

Report of: Jill Wildman, Chief Officer Housing Management

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

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Community Committee nominations to Housing Advisory Panels (HAP)

Purpose of report

1. To seek Ward Councillor nominations from the Community Committee to the Inner West and Inner North West Housing Advisory Panels (HAPs)

Main issues

2. There are 11 HAPs across the city, in geographical alignment with Community Committee's, with the exception of the East Inner Community Committee – which is split into two HAPs due to the large number of Council homes, and the Inner North West HAP, that includes the Kirkstall Ward.
3. Ward Members play an important role in helping the panels undertake their wider tenant engagement role, giving insight into the needs of local communities and linking the priorities of the Community Committee with the HAP so that Council and other services work more effectively together.
4. HAP membership currently includes two Elected Members that are nominated by the Community Committees. This has been in place a number years.
5. However, this standard request to all the Community Committees to nominate 2 Ward Members has raised a number of queries due to the variations in the number of wards

within each HAP area, and the variation in the number of Council homes within them.
(See appendix 1)

6. To address this and to adopt a more flexible approach, Community Committees in their June 2016 round of nominations are requested to:
 - a. Nominate up to 1 Ward Member per Ward within the HAP area (with the exception of Outer East which has 1 Ward, where 2 nominations from the same Ward are welcomed).
 - b. To undertake the above on the basis that all nominations are for full members, with HAP voting rights.
 - c. Take into account the number of Council homes in each Ward. For Wards with relatively few Council homes nominations are sought on an optional basis.
7. To reflect the tenant-led nature of the HAPs, and the potential increase in Ward Members for some HAPs, tenant membership, as outlined in the HAP terms of reference, will be adjusted from 10 tenants, up to a possible 12.
8. 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. Closer working between these teams and services will also help maximise the opportunities for the joint funding of local projects.

Corporate considerations

9.

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 HAPs 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 HAPs, 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

10. The Housing Service is seeking nominations to Housing Advisory Panels. Community Committees are requested to nominate up to 1 Ward Councillor per Ward within the HAP area. The nominations to the HAPs will continue to help the service build positive working relationships with the Committee and to ensure local priorities are reflected in panel activity.

Recommendations

11. The Inner West Community Committee is requested to:

- a. Nominate up to 1 Ward Member from each of the Bramley and Stanningley and Armley Wards to the Inner West HAP.
- b. Nominate up to 1 Ward Member from the Kirkstall Ward to the Inner North West HAP, reflecting that the Kirkstall Ward is within the Inner North West HAP boundary.

Background information

- Key functions of Housing Advisory Panels are to:
 - Be aware of the needs of local communities and wider Council priorities and use HAP funds to support a range of community and environmental projects that help support these.
 - Work with local housing and other Council teams to help review and monitor the delivery of local services and help shape services that meet the local communities needs.

- Support all forms of tenant engagement activity, linking local activities and projects with Communities Teams and other partners. More information is available from www.leeds.gov.uk/hap or from the Tenant and Community Involvement Service, 0113 378 3330 or email housingadvisorypanel@leeds.gov.uk