

MINUTE EXTRACT

COUNCIL CABINET 3 JULY 2007

Present: Councillor Williamson (Chair)
Councillors Bolton, Graves, Hickson, Hussain,
Nath Roberts, Smalley and Williams

In attendance: Councillor Care

32/07 Transforming Area Panels into Neighbourhood Forums.

The Council Cabinet considered a report which stated that a review of the current arrangements for Area and Neighbourhood working had taken place following Council's decision in May 2006 to deliver more strategic management at a neighbourhood level. This had included an examination of Area Panels and the new neighbourhood management arrangements introduced in the priority neighbourhoods.

The conclusion of the review, was that a comprehensive new framework should now be introduced which replaced Area Panels with Neighbourhood Forums in each of the Council's 17 wards.

Decision

To recommend Council

1. To approve in principle the transformation from Area Panels into Neighbourhood Forums as part of the new framework for neighbourhood working.
2. To agree that within the rollout to new wards the basic structure within each ward would 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 would be agreed by each Neighbourhood Board.
3. To ask the Community Overview and Scrutiny Commission for its views on the implementation of these arrangements.
4. 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.
5. To ask officers to report back to Council Cabinet and Council in September 2007 with details of the constitutional and financial implications.

6. To agree that, subject to Council's agreement of the final proposals, the final round of Area Panels would be in September 2007 with the new Neighbourhood Partnership Boards and Neighbourhood Forums being implemented throughout October and November 2007.

END