



Report of the Chief Democratic Services Officer

East (Outer) Area Committee

Date: 8th July 2008

Subject: Local Authority Appointments to Outside Bodies

Electoral Wards Affected: <input type="checkbox"/> Ward Members consulted (referred to in report)	Specific Implications For: Equality and Diversity <input type="checkbox"/> Community Cohesion <input type="checkbox"/> Narrowing the Gap <input type="checkbox"/>	
Council Function <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Delegated Executive Function available for Call In <input type="checkbox"/>	Delegated Executive Function not available for Call In Details set out in the report <input type="checkbox"/>

Executive Summary

This report outlines the procedures for Council appointments to outside bodies, and the Committee are requested to consider and appoint to those bodies listed at Appendix 2 to the report.

1.0 Purpose of this Report

1.1 This report outlines the Area Committee's role in relation to Elected Member Appointments to Outside Bodies and asks the Committee to:

- Agree the nominations to those organisations which fall to the Committee to make an appointment to.

2.0 Background

2.1 In April 2004 Full Council agreed that in future Elected Member appointments to Outside Bodies should be undertaken by a constituted body of Elected Members and that appointments to all outside bodies should, where appropriate, be made with due regard to proportionality within the law.

2.2 Attached at Appendix 1 is the agreed Appointment Procedure Rules¹ that have been adopted by Full Council. The procedure addresses previous concerns raised by Elected Members relating to proportionality; introduces appointment categories; and

¹ This Procedure is now incorporated into the Council's Constitution

places responsibility for appointment clearly with Elected Members both through this Committee and the Member Management Committee.

2.3 The **Member Management Committee** has responsibilities for Council Appointments to Outside Bodies and for exercising decision making in the following areas:

- Considering requests from all Outside Organisations seeking Elected Member representation.
- Determining the category of appointment which will govern which Committee will make the appointments.
- Making Elected Member appointments to Outside Bodies within the Strategic and Key Partnership category.

2.4 Full Council has agreed that due to the large number of organisations seeking Council representation, appointments within the Community and Local Engagement Category will be considered and approved by Elected Members serving on the relevant **Area Management Committee**.

2.5 In July 2004 the Member Management Committee met to consider allocation of appointments to each Area Committee. Attached at Appendix 2 are those that have been determined should be made by this Area Committee.

2.6 One of the delegated Member appointment functions which Area Committees had **previously** been asked to exercise was making Elected Member appointments to the Boards of Housing Management Arms Length Management Organisations (ALMOs). **However**, on the recommendation of the Executive Board, the Member Management Committee at its meeting on 22nd December 2006 resolved that in future appointments to the re-structured ALMO Boards (down from 6 to 3, with a smaller numbers of Directors) would be made by the Member Management Committee itself, hence these appointments no longer appear in the schedule of appointments at Appendix 2.

3.0 The Appointment Procedure - Community and Local Engagement Category

3.1 The Area Committee must first consider whether it is appropriate for an appointment to be of a specific office holder² either by reference, if this is available, to the constitution of the outside body concerned or in the light of any other circumstances as determined by the Area Committee. Such appointments will then be offered on this basis.

3.2 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 Area as a whole.

3.3 All appointments are subject to annual change unless otherwise stated in the constitution of the external organisation. Each appointment (including in-year replacements) runs for the municipal year, ending at the next Annual Council Meeting.

² For example it may be considered necessary or otherwise appropriate to appoint a specific Ward Member

- 3.4 Elected Members³ will fill all available appointments but it is recognised that Party Groups may not wish to take up vacancies which are made available to them. In such circumstances vacancies will be notified to the Area Committee and agreement sought as to whether the vacancy will be filled.
- 3.5 A vacancy occurring during the municipal year will normally be referred to the Area Committee for an appointment to be made, having regard to the principles as described above.
- 3.6 Area Management Committees may review the list of organisations to which they are asked to make appointments at any time and make recommendations to the Member Management Committee.

4.0 Appointments 2008/09

- 4.1 This year there are five appointments to be made by the East (Outer) Area Committee – one to the Neighbourhood Elders' Team, one to the Swarcliffe Good Neighbours Scheme, one to the Outer East Area Panel of East North East Homes ALMO and two to the Outer South East Area Panel of Aire Valley Homes. All are annual appointments.

