



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

**AREA PANEL 5
3 OCTOBER 2007**

ITEM 7

Report of the Head of Stronger and Safer Communities Unit

From Areas to Neighbourhoods

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the decision and actions agreed at Full Council on 12 September 2007 to approve the transformation from Area Panels into Neighbourhood Forums as part of the new framework for neighbourhood working. The report outlines the proposals and recommendations submitted to Council Cabinet on 4 September and Full Council on 12 September 2007.
- 1.2 Full Council agreed on 18 July to:
 - the basic structure within each ward will include a Neighbourhood Board of partner and resident representatives, led by elected members, and a Neighbourhood Forum open to all residents. Any supplementary resident engagement mechanisms will be agreed by each Neighbourhood Board.
 - ask the Community Overview and Scrutiny Commission for its views on the implementation of these arrangements.
 - ask officers to report to Council Cabinet on whether ward based neighbourhood arrangements should be integrated with the area management arrangements being developed for Children and Young People's Services.
 - ask officers to report back to Council Cabinet and Full Council in September 2007 with details of the constitutional and financial implications.
 - that subject to Council's agreement of the final proposals, the final round of Area Panels will be in September/October 2007 with the new Neighbourhood Partnership Boards and Neighbourhood Forums being implemented throughout October and November 2007.
- 1.3 At the Community Commission meeting on 23 July 2007, the Commission proposed the production of a Good Practice Guide. This was in response to a number of issues raised about future working arrangements for Neighbourhood Boards and Forums.
- 1.4 The Good Practice Guide has been produced and was considered at a special meeting of the Community Commission on 29 August 2007, to which all local ward councillors were invited. The guide includes details of the new arrangements for neighbourhood working including constitutional and financial implications.
- 1.5 Full Council agreed to:
 - approve the arrangements for Neighbourhood Boards and Neighbourhood Forums
 - approve the amendments to the Constitution
 - approve the Good Practice Guide and to authorise the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood, Social Cohesion and Housing Strategy to approve any further

minor amendments prior to formal publication.

- agree that the Area Panel budget of £99,000 be divided equally between each ward (equivalent to £5,823 a ward) and allocated to the Neighbourhood Board to be used to help meet neighbourhood priorities.
- appoint the chairs of Neighbourhood Boards for the remainder of the current municipal year and agree that the other two ward councillors will act as vice chairs

1.6 Details of how neighbourhood working is implemented in Allestree, Darley and Mackworth wards, are attached in Appendix 1, including Neighbourhood Forum dates, funding and budgets and the petitions process.

1.7 Outstanding issues within the Community Issues Update Report will be referred to the relevant Neighbourhood Board for resolution. This will include any outstanding petitions. Lead petitioners will be informed of the new arrangements.

PROPOSED ACTION

2.1 To note this report.

For more information contact:

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Background papers:

Report to Full Council 18 July 2007.
Report to Full Council 12 September 2007.

List of appendices:

Neighbourhood Working In Allestree, Darley and Mackworth
wards

Area Panel 5

Neighbourhood Working in Allestree, Darley and Mackworth

Area Panel 5 consists of three electoral wards Allestree, Darley and Mackworth. The agreed framework for neighbourhood working will mean there will be one Neighbourhood Board and at least one Neighbourhood Forum for each ward.

Work to prepare for the roll out of the new forums has already started. In Mackworth, a meeting took place on 31 July 2007 to discuss the detailed arrangements for neighbourhood working. In Mackworth ward, it has been agreed that two neighbourhood forums will be developed, namely Mackworth and New Zealand.

In Allestree and Darley, an initial consultation meeting with residents took place on Thursday 13 September 2007. Attendees to the meeting raised a number of issues and questions regarding the introduction of Neighbourhood Boards and Forums in the area. Notes of the meeting and a full response to questions raised has been circulated to all those invited to attend the meeting.

It is proposed that the initial meetings of Allestree Neighbourhood Forum and the Darley Neighbourhood Forum will take place in November. Both meetings will be used as an opportunity to outline the key priorities and issues for the neighbourhood. Allestree Councillors have met and set a mechanism for joint meetings periodically with Darley ward for matters affecting both wards. It is intended that we will work with existing agencies and structures in the neighbourhood in the development of Neighbourhood Boards and Forums. For example, the Police Consultative Groups and existing resident and local community groups.

At an operational level in the new framework, one of three different levels of neighbourhood management will be developed for each ward in the area. This will reflect the intensity of interventions needed. There will be:

- Standard neighbourhoods – Allestree and Darley wards, with a lighter touch of neighbourhood coordination provided.
- Enhanced neighbourhoods – Mackworth ward, with support from Derby Homes taking on the role of Neighbourhood Managers, with limited additional staff support.
- Priority neighbourhoods – each with its own Neighbourhood Manager and team.

