



Derby City Council

COUNCIL CABINET
15 March 2016

ITEM XX

Report of the Cabinet Member for Cohesion
and Integration

**Changes to Neighbourhood Working, Community Safety and
Cohesion and Integration**

SUMMARY

- 1.1 The council in setting its budget for the next 3 years has identified savings in the above service area. These savings include the suspension of community budgets and Streetpride devolved budgets valuing: £570k. A budget reduction in neighbourhood working of £347k, resulting in a reduction of staff numbers and change in the way the service is delivered. Reduced staff numbers are a reduction in the number of neighbourhood managers from 4 to 2 and reduction in the number of neighbourhood officers from 12 to 4 (this is complemented by 3 seconded officers from Derby Homes)
- 1.2 Given the budget savings neighbourhood working needs to reflect this, support the delivery of the Delivering Differently programme and reflect the new priorities of the council and local neighbourhoods.
- 1.3 There are a number of issues and risks in relation to community safety and cohesion and integration that require a renewed focus and increased operational service delivery.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To agree the staffing reductions and change in service offer in relation to neighbourhood working as outlined in 4.2 and 4.3
- 2.2 To agree to the priorities and resource allocation in relation to Community Safety and Cohesion and Integration.
- 2.3 To agree the suspension of devolved budgets from 1 April 2016, saving £570,000 per year.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 Neighbourhood Working has seen a budget reduction of £347k and requires a change in the way the service is delivered and to support the delivery of the 'Delivering Differently' programme.
- 3.2 To move resource into Community Safety and Cohesion and Integration to reflect the nature of the risks and issues facing the city in these service areas.

- 3.3 To confirm the suspension of devolved budgets from 1 April 2016 as part of the approved budget.



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**Report of the Strategic Director of Communities
and Place**

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 Given the budget reductions it is necessary to reduce the level of service in neighbourhood working, whilst maintaining the key principles and successes and re-allocating some resources into other high risk areas such as community safety and cohesion and integration.

This reflects the need to re-focus the work in neighbourhoods to develop neighbourhood boards, with an emphasis on developing and strengthening communities and facilitating residents and community groups to be more proactive and do more for themselves. Whilst maintaining the central role of the local Councillor as community leader.

This change in emphasis allows neighbourhood working to focus on the core service offer, avoiding too much bureaucracy and the risk of focussing on processes rather than outcomes.

Neighbourhood working emerged from work started on the Austin Estate over 10 years ago. This project put the role of the councillor, as community leader, central to improving the neighbourhood. It focussed on the issues that really mattered to local people and worked in real partnership with local stakeholders. Neighbourhood working needs to return to this approach, with these 3 priorities.

There also continues to be a key priority for the administration to maintain support for local communities and elected members in identifying local solutions to local problems and providing tactical and operational advice to members and to continue to support them in their community leadership role and engaging and identifying local issues and communities in the priority neighbourhoods, through Councillors on Patrol.

- 4.2 Greater collaboration between Local Area Co-ordination and neighbourhood working is required, to deliver effective community engagement and community development. The council will explore and identify where the two services can work more effectively together.

- 4.3 Given the budget reductions in neighbourhood working this service will be focussed in 12 of the city's priority neighbourhoods, as outlined in the most recent Indices of Multiple Deprivation(IMD) statistics. The 12 neighbourhoods are:

- Arboretum
- Normanton
- Sinfin
- Derwent
- Alvaston
- Boulton
- Abbey
- Mackworth
- Chaddesden
- Darley
- Spondon
- Blagreaves

In terms of the allocation of Neighbourhood Partnership Officers it is proposed that Arboretum and Normanton, given their standing in the IMD and challenges they face, it is proposed that each of these neighbourhoods has dedicated officer. The further ten neighbourhoods are allocated 0.5 resource, with an officer covering two neighbourhoods. The proposed allocation is:

- Arboretum x1 officer
- Normanton x1 officer
- Boulton and Alvaston x1
- Derwent and Chaddesden x1
- Abbey and Mackworth x1
- Sinfin and Blagreaves x1
- Darley and Spondon x1

As previously agreed Neighbourhood Partnership Officers, whilst allocated to specific neighbourhood will be working in other neighbourhoods and on city wide projects according to priorities and risks, but are committed to working a minimum of 1 day per week in the allocated neighbourhood. Work in other neighbourhoods will include working on specific projects, responding to crime and anti-social behaviour issues or other related high risk issues or priorities identified by the council.