Neighbourhood Elders' Team (NET)

This organisation is both a registered charity (no. 1088836) and a company limited by guarantee (no. 422178). It was first established in April 1995 by the four churches in Garforth (Churches Together in Garforth). Charitable status was obtained in 2001. The team is based in Garforth and provides services to older people in 13 villages in East Leeds. Its aims are: 'to identify and respond to the needs of older people and their carers, to provide services that fill the gaps in statutory provision and enable older people to remain within their own community.'

The Management Committee comprises six local people and there is a staff team of three. Some 70 volunteers work with the charity in a variety of roles. Councillor A McKenna is the current appointee of the East (Outer) Area Committee to the Management Committee of NET. This is an annual appointment.

Swarcliffe Good Neighbours Scheme

This local voluntary organisation was established in 1994 to work with and for older people and their carers living in the Whinmoor Ward, covering Stanks, Swarcliffe and Whinmoor. It is based at St Gregory's Youth and Adult Centre on Stanks Gardens, Leeds 14. In 1996 the organisation became a registered charity, (no. 1055018).

³ Section 249 Local Government Act 1972 states that Aldermen and Honorary Freemen may attend and take part in civic ceremonies but do not have the right to attend Council/committee meetings or receive any allowances or payments under a Members Allowance Scheme. This establishes the principle that such persons should not to be treated as Councillors, and therefore cannot be appointed to outside bodies in place of a Councillor if the request from an organisation is for a Councillor

The Scheme's aims are: 'to provide services which promote the health and well being of older people and their carers to live independently within the local community.' The Management Committee comprises 13 local people. There are four members of staff as well as a team of volunteers. Councillor Armitage is the current appointee of the East (Outer) Area Committee to the Management Committee of the Swarcliffe Good Neighbours Team. This is an annual appointment.

ALMO Area Panels

Although the appointments to the ALMO Board of Directors are now made by the Member Management Committee (see Paragraph 2.6), Area Committees appoint to the ALMO Area Panels. This Committee appoints one Member to the Outer East Area Panel of East/North East Homes ALMO and two Members to the Outer South East Area Panel of Aire Valley Homes ALMO.

Outer East Area Panel of East North East Homes ALMO

The two main roles of East North East Homes Area Panels are:

- To ensure that the organisation is providing a good service to its customers; and
- To deliver environmental and community safety schemes that benefit its customers.

The four Area Panels of East North East Homes ALMO are called 'Inner North East', 'Outer North East', 'Inner East' and 'Outer East'.

The Outer East Area Panel covers Seacroft, Cross Gates and Halton Moor and meets monthly to discuss priorities identified within the area and look at estate investment bids put forward by local groups and tenants. Priorities identified so far are:

- Tenancy management
- Repairs and empty properties
- Tenant involvement
- Budgets.

The Panel consists of one board representative, six tenants and two Ward Members. The Council's current representative from the East (Outer) Area Committee is Councillor Lyons. Councillor Morgan was appointed by the East (Inner) Area Committee. These are annual appointments.

Outer South East Area Panel of Aire Valley Homes Leeds ALMO

The main roles of Aire Valley Homes Area Panels are:

- To monitor the performance of Aire Valley Homes, including tenant satisfaction with services; and
- To consult on new policy initiatives being considered by the Board.

The three Area Panels of Aire Valley Homes are called 'Inner South', 'Outer South' and 'Outer South East'. At their first meetings, each Area Panel discussed their Terms of Reference, signed up to a Code of Conduct and began to look at ways in which to allocate each of their budgets - £100,000 for environmental projects and £10,000 for a community development fund.

The Outer South East Area Panel meets on a regular basis and is made up of six tenants, a Board Member and two Ward Councillors. The Council's current representatives, appointed last year by this Area Committee, are Councillors Parker and Dobson. These are annual appointments.

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Area Committee is asked to confirm the nominees to work with the Outside Bodies identified above and in the Schedule at Appendix 2, having regard to the Appointment Procedure Rules outlined in this report and detailed at Appendix 1.