Neighbourhood Management

In Area Panel 5 area the level of neighbourhood management in each ward will be:

Forum	Level of Neighbourhood Management	Neighbourhood Manager/Team and base
Allestree	Standard	Sarah Dosunmu, Neighbourhood Manager, St. Peter's House (possibility of local base at Allestree Library and the local Police Station)
Darley	Standard	Sarah Dosunmu, Neighbourhood Manager, St. Peter's House (possibility of local base at Darley Fields Park Ranger offices)
Mackworth	Enhanced	Pete Matthews, Derby Homes, Mackworth Housing Office

Neighbourhood Chairs

The Chairs appointed at the meeting of the Full Council on 12 September to represent each Neighbourhood Board are as follows:

Neighbourhood (Ward)	Allestree	Darley	Mackworth
Chair	Cllr. Hickson	Cllr. Repton	Cllr. Baxter

Good Practice Guide

The Good Practice Guide provides the framework for the operation of Neighbourhood Boards and Forums. This document will develop over time and a draft is currently available through the Council CMIS system or will be available at this meeting. Partners are currently being asked to contribute to its development. It has been approved by Full Council subject to minor amendments approved by the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood, Social Cohesion and Housing Strategy.

Neighbourhood Forum meetings

Every neighbourhood will have at least one Neighbourhood Forum. The number of Neighbourhood Forums will be decided by the Neighbourhood Board at a Neighbourhood Board meeting, bearing in mind the level of administrative support available. Neighbourhood Forums are public meetings, open to anyone who lives, works or has an interest in that neighbourhood.

Neighbourhood Forums are the key framework to deliver more effective, responsive and accountable public services. These forums provide a direct link between resident and service providers, to increase engagement, accountability and to ensure that the work of the neighbourhood team is shaped, directed and tasked from a neighbourhood level.

Neighbourhood Forums are chaired by the Chair of the Neighbourhood Board. In their absence, one of the other ward Councillors will Chair the Neighbourhood Forum. Neighbourhood Forum meetings will be held at a minimum of four times a year. A proposed timetable of Neighbourhood Forum meetings is outlined below.

Forum	Date	Time	Venue
Allestree	7 November 30 January 08	7 pm	Lawn Primary School Venue to be confirmed
Darley	13 November 5 February 08	7 pm	Markeaton School Venue to be confirmed
Mackworth New Zealand	16 Oct/5 Dec 9 Oct/3 Dec	7 pm	

Neighbourhood Board

Each neighbourhood will have their own Neighbourhood Board. Neighbourhood Boards act as a focus for discussion, negotiation and agreement between service providers and residents on the delivery, co-ordination and monitoring of services. They are responsible for ensuring quality services are delivered in the neighbourhood and to enable local people, service providers and Councillors to work together for the benefit of their neighbourhood.

The Neighbourhood Board has a number of tasks, these are:

- Represent the views of the local neighbourhood forum
- Decide on the priorities for the neighbourhood in response to issues raised by residents in the neighbourhood
- To be the main decision making body for the neighbourhood
- Increase and improve local community involvement in the neighbourhood
- Involve and engage residents in improving their neighbourhood
- Produce a neighbourhood profile and plan
- Develop and agree a neighbourhood agreement
- Hold residents, public service providers and agencies accountable within the terms of the local neighbourhood agreement

Members of the Board are expected to positively contribute to improving the neighbourhood and also represent the interests of all those that live and work in the neighbourhood. Residents and representatives interested in serving as Board members will need to complete a nomination form. Further details are available from the Neighbourhood Manager.

Funding

Subject to the allocations made by Area Panel 5 on 3 October, the funding available to the Neighbourhood Boards is indicated in the table below

AREA PANEL 5	Allestree	Darley	Mackworth
Budget for 2007/8	£5,823	£5,823	£5,823
Carried forward from 2006/7	£1556	£698	£314
Total Budget for 2007/08	£7379	£6521	£6137
Committed in 2007/8	£1,740	£2,070	£1,500
Total Available to allocate in October 2007	£5,639	£4,451	£4,637
Requests for funding to Area Panel 5 on 3 October	£50	£1,980	£3,050
Budget remaining if proposals on 3 October approved	£5,589	£2,471	£1,587
Total Budget Available to Neighbourhood Board	£5,589	£2,421	£1,587

Outstanding Petitions and Community issues

Resolutions and responses to all existing petitions and community issues will be referred to the relevant Neighbourhood Board. A Community Issues Update Report detailing where all outstanding petitions and issues will be referred will be presented to each Area Panel meeting. The lead petitioner and originator of issues raised will be informed of the process.