

## **Neighbourhood Working**

### **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 Members received a report on the Neighbourhood Working proposals at the meeting of 25 September 2012. Cabinet had already agreed the proposals at their meeting of 15 August 2012, however, at this meeting Members made a recommendation to the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods that the Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board should receive regular updates with regards to development and implementation of the neighbourhood working proposals.
- 1.2 Following the approval of changes to structures made through the Revenue Budget Proposals 2013-2016 allowing for the Neighbourhood Working proposals to be implemented, the Board requested an update on the structure of Neighbourhood Working, the roles of Neighbourhood Officers, and how Neighbourhood Working will operate around the city.
- 1.3 The purpose of this report is to allow the Head of Communities and Partnerships to Board update the Board as requested.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 To note and discuss the content of the update and to make appropriate comments or recommendations.

### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 To ensure that the Neighbourhoods Board is aware of the structure, role and operational detail of the newly implemented Neighbourhood Working.

### **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 4.1 At the meeting of 25 September 2011, the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Streetpride presented his proposals for new neighbourhood working arrangements to the board. It was reported that the proposals had been considered by the Council Cabinet on 15 August 2012. The cabinet member outlined the new framework and

explained that the proposals were intended to encourage active engagement within communities.

- 4.2 In response to queries from the board, the Director of Partnerships and Streetpride explained that existing employees would be transferred into the new structure. The director clarified that the neighbourhood workers would have powers of enforcement but training would be required prior to their use. He also envisaged that neighbourhood workers would educate communities regarding acceptable behaviour, identify persistent problems and offer effective solutions.
- 4.3 At this time, the board expressed concern that the redirection of resources to wards, which were perceived to have greater needs, would be at the expense of other wards, and questioned whether it was appropriate to categorise and compare the importance of different priorities across different neighbourhoods.
- 4.4 The Board highlighted a budget deficit and questioned whether the proposals represented best value for money. The cabinet member confirmed that work on the budget was still in progress. It was envisaged that the proposals would be implemented in January 2013.
- 4.5 The board resolved to recommend to the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods that:
- arrangements are put in place to consult with Neighbourhood Boards and Ward Councillors prior to implementation on development of the proposals for input on an area-based level.
  - the Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board receives regular updates with regards to development and implementation of the neighbourhood working proposals.

## OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 None.

**This report has been approved by the following officers:**

<b>Legal officer</b> <b>Financial officer</b> <b>Human Resources officer</b> <b>Estates/Property officer</b> <b>Service Director(s)</b> <b>Other(s)</b>	Not Applicable Not Applicable Not Applicable Not Applicable Not Applicable Andy Thomas, Head of Communities and Partnerships
<b>For more information contact:</b> <b>Background papers:</b> <b>List of appendices:</b>	Clare Harrison 01332 643648 <a href="mailto:clare.harrison@derby.gov.uk">clare.harrison@derby.gov.uk</a> None Appendix 1 – Implications Appendix 2 – Neighbourhood Working 2013 Appendix 3 – Neighbourhood Working - Map Appendix 4 – Neighbourhood Charter Appendix 5 – Neighbourhood Working - Contacts

<b>IMPLICATIONS</b>
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**Financial and Value for Money**

- 1.1 None arising directly from this report.

**Legal**

- 2.1 Section 21 (3) of the Local Government Act 2000 requires that the power of an overview and scrutiny committee to review or scrutinise a decision made but not implemented includes power to recommend that the decision be reconsidered by the person who made it.

**Personnel**

- 3.1 None arising directly from this report.

**Equalities Impact**

- 4.1 Effective scrutiny benefits all Derby people.

**Health and Safety**

- 5.1 None arising directly from this report.

**Environmental Sustainability**

- 6.1 None arising directly from this report.

**Property and Asset Management**

- 7.1 None arising directly from this report.

**Risk Management**

- 8.1 None arising directly from this report.

**Corporate objectives and priorities for change**

- 9.1 The information set out in this report supports the corporate priorities to ensure the

people in Derby will enjoy good quality services that meet local needs and being safe and feeling safe.