



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

AREA PANEL 3 19 SEPTEMBER 2007

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 18 July 2007 to approve in principle the transformation from Area Panels into Neighbourhood Forums as part of the new framework for neighbourhood working. The report outlines the proposals and recommendations being 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 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 The views of Community Commission on the Good Practice Guide, constitutional and financial amendments were reported to Council Cabinet on 4 September prior to Cabinet making recommendations to Full Council on 12 September.
- 1.6 Council Cabinet will recommend Council 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
- 1.7 There will be a verbal report at Area Panel 3 on 19 September on the recommendations and the decisions taken at Full Council meeting on 12 September.
- 1.8 Details of how neighbourhood working is implemented in Abbey, Arboretum and Normanton wards, subject to approval at Full Council, are attached in Appendix 1, including Neighbourhood Forum dates, funding and budgets and the petitions process.
- 1.9 Outstanding issues within the Community Issues Update Report will be referred to the relevant Neighbourhood Board for resolution. This will include any outstanding petitions and Lead petitioners will be informed of the new arrangements.

PROPOSED ACTION

- 2.1 To note this report.

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Background papers:	Report to Full Council 18 July 2007.
List of appendices:	Neighbourhood Working In Abbey, Arboretum and Normanton wards.

Neighbourhood Working in Abbey, Arboretum and Normanton

Area Panel 3 consists of three electoral wards Abbey, Arboretum and Normanton. The agreed framework for neighbourhood working will mean there will be one Neighbourhood Board for each ward. Neighbourhood Boards and Forums have been operating in the priority neighbourhoods of Stockbrook (which covers part of Abbey and Arboretum wards), Normanton and Pear Tree (which covers parts of both Arboretum, Abbey and Normanton wards) and Austin (which falls within the Normanton ward).

The geographic boundaries for these neighbourhoods will change to cover the three distinct wards. This means that there will be a neighbourhood team for Abbey, Arboretum and Normanton wards. The Arboretum Neighbourhood Forum will not cover the City centre. There are currently discussions around the development of a City Centre Neighbourhood Team. As a result four priority neighbourhoods will be developed in the area.

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 – with a lighter touch of neighbourhood coordination provided.
- Enhanced neighbourhoods – with support from Derby Homes taking on the role of Neighbourhood Managers, with limited additional staff support.
- Priority neighbourhoods – Abbey, Arboretum, Normanton and City Centre, each with its own Neighbourhood Manager and team.

Neighbourhood Management

In Area Panel 3 area the level of neighbourhood management in each ward will be:

Forum	Level of Neighbourhood Management	Neighbourhood Manager/Team and base
Abbey	Priority	Patrick Lee, Stockbrook Housing Office,
Arboretum	Priority	Pop Gill, Pear Tree library, Pear Tree Road, Arboretum
Normanton	Priority	Tracy Austin, Austin Neighbourhood Police House, Austin Estate
City Centre	Priority	

Neighbourhood Forum meetings

Timetable of Neighbourhood Forum and Board meetings

Forum	Date	Time	Venue
Abbey – Stockbrook	18 September	6.00 pm	Beckett Primary School
	20 November	6.00 pm	Beckett Primary School
Arboretum – St Chad's and Mill Hill Rosehill Arboretum	27 September	6.30 pm	St Chad's School, Infant School, Gordon Road
	29 November	6.30 pm	'Heart of the Park Building' Arboretum Park
Normanton – Austin Normanton Pear Tree	28 November	6.30 pm	Sunnyhill Community Centre
	6 December	6.30 pm	St Augustine's Community Centre
	20 September	6.30 pm	Pear Tree Junior School

Funding

Subject to approval at Council Cabinet and Full Council, and the allocations made by Area Panel 3 on 19 September, the funding available to the Neighbourhood Boards is indicated in the table below

AREA PANEL 3	Abbey	Arboretum	Normanton
Budget for 2007/8	£5,823	£5,823	£5,823
Carried forward from 2006/7	£0	£81	£1,410
Total Budget for 2007/08	£5,823	£5,904	£7,233
Committed in 2007/8	£2,380	£2,635	£2,385
Total Available to allocate in September 2007	£3,443	£3,269	£4,848
Requests for funding to Area Panel 3 on 19 September	£3,600	£1,600	£5,740
Budget remaining if proposals on 19 September approved	-£157	£1,669	-£892
Total Budget Available to Neighbourhood Board	-£157	£1,669	-£892

Petitions Process

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.