

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE CABINET

AREA FORUM PILOT SCHEME

1. We received and considered a report of the Chief Executive reviewing the outcome of the Area Forum Pilot Scheme, following the conclusion of the three rounds of meetings in the pilot areas of Clayton-le-Woods North Ward, Coppull Parish and Lostock Ward between February and October 2006.
2. As a result of the success and positive feedback from the pilot meetings, the report put forward plans to extend the pilot scheme Borough wide by outlining proposals to introduce four Community Forums (Central, East, South and West) that, collectively, will cover the whole of the Borough.
3. A copy of the Chief Executive's report is attached for consideration. Appended to the report is a plan showing the boundaries and populations of each of the four projected Community Forum areas, and the recommended procedure rules to be applied to the Forums. The report also incorporates draft terms of reference which have been added to the report since its submission to the Executive Cabinet.
4. A note summarising the views of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the proposals was circulated at the Executive Cabinet meeting and considered by the Executive Members. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee had expressed reservations, in particular, about the size of the projected Community Forum footprints and the division and linkage of Parish Councils between the four Forum areas. In this context, the Member for Customer, Democratic and Legal Services clarified that the Community Forum concept was aimed at enhancing and complementing Parish Councils and the Chief Executive confirmed that the Community Forum footprint would be reviewed on an annual basis.
5. After taking account of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's views, the Executive Cabinet supported the proposals for the introduction of four Community Forums and recommend the Council to authorise the appropriate implementation procedures.

Recommendations

- 6 The Council is recommended:
 - (a) to give approval to the establishment of 4 Community Forums on the footprint as set out in the attached report with effect from February 2007, together with the enclosed draft terms of reference for the Forums;
 - (b) to note that, in accordance with Paragraph 27.2 of the Council's Procedure Rules, the following recommendation is adjourned without further discussion to the next Ordinary Council meeting on 23 January 2007:

“To authorise the addition of the text of the Community Forum Procedure Rules, as outlined in the addendum to the attached Chief Executive's report, to the Council Procedure Rules set out in Part A of Appendix 3 to the Council's Constitution.”; and

- (c) to give consideration at the next Ordinary meeting of the Council on 23 January 2007 to the appointment of a Chair of all the 4 Community Forums, and the appointment of a Vice-Chair for each of the separate Community Forums.

COUNCILLOR J WALKER

Executive Member for Customer, Democratic and Legal Services

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There are no background papers to this report.