of roles and responsibilities.

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