



Report of The Assistant Chief Executive (Planning, Policy and Improvement)

Inner West Area Committee

Date: 22nd June 2011

Subject: Area Committee Roles for 2011/12

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 type="checkbox"/>	Delegated Executive Function available for Call In <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Delegated Executive Function not available for Call In Details set out in the report <input type="checkbox"/>

Executive Summary

This report presents the Area Committee with a summary of their Area Functions and Priority Advisory Functions for 2011/12. The majority of functions delegated in 2010/11 remain unchanged. The exception to this is the delegation of environmental functions which is dealt with in a separate report to Area Committees.

1.0 Purpose Of This Report

1.1 To provide the Area Committee with a summary of the Area Functions and Priority Advisory Functions for 2011/12.

2.0 Background Information

2.1 In March 2011 the Executive Board agreed revisions to the Area Committee function schedules which included changes to the functions relating to Street Cleansing and Environmental Enforcement Services. These executive arrangements were subsequently approved by full council on 26th May 2011. The Area Functions are included in the Council's Constitution (Part 3, section 3C), these are updated annually and presented to each of the 10 Committees.

2.2 This report does not propose any changes to the Terms of Reference for Area Committees or to their relationship to the Executive Board and its Members for 2011/12.

3.0 Main Issues

- 3.1 In 2010/11 Area Committees and service managers across the Council, delivered a programme of local service delegations across a wide range of service areas. The implementation of these has been taking place throughout the year.
- 3.2 This report does not propose any significant alterations to the number or scope of Area Functions delegated to Area Committees in 2010/11. The Area Committee Functions and Priority Advisory Functions were approved by the Executive Board in June 2009, this approval was rolled forward to 2010/11 and is also being rolled forward to 2011/12 with amendments only to environmental delegations.
- 3.3 A summary of the delegated functions and priority advisory functions for Area Committees for 2011/12 can be found at appendix 1.
- 3.4 Detail of the delegated functions and priority advisory functions for Area Committees for 2011/12 can be found at appendix 2 and appendix 3.
- 3.5 Currently the operating context for the delegated functions is unclear. The Vision for Leeds will be launched this summer, the City Priority Plans are in development and it is not clear which indicators Leeds will report on to central government. Locality working operating arrangements are also evolving and therefore revisions may need to be made to the agreed function schedules during 2011/12.
- 3.6 In addition, in order to assess the effectiveness of Area functions, a review will be undertaken in 2011/12 involving Area Committee Members, the responsible Service function leads and Locality Teams.
- 3.7 The review will aim to identify progress to implement the functions; gain a better understanding in practical terms of how Area Committees can support service change and delivery at local level; gain an understanding of the challenges and opportunities they have encountered, and begin to understand how we can make the functions more realistic and deliverable moving forward. The review will also seek to identify further service areas where delegated powers could be assigned to the Area Committees in future.

4.0 Implications For Council Policy and Governance

- 4.1 The work described in this report and the recommendation fits with existing Council policy and governance arrangements. Area Committees' Executive Functions are exercised concurrently by Area Committees, the Executive Board and by Directors under the officer delegation scheme (executive functions).
- 4.2 Decisions taken by Area Committees, in relation to executive functions, remain subject to call in.
- 4.3 Officers will provide proper advice and support to Area Committees and their Chairs to ensure that delegated Executive Functions continue to be exercised in accordance with the Area Committee Procedure Rules.

5.0 Legal and resource implications

- 5.1 The budgets to deliver services included in the 2010/11 Area Functions, were agreed by Full Council on 23rd February 2011.
- 5.2 Any proposed changes to resources relating to Area Functions would need to be made in consultation with the relevant service Director/Chief Officer(s) and with the agreement of the Area Committee and Executive Board, where appropriate.
- 5.3 There are no new resource or legal implications arising from the proposed extended priority advisory functions of the Area Committees.

6.0 Conclusions

- 6.1 In March 2011 the Executive Board agreed revisions to the Area Committee function schedules which included changes to the functions relating to Street Cleansing and Environmental Enforcement Services. These executive arrangements were subsequently approved by full council on 26th May 2011. The Area Functions are included in the Council's Constitution (Part 3, section 3C), these are updated annually and presented to each of the 10 Committees.
- 6.2 Other than those relating to environmental services there are no significant changes proposed to the Area Functions delegated to Area Committees in 2010/11.
- 6.3 In order to assess the effectiveness of Area functions, a review will be undertaken in 2011/12 involving Area Committee Members, the responsible Service function leads and Area Teams.

7.0 Recommendations

- 7.1 The Inner West Area Committee is asked to note:
 - 7.1.1 The summary of approved the Area Functions and designated priority functions for 2011/12 which are appended to this report.

List of Background Documents:

Area Committees Terms of Reference
Council Constitution