

Derby's Area and Neighbourhood Agenda

Item 6 a

Report for Community Commission

15 January 2007

Sharon Squires – Director of Derby Community Safety Partnership

Recommendations

In response to the issues raised by the Community Commission, this report recommends that ward members in the priority neighbourhoods of Normanton, Osmaston/Allenton, Sinfen, Austin and Stockbrook continue to attend and Chair the Neighbourhood Forums as agreed. This supports ward members in undertaking their community leadership role and is in line with the partnership protocol agreed by the Area and Neighbourhood project board.

This report also recommends that consideration of devolved budgets to ward members is incorporated into the general review of area and neighbourhood working that is currently underway, and due for completion in March 2007. The review is undertaking an analysis of a range of devolved and participatory budget options, and will ensure that all ward members are consulted on proposals.

Supporting Information

At the meeting of 2 October the Community Commission considered progress on Area and Neighbourhood Working. The commission recommended that ward members attend the neighbourhood weekly tasking and co-ordination meetings.

The weekly tasking and co-ordination meetings are operational team meetings of the partnership neighbourhood teams and only involve officers in those teams. Ward member involvement is at the monthly neighbourhood forum meetings, which set the priorities and monitor the performance of the neighbourhood teams. This practice is in line with the protocol agreed at the Area and Neighbourhood Project Board, and reflects the importance of the ward member in their community leadership role.

The Commission also suggested that budgets be delegated directly to 51 ward members. The neighbourhood agenda currently only relates to the five priority neighbourhoods. Area Panels and area panel budgets remain intact across the city and ward members have a central role to play in the allocation of area panel spend. Consideration of any change in devolvement of budgets will be incorporated into the Area and Neighbourhood review process.

All ward members will be consulted on the full findings in recommendations arising from the review process.

Action