- 4.4 Community Safety and Cohesion and Integration are potentially high risk service areas and require more operational delivery. These high risk areas include gangs and organised crime, cyber-crime and serious crime, all issues that impact on vulnerable individuals and communities and form part of the Council's approach to safeguarding vulnerable people and communities. Cohesion and Integration presents further high risk areas of work including managing community tensions, tackling human trafficking

and modern slavery, responding to asylum dispersal and tackling hate crime. These are crucial agendas that if not managed potentially results in significant harm to individuals, communities and the reputation of the city.

4.5 Neighbourhood Working:

The service offer will include:

- Supporting Neighbourhood Boards to become a more broad based community partnership, led by Councillors, including community groups, local councillors, local businesses and faith groups. Neighbourhood officers to focus on developing these partnerships in the city's priority neighbourhoods and potentially supporting other neighbourhoods to become more self-sustaining. Elected members will continue to lead the boards in their community leadership role and receive support from the neighbourhood team
- Continuing to support elected members in their community leadership role in the 12 priority neighbourhoods. To increase their capacity and expertise in campaigning and championing local people, their neighbourhood and creating a vision.
- Working with members and local people to identify, in the priority neighbourhoods, key issues and problem solving to deliver solutions.
- Deliver and support neighbourhood tasking in priority neighbourhoods to ensure local issues are responded to by the council and its partners; this will be focussed on safer, stronger and cleaner issues.
- Introduce a member development programme to ensure councillors have the right level of knowledge to respond to local issues in the context of a reduced service offer and develop where necessary their community leadership and problem solving skills.
- A budget of £35k has been identified to support local neighbourhood priorities where the priority also reflects the priorities of the council.
- Non priority neighbourhoods will still be offered an advisory service from the neighbourhood team and will benefit from the city wide services in community safety and cohesion and integration.

4.6 Community Safety

The service offer will include:

- Increasing the community safety function by 1 further community safety officer.
- Ensure the effectiveness and delivery of the Police and Crime Commissioner funding of £170k, to reflect city-wide and neighbourhood risks and threats.
- Focus on the Community Safety priorities of: tackling gangs, organised crime, cyber-crime, anti-social behaviour, management of CCTV and crime prevention.

4.7 Cohesion and Integration

The service offer will include:

- To put an operational resource into this service area, one former neighbourhood officer. Operational support and delivery has been a gap in this area.
- Focus on key high risk area, trafficking, modern slavery, community cohesion and asylum dispersal.
- Improve the council and partnership response to hate crime.
- Develop community leadership in new communities.
- Delivery of recommendations from the Cohesion Leadership Group.

4.8 Prevent

- Delivery at a local level of the Government prevent agenda and developing where possible a more local and flexible approach.
- Management and delivery of the Channel Programme.
- Delivery of prevention training to schools and colleges.
- Monitoring of Prevent projects.

4.9 Future Funding Options

- Discussion is underway with the Police and Crime Commissioner identifying potential external income to support the structure.
- Work is underway to identify potential resource from the Delivering Differently budget, to fund two officers to lead the delivery on reducing demand and supporting communities and residents to do more for themselves and their neighbourhood.

4.10 As part of the recommendations to set a balanced budget, devolved budgets to Neighbourhood Boards were agreed to be suspended from 1 April 2016. This saves £570,000 per year. This report confirms that decision.

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| OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED |
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- 5.1 Ending of all these services was considered as part of the budget decision making process.
- 5.2 Maintaining the existing level of service, this would not have delivered the identified budget savings.

This report has been approved by the following officers:

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| Legal officer Financial officer Human Resources officer Estates/Property officer Service Director(s) Other(s) | |
| For more information contact: Background papers: List of appendices: | Andy Thomas Head of Community Safety and Partnerships 01332 643020 andy.thomas@derby.gov.uk None Appendix 1 – Implications |

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| IMPLICATIONS |
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Financial and Value for Money

- 1.1 The service changes reflect the budget reductions and maintain an effective service offer.

Legal

- 2.1 None

Personnel

- 3.1 The budget reductions require a reduction in the number of FTE posts in the service. This reduction will be delivered through a re-structure in line with council policy

IT

- 4.1 None

Equalities Impact

- 5.1 The changes in the service offer, reflect the priorities within the city and in terms of community safety and cohesion and integration provides a more effective service to vulnerable communities and victims of crime

Health and Safety

- 6.1 None

Environmental Sustainability

- 7.1 None

Property and Asset Management

- 8.1 None

Risk Management

- 9.1 None

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

10.1 Safer and stronger communities.