

Meeting: Southport Area Committee

Date of Meeting: 1 September 2010

Title of Report: Proposed Area Committee Changes

Report of:

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Assisitant Director - Neighbourhoods

Contact Officer:

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This report contains	Yes	No
CONFIDENTIAL Information/		√
EXEMPT information by virtue of paragraph(s).....of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act, 1972 (If information <u>is</u> marked exempt, the Public Interest Test must be applied and favour the exclusion of the information from the press and public).		√
Is the decision on this report DELEGATED?		

Purpose of Report

To provide Southport elected members with the opportunity to discuss the proposed changes to Area Committees as part of Sefton Council’s area management agenda.

Recommendations

Members are invited to consider and agree the proposals presented (which have already been agreed in principle by the Southport Area Committee Chair).

Whilst all feedback is welcomed, views on the following are sought:

- The optimum number of meetings to be held (this year and in the future)
- Holding of pre-meetings prior to the Area Committee (and if favoured, whether they should be regular or ad hoc)

Corporate Objective Monitoring

<u>Corporate Objective</u>		<u>Positive Impact</u>	<u>Neutral Impact</u>	<u>Negative Impact</u>
1.	Creating a Learning Community		x	
2.	Creating Safe Communities		x	
3.	Jobs and Prosperity		x	
4.	Improving Health and Well-Being		x	
5.	Environmental Sustainability	x		
6.	Creating Inclusive Communities	x		
7.	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening local Democracy	x		
8.	Children and Young People		x	

Financial Implications - None

<u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u>	2009/ 2010 £	2010/ 2011 £	2011/ 2012 £	2012/ 2013 £
Gross Increase in Capital Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton Capital Resources				
Specific Capital Resources				
<u>REVENUE IMPLICATIONS</u>				
Gross Increase in Revenue Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton funded Resources				
Funded from External Resources				
Does the External Funding have an expiry date? Y/N	When?			
How will the service be funded post expiry?				

Departments consulted in the preparation of this Report

Legal Department (specifically Committees Section)

List of background papers relied upon in the preparation of this Report

Report to Party Leaders and Area Committee Chairs 15 July 2010

Background

Following the agreement for area management to be taken forward as part of the Council's corporate agenda, and further to the last meeting of Party Leaders and Area Committee Chairs in November 2009, the Neighbourhoods Division has put together proposals to change the Area Committee structure to have more of an area management focus.

Consultation with Area Committee Chairs has recently taken place regarding these proposed changes, including a meeting of Party Leaders and Area Committee Chairs on 15 July 2010. Feedback was positive and it became clear that whilst all Area Committees could adopt a similar approach, some variations would be needed for individual Area Committees. The proposals outlined below were agreed in principle at the Party Leaders and Area Committee Chairs meeting subject to further consultation with all members. Therefore feedback and suggestions from Southport Area Committee is welcomed to ensure that these proposals are developed to meet local needs.

Proposals

- For Area Committees to move to a three part agenda:
 - A:- Open Forum**
Police Issues
Area Management Update
Open to public questions
 - B:- Consultation and Engagement – presentation format**
Opportunity for presentation of reports to member focussing on a more Neighbourhood focussed format.
Open to public questions
 - C:- Council Business**
For reports needing a final decision from AC – not something that requires a detailed discussion or input from the public.
Includes Budget Monitoring report detailing Area Committee budget spend.

It is noted that Southport Area Committee currently deals with Council Business before the Open Forum, and may of course continue with this arrangement or alternatively consider adopting the above order of proceedings as it sees fit.

- Open Forum questions to be dealt with outside of the meetings wherever possible. The Open Forum template will be revised slightly and will include guidance notes for members of the public wishing to raise a question.
- Police Issues section to be discussed in more detail between Neighbourhoods and Chief Superintendent Ian Pilling from Merseyside Police to develop a consistent approach to the Police attending Area Committee meetings and thereby allow a clearer process of communication between members and the Police.
- An Area Management report to be produced for each Area Committee meeting, outlining activity that has taken place in each of the ward areas. This will also include a Partner update, with Neighbourhoods being the first point of contact for further information.
- A recommendation was made to Party Leaders and Area Committee Chairs to simplify the Budget Monitoring Reporting process. Southport has already taken this step and agreed to merge the street sign and litterbin allocation, in addition to increasing the Town Wide budget, which was agreed at Southport Area Committee meeting on 28 July 2010.
- Report template revised to include information on financial spend on an area basis and consultation and engagement that has taken place relevant to the report subject matter.

- All reports or suggested agenda items to be forwarded to the Neighbourhoods Division by the Committee Administrator and then discussed with the Southport Area Committee Chair.
- All Area Committees supported the idea of pre-meetings when appropriate. Southport Members are invited to consider their preference in this respect, which may be a scheduled meeting before the Area Committee, or something more ad hoc in nature.
- Members are asked to consider the frequency of future Southport Area Committee meetings and the option to moving them to bimonthly, resulting in 6 meetings per year the minimum required under the constitution. The main reason for this would be to allow a greater lead in time between meetings and paper deadlines, which would assist officers in dealing with and reporting back on issues raised by residents and members.
- An audit of Advisory Groups to be done to explore the potential purpose, remit and membership of these groups.
- Feedback was positive regarding the promotion of Area Committees via the Sefton Website. As the Transformation Programme is currently underway it would be difficult for Neighbourhoods to progress any new ways of promotion until a corporate approach to branding and marketing has been agreed. However Neighbourhoods will look to update the information currently displayed on the website and will keep members informed of developments.

Recommendations

Members are invited to consider and agree the proposals presented.

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