



Report of the Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods

Report to Member Management Committee

Date: 8 October 2008

Subject: AREA BASED PARTNERSHIPS

Electoral Wards Affected: All.	Specific Implications For: Equality and Diversity <input type="checkbox"/> Community Cohesion <input type="checkbox"/> Narrowing the Gap <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Executive Summary

1. This report seeks to establish the principle of allowing the council's Area Committees to appoint elected members from the Area Committees on to the local, district, partnership groups of Leeds Initiative.

Background

2. At present there are a number of 'district' or area level partnership groups established as part of Leeds Initiative – the local strategic partnership. These are:
 - District Housing Partnerships (3)
 - Divisional Community Safety Partnerships (3)
 - District Children's Partnerships (5)
 - District Health & Social Care Partnerships (3 in the process of being established)
 - District Jobs, Enterprise & Training (or Worklessness) Partnerships (3)
3. A number of the above partnership groups have requested that each Area Committee in their patch nominate a local elected Member representative to participate in the work of the partnership and act as the link between the partnership and the Area Committee.
4. These local, area based, partnerships make an important contribution in determining the local actions that can support the delivery of the strategic outcomes and improvement priorities set out in the Leeds Strategic Plan. The broad commitments and actions of these local partnerships are captured in each Area Committees' Area Delivery Plan and they are accountable to the Area Committees for these commitments. Direct participation by elected Members on these local partnerships will strengthen the role of Members and their voice as 'community champions' within

our partner agencies and overcome any perceived 'democratic deficit' there may have been. Elected Members participation will also help build the links between local partnership working and the work of the council through the Area Committees.

Appointment Process

5. The Appointments to Outside Bodies Procedure Rules state that where a request to make an appointment is received then determination of this will be based on one or more of the following criteria being met:
 - the proposed appointment is a statutory requirement;
 - the proposed appointment would be consistent with the Council's policy or strategic objectives; and/or
 - the proposed appointment would add value to the Council's activities.
6. Where an organisation is deemed to have met one or more of these criteria, Members are requested to allocate it to one of the following categories:
 - Strategic and Key Partnerships – participation contributes to the Council's strategic objectives and community leadership role
 - Community and Local Engagement – not necessary to fulfil strategic or key partnership role but, nonetheless, beneficial in terms of leading, engaging and supporting the community from an area or ward perspective.
7. The appointing body for Strategic and Key Partnerships is the Member Management Committee. The appointing body for Community and Local Engagement is the appropriate Area Committee.
8. If Members are of the view that these appointments would fall into the Community and Local Engagement category then the appointments should be made by the relevant Area Committee(s).

Implications for Council Policy and Governance

9. The appointment of elected members to the local area partnerships would contribute to the Council's strategic functions, priorities and community leadership role. It would augment the role of Area Committees with regard to the work and planning of the local partnerships of Leeds Initiative and provide a democratic input to their work. It will provide a democratic voice in determining the local partnership actions to be taken in support of the Leeds Strategic Plan and help ensure appropriate accountability to the Area Committees through the partnerships' contributions to their Area Delivery Plans.

Recommendations

10. It is recommended that the Member Management Committee agree:
 - a) that the elected Member appointments to the area based partnership arrangements of the Leeds Initiative as detailed in paragraph 2:
 - would be consistent with the Council's policy and strategic objectives; and
 - would add value to the Council's activities.

- b) to categorise such appointments as being 'Community and Local Engagement' thereby agreeing that such appointments should properly be made by the council's Area Committees.

Background Papers

- Appointment to Outside Bodies Procedure Rules.