AREA BOARD CHAIRS' GROUP 20 MARCH 2006

Executive Member: Councillor G Campbell (Executive Member – Community

Engagement and User Focus) (In the Chair)

Area Board Chairs: Councillors Y Creswell (Bury West),

A J Cummings (Radcliffe), V D D'Albert (Prestwich), J Smith (Bury East), M J Wiseman (Whitefield and

Unsworth), and Y S Wright (Ramsbottom, Tottington and

North Manor)

Officers: David Hanson Head of Democratic Services

Mike Riley Community Engagement

Manager

Apologies

for absence:- Ruth Fairhurst Assistant Chief Executive

170. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

It was agreed:

That the Minutes of the last meeting of this Group held on 20 November 2006 be approved as a correct record.

171. MATTER ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Further to Minute 166 of the last meeting, the Chair, Councillor Gill Campbell, thanked the Head of Democratic Services for the sound/hearing assistance system provided at all Area Board meetings in 2006/2007 which she considered had been a success.

172. REVIEW OF THE AREA INITIATIVE

The Group considered these papers:-

- Invitation letter to all Chairs and Co-opted Members of Area Boards to attend the second consultation meeting to discuss the ongoing review of the Area Initiative;
- The PowerPoint presentation given by Councillor Gill Campbell in her capacity as Executive Member for Community Engagement and User Focus to the joint meeting of Area Board Chairs and Co-opted Members held on 5 March 2007;
- Comments made and the actions agreed at the joint meeting held on 5 March 2007; and
- The report by the Executive Member on the Review of the Area Initiative which will be considered by the Executive on 21 March 2007 and the Council on 28 March 2007.

The Chair, Councillor Gill Campbell, reported that the following revised recommendations would be submitted to the Executive on 21 March 2007:-

- Approval of the option for the proposed Local Area Partnership (LAP) to be chaired by a Councillor for that area to ensure a local 'championing' role for the Councillor;
- Retention of public question time either before or after the main business meeting with an option to supplement with one to one meetings

 Members stressed the need to avoid duplication of activity between the Local Area Partnership and operational activity taking place at a local level like the Area Tasking Teams.

Other issues raised in the debate were:

- The change in the constitutional position of the proposed LAPs from that of the current Area Boards, which would be the subject to further examination, evaluation and consultation
- Poor attendance by members of the public at meetings of the Area Tasking Teams
- LAPs reference of operational issues to Area Tasking Teams
- The adoption of the principle of 'local solutions to local problems'
- The proposal that LAPs will determine the local priorities for inclusion in individual Local Community Plans to inform the Corporate Priorities and the Bury Plan
- The positive contributions of the representatives of local communities on the proposed LAPs to assist in the identification of local priorities
- The effectiveness of the Area Board structure currently
- The possible recruitment processes for community representatives on the proposed LAPs
- The critical importance of assigning a Chief Officer of the Council as a Member of each LAP
- The strengthening of the relationship between the proposed LAPs and the scrutiny structure and the two-way referral of issues for consideration
- Determining an effective constitutional position of the proposed LAPs
- Timing of meetings of LAPs
- Annual review of the arrangements and operational effectiveness of LAPs
- The importance of producing a flow chart to demonstrate the relationship with other Council bodies and other joint bodies involving the Council's partners
- Membership of the proposed LAPs and voting rights
- Other alternative suggestions for the naming of the proposed LAPs

Councillor John Smith asked that the minutes reflect that the Area Board Chairs had reached a tacit agreement on the discussed proposed model.

At the conclusion of the debate, the Chair Councillor Gill Campbell, thanked Members for their positive contributions to this debate on future change.

COUNCILLOR GILL CAMPBELL CHAIR

(Note: The meeting started at 6.00pm and ended at 6.55pm)