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<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM: 8</b>
<b>DATE OF MEETING:</b>	<b>18TH OCTOBER 2007</b>	<b>CATEGORY: DELEGATED</b>
<b>REPORT FROM:</b>	<b>CHIEF EXECUTIVE</b>	<b>OPEN</b>
<b>MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:</b>	<b>NEIL BETTERIDGE (595895)</b>	<b>DOC:</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>REVIEW OF AREA MEETINGS</b>	<b>REF: FM</b>
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	<b>ALL</b>	

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## **1.0 Recommendations**

- 1.1 That the Council approves a revised structure for its Area Meetings as a basis for consultation with parish councils and parish meetings, Derbyshire County Council and the public.
- 1.2 That the next cycle of Area Meetings be used to consult on the proposed alterations.

## **2.0 Purpose of Report**

- 2.1 The revision of Derbyshire County Council (DCC) Electoral Divisions as a result of the Electoral Commission Boundary Review and the termination of its local area committees provide an opportunity to review this Council's Area Meetings.

## **3.0 Detail**

### Boundary Review

- 3.1 Members will be aware of the current Area Meeting boundary anomalies between District Wards and County Divisions. This occurred when the Electoral Commission Boundary Review of the County Divisions came into effect on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2005. It resulted in seven new Electoral Divisions for the South Derbyshire District. Appendix 1 shows the Wards included, in whole or in part, within each of the new County Electoral Divisions.
- 3.2 A new Area Meeting structure could be created, based on the revised County Division boundaries, as most are coterminous with groups of Wards. However, this would not correspond to District boundaries in the Linton and Seales Wards, which would then leave the current situation where some District Members need to attend more than one Area Meeting in those areas. Details of this new structure are shown in Appendix 2.
- 3.3 Alternatively, the 'Urban' Wards could be grouped to provide two Area Meetings and the rural wards be split into four areas, to keep a model more similar to the present Area Meeting structure.

- 3.4 Consultation will be required on this review. Article 9 of the Constitution provides that the “Council will consult with relevant parish and town councils and the chairs of relevant parish meetings when considering whether and how to amend the operation of its existing Area Meetings”. Though not specifically mentioned, consultation through the current Area Meetings and with DCC would also be prudent, before the Council determines the revised structure to be adopted.
- 3.5 In terms of the way forward, the existing Area Meetings could be used as a mechanism for consultation and the next cycle is planned to take place during November.

#### **4.0 Financial Implications**

- 4.1 The review of the structure of Area Meetings in itself is cost neutral. However, additional resources may be required in terms of cost and Officer time if a model is agreed based on introducing a seventh Area Meeting.

#### **5.0 Corporate/Community Implications**

- 5.1 The Area Meetings provide a valuable mechanism to involve and inform the community in the work of the Council. Greater involvement from DCC will enhance their effectiveness in resolving local issues.

#### **6.1 Background Papers**

- 6.1 11 Aug 05 Report to Council

**Review of Area Meetings – Comparison of County Division  
and District Ward Boundaries**

**Newhall and Seales County Division**

Newhall and Stanton Ward (all);  
Part of Linton Ward (Rosliston, Drakelow and Botany Bay); and  
Most of Seales Ward (but excluding Overseal & Linton Heath).

**Linton and Church Gresley County Division**

Church Gresley Ward (all);  
Linton Ward (apart from areas listed above); and  
Part of Seales Ward (Overseal & Linton Heath).

**Swadlincote and Central Woodville County Division**

Contains the whole area of both District Wards.

**Midway and Hartshorne County Division**

Contains the whole area of the Midway and Hartshorne & Ticknall District Wards.

**Hatton and Hilton County Division**

Contains the whole of the Hatton, Hilton, North West and Etwall District Wards.

**Repton and Willington County Division**

Contains the whole of the Repton, Willington & Findern and Stenson District Wards.

**Aston and Melbourne County Division**

Contains the whole area of both District Wards.

**Possible New Area Meeting Structure**  
**(Based on the Seven County Divisions)**

<b><u>Area Meeting</u></b> <b><u>(No. of Members)</u></b>	<b><u>Wards Included</u></b> <b><u>(No. of Members)</u></b>	<b><u>Comments</u></b>
Newhall and Seales (7)	Newhall & Stanton (3) Seales (part) (2) Linton (part) (2)	This County Division includes parts of the Linton and Seales Wards. These District Members will need to attend two Area Meetings.
Swadlincote and Central Woodville (5)	Swadlincote (3) Woodville (2)	Links the Swadlincote Ward totally with Woodville (rather than the current link with Church Gresley and only part of Woodville)
Midway and Hartshorne (5)	Midway (3) Hartshorne & Ticknall (2)	A new combination, but of two complete Wards.
Linton and Church Gresley (6)	Church Gresley (2) Linton (part) (2) Seales (part) (2)	This County Division includes parts of the Linton and Seales Wards. These District Members will need to attend two Area Meetings.
Hatton and Hilton (6)	Etwall (2) Hilton (2) Hatton (1) North West (1)	As the current Etwall Area, less Findern.
Aston and Melbourne (5)	Aston (3) Melbourne (2)	Two complete Wards.
Repton and Willington (6)	Repton (2) Stenson (2) Willington & Findern (2)	Three complete Wards. This grouping now includes Stenson (previously with Aston and Melbourne) and transfers Woodville to another Area Meeting.