
REPORT TO:	COUNCIL	AGENDA ITEM: 16
DATE OF MEETING:	29 TH SEPTEMBER 2011	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	CHIEF EXECUTIVE	OPEN PARAGRAPH NO: N/A
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	NEIL BETTERIDGE (595895)	DOC:
SUBJECT:	REVIEW OF AREA FORUMS AND SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	

1.0 Reason for Exempt

1.1 Not applicable.

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 That the proposed Area Forum boundaries be approved based on the areas in paragraph 4.1 below.
- 2.2 That, with effect from 1st January 2012, the Area Forum and the respective Safer Neighbourhood meeting be held on the same evening at the same venue, with the Safer Neighbourhood meeting held first to deal with any police issues.
- 2.3 That the consequential amendments to Article 9 of the Constitution be approved.
- 2.4 That Full Council appoints the Chairman of each Area Forum from the Political Group with the majority of seats on that Area Forum and the Vice-Chairman be appointed by the individual Area Forums in due course.
- 2.5 That the above revised arrangements be reviewed as appropriate in due course, if necessary.

3.0 Purpose of Report

- 3.1 To consider a review of Area Forum boundaries, together with arrangements for future meetings.

4.0 Detail

- 4.1 Following the electoral review of the Ward boundaries in South Derbyshire by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, effective from the District/Parish Elections 2011, Members will be aware that the Council has recently consulted on proposed amendments to the Area Forum boundaries, as detailed below. These proposals provide that each Ward is situated in one area only, rather

than the current arrangements where some Wards are spread across up to three different areas. The County Council Electoral Divisions are still divided across different areas, which cannot be avoided as these boundaries are not coterminous with the District Ward boundaries.

Etwall Area (Six District Councillors and One County Councillor)

Etwall, Hatton and Hilton Wards comprising parishes of Ash, Barton Blount, Bearwardcote, Burnaston, Church Broughton, Dalbury Lees, Egginton, Etwall, Foston & Scropton, Hatton, Hilton, Hoon, Marston-on-Dove, Osleston & Thurstaston, Radbourne, Sutton-on-the-Hill and Trusley.

Linton Area (Four District Councillors and Two County Councillors)

Linton and Seales Wards comprising parishes of Castle Gresley, Catton, Cauldwell, Coton-in-the-Elms, Drakelow, Linton, Lullington, Netherseal, Overseal, Rosliston and Walton-on-Trent.

Melbourne Area (Five District Councillors and Two County Councillors)

Aston and Melbourne Wards comprising parishes of Aston-on-Trent, Barrow-on-Trent, Elvaston, Melbourne, Shardlow & Great Wilne, Stanton-by-Bridge, Swarkestone and Weston-on-Trent.

Newhall Area (Six District Councillors and Two County Councillors)

Midway and Newhall Wards comprising parish of Hartshorne (Lower Midway).

Repton Area (Six District Councillors and Two County Councillors)

Repton, Stenson and Willington & Findern Wards comprising parishes of Bretby, Calke, Findern, Foremark, Ingleby, Newton Solney, Repton (including hamlet of Milton), Smisby, Stenson Fields, Ticknall, Twyford & Stenson and Willington.

Swadlincote Area (Nine District Councillors and Three County Councillors)

Church Gresley, Swadlincote and Woodville Wards comprising parishes of Hartshorne (Village and Goseley) and Woodville.

- 4.2 These proposed new boundaries will also now apply to the existing Safer Neighbourhood meetings, whereas different boundaries have applied previously. This now means that these meetings and the Area Forums can be held on the same evening at the same venue, with the Safer Neighbourhood meeting held first to deal with any police issues. It is felt that this arrangement will avoid duplication and achieve savings in costs and officer time as well as avoid the need for residents to attend the two meetings on separate evenings.
- 4.3 The proposed revised boundaries have been the subject of a consultation process and the comments received are detailed below. The basis of the proposals have also been outlined at each meeting during the last cycle of both the Area Forums and the Safer Neighbourhood meetings.

Etwall Parish Council

“This was discussed at our Parish Council meeting on 5th September and the view of Etwall Parish Council is that it is very sensible to align the boundaries as detailed in your letter. Holding the Safer Neighbourhood and Area Forums on the same evening was felt to be a good idea and Etwall would welcome these changes.”

Hartshorne Parish Council

"In principle the Parish Council has no objections, however concerns were expressed as to the possible size of the agenda. One observation is that Hartshorne PC is the only Parish to attend more than one meeting!"

Repton Parish Council

"With regard to the proposed new areas the Parish Council would comment that the inclusion of Stenson Fields in the Repton area may not be beneficial to either parties as they may have little interest in village issues, as they are a suburban area."

Willington Parish Council

"At the Parish Meeting on Tuesday it was agreed that the Parish Council support the proposed amendments."

Willington Resident

"Pleased to read that the changes are being considered. I welcome them in general terms, and especially so the changes to Repton Area which would affect myself and all Willington residents. It also brings the adjacent parishes to Willington into common contact to share/air problems frequently common to the local area."

- 4.4 Article 9 of the Council's Constitution covers arrangements for the Area Forums and this has now been amended to reflect the proposals, as attached at Annexe 'A'.

5.0 Financial Implications

- 5.1 The new arrangement will achieve savings in costs and officer time.

6.0 Corporate Implications

- 6.1 The new arrangements will require the necessary amendments to the Council's Constitution.

7.0 Community Implications

- 7.1 The Area Forums and Safer Neighbourhood meetings provide a valuable mechanism to involve and inform the community in the work of the Council.

8.0 Background Papers

- 8.1 27 Jul 2011 Consultation Letter