



Report of the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods

To: All Area Committees

Date: Monday 17th December 2007

Subject: Area Management Review

Electoral Wards Affected:

All

Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Council
Function

Delegated Executive
Function available
for Call In

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

Executive Summary

The report outlines changes to Area Committee responsibilities and working arrangements agreed at the Council's Executive Board in November.

These will require amendments to the Council's Constitution which will be proposed in May 2008.

Area Committees are asked to consider the issues covered in the Executive Board report and comment on the proposed changes.

1.0 Purpose of This Report

- 1.1 The report introduces a report to the Council's Executive Board in November. The Board agreed a number of recommended changes to Area Committee responsibilities and working arrangements. Area Committees are asked to comment on them before changes are proposed to the Council's Constitution in the Spring.

2.0 Background Information

- 2.1 Attached to this report is the report presented to the Council's Executive Board in November. This refers to work undertaken by Cllr Chapman. Cllr Chapman's report and the Officer report to Executive Board were discussed with Area Committee Chairs in mid November. Copies of Cllr Chapman's report are available from Area Management staff or the author of this report.

3.0 Main Issues

- 3.1 The attached report brings various strands of work together under four headings:

- Area Committee Responsibilities
- Elected Members and Area Committees
- Area Management Teams
- Local Partnership Working Arrangements

- 3.2 Key points are:

3.3 Area Committee Responsibilities

- New Area Delivery Plans for the period 2008-11 will be produced, linked to the improvement priorities in the Leeds Strategic Plan. A report on a proposed framework for the plans will be produced for the next cycle of Area Committees. Committees will be asked to agree their local plan by June/July 2008. More time than usual is being allowed so that Committees can consider local priorities in the context of the new Leeds Strategic Plan and the greater range of service and function responsibilities they will have from the start of the next municipal year.
- Council Directorates will be asked to consult with Area Committees each year on local priorities to feed into annual budget setting arrangements.
- There will be an increase in the range and number of service and function responsibilities, grouped under six themes:
 - Community engagement and facilities
 - Community safety
 - Environment
 - Children and young people
 - Adult social care and healthier communities
 - Regeneration and development
- To link the new Children and Young People Plans function with the process for producing new Area Delivery Plans, Locality Enablers from Children's Services will prepare a report to the next cycle of Area Committees on this.

3.4 Elected Members and Area Committees

- A programme of briefings for Elected Members will be arranged for 2008 (and then annually) to help prepare Members for the new responsibilities that will come under the remit of the Area Committees.

3.5 Area Management Teams

- A structure review in the Regeneration Service will result in three area based teams to support the work of the 10 Area Committees as follows (working titles for three new areas):

North East	North West	South East
Inner East Inner North East Outer North East	Inner North West Outer North West Inner West Outer West	Outer East Inner South Outer South

3.6 Local Partnership Working Arrangements

- Due to changes in partner boundaries, concerns expressed about member involvement and the development of a new corporate planning framework the 5 District Partnership model will be changed.
- It is proposed that in the future:
 - The Area Committees will provide a local governance and accountability framework for agreed partnership collaboration through their new Area Delivery Plans which will be part of the Leeds Strategic Plan framework.
 - Officers from different agencies e.g. Council, PCT, Police, ALMOs will continue to co-operate and meet together based on the three areas with periodic meetings involving other local stakeholders such as business and voluntary sector representatives.

4.0 Council Policy and Governance, Legal and Resource Implications

4.1 Amendments to the Council's Constitution will be proposed in May 2008. Changes in relation to Area Committee responsibilities and working arrangements would then formally take effect after this.

4.2 Resource implications are covered by the council's annual budget setting process.

5.0 Recommendations

5.1 Area Committees are asked to consider the issues covered in the Executive Board report and comment on the proposed changes.

5.2 Area Committees are asked to receive reports in their next and subsequent cycle of meetings on Area Delivery Plan preparations, Local Children and Young People Plans and local partnership working arrangements.