



Report of the Chief Democratic Services Officer

North East (Inner) Area Committee

Date: 26 June 2006

Subject: Election of Chair

Electoral Wards Affected: All

Specific Implications For:
Ethnic minorities <input type="checkbox"/>
Women <input type="checkbox"/>
Disabled people <input type="checkbox"/>
Narrowing the Gap <input type="checkbox"/>

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 is submitted to remind Members of the arrangements for the annual election of the Committee Chair.

The nomination(s) received will be reported at the meeting and Members will be requested to elect from amongst themselves a Committee Chair for the 2006/07 municipal year.

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of the report is to explain the arrangements for the annual election of the Chairs of the Area Committees.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 Members will recall that previously, the arrangement was that Chairs of the former Community Involvement Teams (CITs) were appointed either by Council or the Executive Board. In practice, this was done annually at the Annual Council meeting. Where no political party had a majority amongst the elected Members on a particular CIT, the appointment was normally made by the Executive Member for Neighbourhoods and Housing following informal discussions with the parties concerned. Where informal discussions did not result in agreement, the decision rested with the Executive Board (Paragraph 6.1 of the previous CIT Operating Protocol).

3.0 AREA COMMITTEES – ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRS

- 3.1 Article 10 of the Council's Constitution sets out the composition, functions and role of Area Committees.
- 3.2 Paragraphs 10.7 and 10.8 of Article 10 deal with the appointment (election) of Chairs of the Area Committees. It states that the Chairs of Area Committees will be appointed (elected) by the Area Committees themselves. On appointment (election), each Area Committee Chair will automatically be the nominated elected Member representative of that Area Committee on the District Partnership.

4.0 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

- 4.1 The Area Committee Procedure Rules, also contained in the Council's Constitution, detail the process whereby Chairs' are appointed (elected). For ease of reference the provisions are reproduced at Appendix 1 to this report. It is important to note :-
- That, with the exception of Independent Members, all nominations have to be submitted via the respective Group Whips;
 - That all nominations have to be received by the Chief Democratic Services Officer no later than one clear working day before the first meeting of the Area Committee at which the election will take place.
- 4.2 The nominations for Chair will be notified to Members at the meeting by the named Governance Services Officer on the front of this agenda.

5.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 Members are requested to elect from amongst themselves an Area Committee Chair for the 2006 /07 municipal year.

Appendix 1

Area Committee Procedure Rules (Extract)

5.0 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

- 5.1 Each Area Committee will elect its own Chair, from amongst the City Councillors eligible to serve on that Committee.
- 5.2 Each Party Group with Members elected within an Area Committee area may put forward a nomination from amongst its Members on the Area Committee to Chair the Area Committee. An Independent Member may also put forward a nomination.
- 5.3 A nomination must be forwarded to the Chief Democratic Services Officer no later than 1 clear working day before the first meeting of the Area Committee (after the Annual Council meeting) each year.¹
- 5.4 The Chief Democratic Services Officer will ensure that nominations and the appointment of the position of Chair are dealt with at the Committee's first meeting of the municipal year.
- 5.5 The Chair will be appointed by overall majority of votes cast by those Members eligible to do so and present at the meeting. If no overall majority is achieved, then the nominee with the smallest number of votes will be eliminated from consideration, and the vote repeated.
- 5.6 Where an overall majority of votes cannot be obtained the Council will appoint a Chair.

¹ A nomination from a Party Group must be forwarded by the Whip of that Group.