



From Areas to Neighbourhoods

RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 To consider and comment on the working arrangements for Neighbourhood Forums and Neighbourhood Boards and the Neighbourhood Forum Good Practice Guide which has been produced in response to the Community Commission's request for details.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 2.1 Full Council approved the framework for neighbourhood working at its meeting on 18 July and agreed:
- to ask the Community Overview and Scrutiny Commission for its views on the implementation of these arrangements.
 - to 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.
 - to 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 2007 with the new Neighbourhood Partnership Boards and Neighbourhood Forums being implemented throughout October and November 2007.
- 2.2 At the Community Commission meeting on 23 July 2007, the Commission proposed the production a Good Practice Guide. This was in response to a number of issues raised about future working arrangements for Neighbourhood Boards and Forums. The guide outlines the details of working arrangements and is attached in Appendix 1
- 2.3 Officers will be reporting back to Council Cabinet at a later meeting on whether ward based neighbourhood arrangements should be integrated with the area management arrangements being developed for Children and Young People's Services.

- 2.4 Details of the constitutional and financial implications have been included in the Neighbourhood Forum Good Practice Guide. The guide will be presented to Council Cabinet on 4 September and Full Council on 12 September 2007. The Good Practice Guide responds to the issues raised by Community Commission and includes details of:
- Terms of reference for the Neighbourhood Board and Neighbourhood Forum
 - Ward Committees and their terms of reference.
 - Selection of representatives
 - Chairing
- A Chair will be selected from one of the ward councillors. This person will Chair the Neighbourhood Board, Neighbourhood Forum and Ward Committee.
- Voting
- Decision making at Neighbourhood Board meetings will be by consensus. However, should voting be required this will be by show of hands with the Chair having the casting vote.
- Petitions
- Neighbourhood based petitions will be managed by the Neighbourhood Board where relevant. In all other cases by the relevant Cabinet Member or public service provider.
- Funding
- Area Panel funding will be devolved to the relevant Neighbourhood Board. It is proposed that each neighbourhood Board will define their own funding criteria based on the neighbourhood's priorities. Ward Committees will have the decision making power.
- 2.5 It is intended that the new Neighbourhood Board (NB) in each ward will have the same delegated powers as the current Area Panel namely to deal with local petitions and to approve expenditure from a small neighbourhood budget (equivalent to about £5,600 a ward) on local environmental and community schemes. These are executive powers delegated from the Cabinet and, under local government legislation, must be carried out by an Area Committee. It is therefore proposed to create a Ward Committee of the three ward councillors who will take these decisions
- 2.6 The proposed changes to the constitution to enable the implementation of neighbourhood working are attached at Appendix 2. The constitutional changes cover the following:
- Neighbourhood Board, Neighbourhood Forums and Ward Committees
This will cover their form, function and composition; delegations; access to information and proceedings.
 - Revised Delegations
This covers the terms of reference for Neighbourhood Forums, Neighbourhood Boards and Ward Committees.
 - Revised Council procedures
This covers all relevant procedures for the neighbourhood structures.
- 2.7 A report will be presented to each Area Panel outlining details of the new working arrangements. This will include information on the budgets and funding; the petitions process including responses to outstanding petitions; dates and times of forthcoming Neighbourhood Forums and their area of coverage and how neighbourhood working will be implemented in their area.

Background papers:	Report to Community Commission 23 July 2007 – Neighbourhood Working.
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – Neighbourhood Board and Forums Good Practice Guide Appendix 2 – Proposed changes to the constitution

Appendix 1

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

- 1 None arising directly from this report

Legal

- 2 None arising directly from this report

Personnel

- 3 None arising directly from this report

Equalities impact

- 4 Effective scrutiny will benefit all people

Corporate priorities

- 5 The report links with the Council priorities 2007-10 :
 - making us proud of our neighbourhoods,
 - creating a 21st Century city centre,
 - leading Derby towards a better environment,
 - supporting everyone in learning and achieving,
 - helping us all to be healthy, active and independent
 - giving you excellent services and value for money.