

REPORT FOR DECISION

MEETING: Executive Council

DATE: 15 June 2011
6 July 2011

SUBJECT: Township Forums

REPORT FROM: Councillor Sandra Walmsley
Executive Member - Communities

CONTACT OFFICERS: Jayne Hammond, Assistant Director – Legal & Democratic Services
David Fowler – Head of Communities

TYPE OF DECISION: Council

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/STATUS: This paper is within the public domain

SUMMARY: This report proposes the appointment of area committees to be called "Township Forums." It also proposes membership and terms of reference for the Forums, for approval.

OPTIONS & RECOMMENDED OPTION 1. That Township Forums be appointed with the following membership:

Bury East

All Members from East, Moorside and Redvales Wards.

Bury West

All Members from Church and Elton Wards.

Prestwich

All Members from Holyrood, St Mary's and Sedgley Wards

Radcliffe

All Members from Radcliffe East, Radcliffe North and Radcliffe West Wards.

Ramsbottom, Tottington and North Manor

All Members from Ramsbottom, Tottington and North Manor Wards.

Whitefield and Unsworth

All Members from Besses, Pilkington Park and Unsworth Wards.

2. Approve the Township Forum’s Terms of Reference as attached as Appendix A; and delegate power to the Assistant Director of Legal and Democratic Services to make any consequential amendments to the Constitution.

Reasons

The Council may appoint area committees as it sees fit if it is satisfied that to do so will ensure improved service delivery in the context of best value and more efficient, transparent and accountable decision making.

IMPLICATIONS:

Corporate Aims/Policy Framework:

Do the proposals accord with the Policy Framework?

The new appointment of Township Forums will involve changes to the Constitution by the incorporation of the form and competition and Terms of Reference.

Statement by the S151 Officer: Financial Implications and Risk Considerations:

The new Township Forums will need to be funded from within existing resources reflecting decisions taken by the Council in February 2011.

There are no particular risk issues apparent from the proposals.

Statement by Executive Director for Resources:

There are no wider resource issues arising from the proposals contained within the report.

Equality/Diversity implications:

There are no negative impacts identified for affected groups and so there is no requirement to proceed to a full Impact Assessment.

Considered by Monitoring Officer:

Yes JH

The Monitoring Officer is satisfied that the proposals are within the legal powers of the Council.

Wards Affected:

All

Scrutiny Interest:

Scrutiny Committee (Internal)

TRACKING/PROCESS**DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE:**

Chief Executive/ Strategic Leadership Team	Cabinet Member/Chair	Ward Members	Partners
Executive Member	Executive	Council	
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1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Council currently has no formally constituted area committees but has carried out its community leadership role in recent years through the former Team Bury Local Area Partnerships. It is now considered that the Council should change the arrangements regarding its direct engagement with communities to continue to actively promote and encourage diversity and give a voice to local residents.
- 1.2 By reintroducing Council area committees it is considered that there will be a refocus on the debate of local issues; holding Members to account where necessary and finding local solutions for the benefit and wellbeing of local communities.
- 1.3 Within the Terms of Reference there will still be a focus on forming partnerships with other local public, private voluntary and community sector organisations, to address local needs.
- 1.4 The Council has allocated £1,000 per ward to support the work of voluntary and community groups. It is proposed that application funding decisions would be made by the relevant ward councillors. Individual grants would be for a maximum of £250 and applicant organisations would need to be formally constituted.
- 1.5 Additionally, a borough-wide allocation of £13,000 is available for "cross-ward" applications from third sector organisations, with a maximum individual grant of £750. These applications would be determined by the Council's Small Grants Panel. Funding decisions for both these schemes would be reported to the relevant Township Forum(s) with a follow-up evaluation after 3-6 months.
- 1.6 The Terms of Reference are set out in a proposed new Article 10 (attached as Appendix A) for insertion into the Constitution, which will replace the current version. Consequential changes will also be necessary to the Constitution.

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 That the proposed arrangements for Township Forums as outlined in this report be approved and that the Council Constitution be amended accordingly.
- 2.2 That the detailed operating model and membership arrangements for the Forums are drafted following consultation with interested parties and are brought back to the Executive for approval in due course.

List of Background Papers:

None

Enclosures:

Appendix A

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