

Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Customers and Communities)

Report to North West (Inner) Area Committee

Date: 27th June 2013

Subject: Nominations to Area Committee Sub Groups

Are specific electoral Wards affected?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Headingley, Hyde Park and Woodhouse, Kirkstall, Weetwood.		
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number:		
Appendix number:		

Summary of main issues

1. This report sets out the roles of the Inner North West Area Committee Sub Groups and seeks nominations to the position of Chair to each group. The report also seeks nominations for both Elected Member and resident representatives from each ward to each sub group.
2. In addition, the report asks Members to consider the merits of the existing Sub Groups and whether to consider establishing a new sub group to look at Community Safety issues.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- Select a chair for each Sub Group of the Inner North West Area Committee.
- Nominate an Elected Member representative from each ward for each Sub Group.
- Nominate resident representatives to the Planning Sub Group and the Environment Sub Group.
- Consider the merits of the Joint North West Transport Sub Group and whether Members wish to continue meeting jointly with the North West (Outer) Area Committee.
- Consider the merits of establishing a Community Safety Sub Group and if supported nominate a Chair and membership for the group.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to set out the roles of the Inner North West Area Committee Sub Groups and seeks nominations to the position of Chair to each group. The report seeks nominations for both Elected Member and resident representatives from each ward to relevant sub groups.
- 1.2 The report also asks the Area Committee to consider whether to establish a Community Safety Sub Group and if so, nominate its membership.

2 Background information

- 2.1 The Inner North West Area Committee has used a range of sub groups in the past to address issues of thematic importance. The committee currently operates two active sub groups: Planning and Environment. These are complimented by a joint Transport group that meets alongside representatives of the Outer North West Area Committee.
- 2.2 This report highlights the current arrangements for elected member representation to these sub groups and seeks members views on the representation for 2013-14.
- 2.3 With the development of the new Area Lead roles within the North West (Inner) Area Committee there is also the opportunity to consider adding to those sub groups already in existence. This could particularly be considered with regard to Community Safety.

3 Main issues

Planning Sub Group

- 3.1 The Planning Sub Group meets on a monthly basis to review recent planning applications and to discuss planning policy as it relates to the Inner North West area of Leeds. Officer support is provided through the Wellbeing funded Community Planning Officer. The group operates in an advisory capacity and passes key messages for approval by the Area Committee.
- 3.2 The current Elected Member representation to the Planning Sub Group is made up of one Councillor representative per ward.
- 3.3 The Planning Sub Group also currently has two resident representative from each ward in the Inner North West area.
- 3.4 Members are asked to agree the Councillor representation from each ward and selection of chair. They are also asked to nominate two resident representatives from each ward.

Environment Sub Group

- 3.5 The Environment Sub Group meets on a roughly quarterly basis. It receives service reports from the refuse and cleansing services, Environmental Services and Parks and Countryside and oversees the Service Level Agreement in relation to the delegated functions of cleansing and environmental enforcement services. The group is attended by representatives from universities and student unions and co-ordinates the annual response to peaks in service demand during

Freshers week and student changeover. The sub group is provided officer support by the Area Support Team and operates in an advisory capacity and passes key messages for approval by the Area Committee.

- 3.6 The current Elected Member representation to the Environment Sub Group is made up of one Councillor representative per ward.
- 3.7 It was agreed at the Inner North West Area Committee on 15th December 2011 that the Environment Sub Group should have one resident representative from each ward in the Inner North West area.
- 3.8 Members are asked to agree the Councillor representation from each ward and selection of chair. They are also asked to nominate one resident representative from each ward.

North West Transport Sub Group

- 3.9 Following a suggestion in 2012 to consider combining the Outer North West Business and Transport Sub Group and the North West Inner Area Committee Transport Group, it was agreed to trial this approach and hold joint North West Transport Group meetings that would meet quarterly.
- 3.10 The Transport Sub-Group has provided a combined forum for the Inner and Outer Area Committees to review and discuss strategic transport matters in the North West Area. It has taken a particular focus on how the Local Transport Plan and strategy will impact on the area covering items such as: NGT; local bus services; the transport implications of the LDF Core Strategy; future development, particularly site allocations. The Group has been supported by the attendance of officers from both the Highways & Transportation and Planning Services. Administrative support has been provided by the Area Support Team.
- 3.11 It has not been feasible for Highways & Transportation officers to provide in-depth and specific technical support in terms of more specific work due to resource priorities within the service. However, the meetings have been useful in terms of exchanging information with Members on key projects in progress and the ongoing technical work that underpins these. Much of the work is longer term planning. At the same time officers have worked with Members on an individual and ward basis around more specific local issues for concern as well as the more general operational functions dealt with in terms of local traffic management and highways development control.
- 3.12 If Members wish to continue meeting jointly, it is feasible to continue supporting the sub-group within the continuing pressures of priorities, officer time and resources to provide updates and gather feedback and Member input to the works planned or progress. As is the case to-date often this will be in parallel to more formal processes in terms of highways schemes and planning issues, with their associated consultations and Member briefings.
- 3.13 Members are asked to consider how this approach has operated over 2012/13 and whether to continue to meet jointly? If Members wish to continue meeting jointly, they are asked to agree the Councillor representation from each ward and select a chair who will alternate the lead with a co-chair selected by the Outer North West Area Committee.

Community Safety Sub Group

- 3.14 With the development of the new Area Lead roles within the North West (Inner) Area Committee there is the opportunity to consider how their work is supported. With roles such as Children's Services; Employment, Skills and Welfare; Health, Wellbeing and Adult Social Care, this work may be supported through departmental structures. However, with the local nature of the Environment & Community Safety role, the Area Committee may wish to consider how this is supported locally. The Area Committee could consider expanding the remit of the Environment Sub Group, but given its already heavy workload, it may wish to create a new Community Safety Sub Group instead.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1.1 Elected members have been consulted on the content of this report.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 4.2.1 There are no equality and diversity issues in relation to this report.

4.3 Council policies and City Priorities

- 4.3.1 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 2011/12 and is also being rolled forward to 2012/13 with amendments to the environmental delegation. The Area Functions are included in the Council's Constitution (Part 3, section 3c).

4.4 Resources and value for money

- 4.4.1 There are no resource implications as a result of this report.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

- 4.5.1 There are no legal implications or access to information issues. This report is not subject to call in.

4.6 Risk Management

- 4.6.1 There are no risk management implications to this report.

5 Conclusions

- 5.1 The Inner North West Area Committee sub groups provide the committee with the opportunity to consider information on a number of key areas of work in much more detail than would be possible through the main meeting cycle. It is therefore felt that the sub groups should continue to meet, to provide this additional capacity and membership should be confirmed for the municipal year 2013-14.

6 Recommendations

6.1 Members are asked to:

- Select a chair for each Sub Group of the Inner North West Area Committee.
- Nominate an Elected Member representative from each ward for each Sub Group.
- Nominate resident representatives to the Planning Sub Group and the Environment Sub Group.
- Consider the merits of the Joint North West Transport Sub Group and whether Members wish to continue meeting jointly with the North West (Outer) Area Committee.
- Consider the merits of establishing a Community Safety Sub Group and if supported nominate a Chair and membership for the group.

7 Background documents¹

7.1 None

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available for inspection on request for a period of four years following the date of the relevant meeting. Accordingly this list does not include documents containing exempt or confidential information, or any published works. Requests to inspect any background documents should be submitted to the report author.