



Report of the Chief Democratic Services Officer

East (Inner) Area Committee

Date: 25 March 2010

Subject: Appointment of Co-optees

Electoral Wards Affected:

**Burmantofts & Richmond Hill
Gipton & Harehills
Killingbeck & Seacroft**

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

This report provides information on the constitutional background for the appointment of Co-opted Members to the Area Committee, the position across the City and options for Members to consider with regards to the East Inner Area Committee.

Purpose Of This Report

1. This report provides the constitutional background for Area Committees to appoint co-opted representatives to support the work of the Committee.
2. It details the situation with other Area Committees across Leeds with regards to co-opted representation.
3. The report offers options for the Area Committee to consider regarding possible co-opted members sitting on this Committee.

Background Information

1. The Area Committee Procedure Rules (Part 4 of the constitution "Rules of Procedure", state that:
 - Each Area Committee may select up to five co-opted members to assist in the discharge of Committee's role, in accordance with Article 10 of the Constitution,

- Co-opted members may participate in the debate in the same way as Elected Members but have no voting rights.
- No co-opted member shall be appointed beyond the next Annual Meeting of the Council. In other words, the appointments are annual, but people can be re-appointed by the organization they represent or by invitation of the Area Committee itself.

Main Issues

1. Citywide Position

In addition to East Inner Area Committee, only the West Inner and West Outer Area Committees have Co-opted Members. Arrangements as detailed below:

West Outer Area Committee

The West Outer Area Committee have made available places for three co-opted representatives, one representing each of the three wards that make up the Area Committee. The Area Committee have also expressed the view that any co-optees should be able to represent the whole area and should be able to contribute specific expertise to assist the Committees deliberations, for example through their involvement in business, with young people or the voluntary sector. The Area Committee currently has representatives from the Business, Youth and Faith Sectors.

Members themselves put forward individuals who they feel represent their area and have specific expertise, then the full Area Committee are asked to agree and adopt them as co-opted representatives.

West Inner Area Committee

West Inner Area Committee members have supported local representatives to represent the area and to contribute expertise and experience to the Committee's deliberations, for example through their involvement in business, the voluntary sector, with young people, faith organizations or people with a disability. Current Co-optees had been elected via the local area community forums before appointment to the Area Committee.

East Inner Area Committee

The Area Committee has five geographically based forums covering the whole inner area. They have just appointed five co-opted representatives, each one representing one of the forums. There is a formal process for the selection of candidates from each forum. There is a criteria for the appointment of co-opted members:

- Live or work within an East Leeds forum area
- Be willing to support the ethos of Area Management
- Represent the interests of all individuals and organisations making up the forum

- Not act to further own interests to benefit self / or own organisation without regard for the best interests of the forum

Options for the Area Committee

- To retain the current position with relation to Co-opted Members
- To change the number of representatives i.e. one per Ward
- To move to cross sector representation of Co-optees – Business, VCFS, Young People
- To no longer have Co-opted representatives on the Area Committee

Implications For Council Policy and Governance

2. This report is relevant to Council Governance (see section 5)

Legal and Resource Implications

3. There is a need for a decision to be made on the appointment of the co-optees in order to comply with “Rules of Procedure” as set out in the constitution.
4. There are no resource implications.

Recommendations

That the Area Committee seek nominations for Co-opted Members from the Inner East Community Forums for appointment at the first meeting of the Area Committee in the 2010/11 Municipal Year.

Documents used in the preparation of this report were:

- Area Committee Procedure Rules.