



SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL Report to South Community Assembly Briefing Meeting

Report of: South Community Assembly Manager

Date: 21st June 2012

Subject: South Community Assembly Representation on the South West Sheffield Homes Boards

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Summary:

The Leader's scheme of delegation for the discharging executive functions authorises Community Assemblies to "nominate Council representation for the appropriate Sheffield Homes Area Board in consultation with the appropriate Cabinet member". The appropriate Cabinet member is currently the holder of the Homes and Neighbourhoods portfolio.

The South Community Assembly has been consulted about nominating a Councillor to become a member of the Sheffield Homes South West Area Board. Cllr Steve Jones has been provisionally proposed as the nominee for 2012/13. The views of the Cabinet Member for Homes and Neighbourhoods have been sought and his response will be reported to the meeting so it can be taken into account.

Reasons for Recommendations:

The South Community Assembly has been requested to nominate a Sheffield City Council appointee to the South West Area Board.

Recommendations:

The South Community Assembly is recommended to:-

- (1) have regard to any views expressed by the Cabinet Member for Homes and Neighbourhoods about the proposal to nominate Councillor Steve Jones to the Sheffield Homes South West Area Board, and having regard to any such views to nominate a member of the Assembly to this position;
 - (2) request the Director of Modern Governance to refer these nominations to full Council for approval at the earliest approval; and
 - (3) subject to Council approval, request the Assembly Manager to complete the necessary paperwork to effect these appointments, in consultation with the Director of Legal Services.
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Background Papers: None

Category of Report: OPEN

Statutory and Council Policy Checklist

Financial Implications
NO Cleared by:
Legal Implications
YES Cleared by: Andrew Bullock
Equality of Opportunity Implications
NO Cleared by:
Tackling Health Inequalities Implications
NO
Human rights Implications
NO
Environmental and Sustainability implications
NO
Economic impact
NO
Community safety implications
NO
Human resources implications
NO
Property implications
NO
Area(s) affected
South Community Assembly area of Sheffield
Relevant Scrutiny Committee if decision called in
Safer and Stronger Communities
Is the item a matter which is reserved for approval by the City Council?
NO
Press release
NO

1. Summary

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The South Community Assembly has been consulted about nominating a Councillor to become a member of the Sheffield Homes South West Area Board. Cllr Steve Jones has been provisionally proposed as the nominee for 2012/13. The views of the Cabinet Member for Homes and Neighbourhoods have been sought and his response will be reported to the meeting so it can be taken into account.

2. What does this mean for people within the South Community Assembly Area?

Part of the governance structure of Sheffield Homes includes Area Boards, the purpose of which is to:

"provide a focus on services and customers in a local area, to ensure that Sheffield Homes services are responsive to the varying needs of different communities in Sheffield".

3. Outcomes and Sustainability

This proposal fits in with the values and outcomes of the Corporate Plan 2011-14 'Standing up for Sheffield'.

Values

- Spend public money wisely
- Enable individuals and communities
- Working better together

Outcomes

- A Great Place to Live
- Safe and Secure Communities

4. Full Proposal

The Leader's scheme of delegation for the discharging executive functions authorises Community Assemblies to "nominate Council representation for the appropriate Sheffield Homes Area Board in consultation with the appropriate Cabinet member". The appropriate Cabinet member is currently the holder of the Homes and Neighbourhoods portfolio.

Sheffield Homes are a key partner in each of the Assembly Areas. They have named senior officer representation on each of the Partner Panels and have worked closely with the Assembly Teams on a number of projects and initiatives.

The Area Boards meet on a bi-monthly basis and the agendas focus on service delivery by the Company at an area level. They provide a key link in the Company's governance structure between the Board of Directors, Tenants' and Residents' Associations (TARAs), Local Housing Partnership groups and tenants.

The composition of Area Boards is as follows: -

- 5 tenants.
- 4 independents.
- 2 Sheffield City Council appointees.
- A maximum of one leaseholder may take one of the tenant places on each Area Board.

The expectation is that the Assembly's nominees would provide the formal link between the work of the Assembly and Sheffield Homes, further strengthening the partnership relationships and reassuring tenants and residents that there is an additional opportunity for influencing the work priorities of the Assembly and also ensuring that opportunities for joint work are not missed.

The practice of Assemblies making nominations to the Sheffield Homes Area Boards, promotes closer working relationships between tenants and the members of the Assembly. This increases the influence of and helps to inform the decision making of the Assemblies.

The Boundaries between the South West Area Board and South Community Assembly do not match. As such, one Sheffield City Council representative will be appointed by the South Community Assembly and the other by the South West Community Assembly

The South Community Assembly has been consulted about nominating a Councillor to become a member of the Sheffield Homes South West Area Board. The views of the Cabinet Member for Homes and Neighbourhoods have been sought and his response will be reported to the meeting so it can be taken into account.

Although the function of nominating Council representatives to the Area Boards has been allocated to the Community Assemblies, under the Council's arrangements for discharging 'local choice functions', the actual appointment of the nominees is a non-executive function reserved to Full Council. The Assembly's nominations will therefore need to be referred to Council for endorsement.

5. Financial Implications

There are no specific financial implications arising from this proposal.

6. Legal Implications

There are no specific legal implications arising from this proposal, other than that the appointees will need to be mindful of their legal role and responsibilities when serving on the local Board.

7. Equality of Opportunity Implications

There is no specific equality of opportunity implications arising from this proposal

8. Human Resource Implications

There are no specific human resource implications arising from this proposal.

9. Environmental and Sustainability Implications

There are no specific environmental and sustainability implications arising from this proposal.

10. Mitigation of risk

The expectation is that the nominees will provide the formal link between the work of the Assembly and Sheffield Homes. There is a need to ensure that there is a framework to allow the nominees to formally feedback to the Assembly at regular intervals.

If a nominee is no longer able to fulfil this role (temporarily or permanently) then the Assembly will have to provide a substitute as and when that situation arises.

11. Alternative Options

The South Community Assembly could consider an alternative nominee to the Councillor proposed.

12. Reasons for Recommendations

The South Community Assembly has been requested to nominate a Sheffield City Council appointee to the South West Area Board.

13. Recommendations

The South Community Assembly is recommended to:-

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(2) request the Director of Modern Governance to refer these nominations to full Council for approval at the earliest approval; and

(3) subject to Council approval, request the Assembly Manager to complete the necessary paperwork to effect these appointments, in consultation with the Director of Legal Services.

Martin Hughes
South Community Assembly Manager

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