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**Report to:** Cabinet

**Date of Meeting:** 16 August 2012

**Subject:** Elected Member representation on Area Partnerships

**Report of:** Director of Corporate Commissioning

**Wards Affected:** All

**Is this a Key Decision?** No

**Is it included in the Forward Plan?**  
No

**Exempt/Confidential**

No

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### **Purpose/Summary**

For Cabinet to consider the proposal put forward for Area Partnerships and agree nominations for Elected Member representation.

### **Recommendation(s)**

That Cabinet agrees:

- i.) That Elected Member representation on the Area Partnerships is via the Area Committees to represent the local area context and that the Chair of each Area Committee should be the nominated member, and
- ii.) That the Leader of the Council nominates a Cabinet Member for each of the five Area Partnerships to represent the strategic views of the borough.

### **How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Objectives?**

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

### **Reasons for the Recommendation:**

Area Partnerships require Elected Member representation.

**What will it cost and how will it be financed?**

There are no financial costs associated with this proposal

**(A) Revenue Costs**

**(B) Capital Costs**

**Implications:**

The following implications of this proposal have been considered and where there are specific implications, these are set out below:

<b>Legal</b>	
<b>Human Resources</b>	
<b>Equality</b>	
1. No Equality Implication	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. Equality Implications identified and mitigated	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Equality Implication identified and risk remains	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Impact on Service Delivery:**

The involvement of Elected Members in the Area Partnerships will help strengthen the design and delivery of local services

**What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?**

The Head of Corporate Finance & ICT (FD1701/12) has been consulted and has no comments to make on this report as there are no financial consequences as a direct result of it.

The Head of Corporate Legal Services (LD.1031/12) has been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

**Are there any other options available for consideration?**

The purpose of the Area Partnerships is to take a partnership approach to looking at an area and the services within it. The Council is a key partner within this, and as Elected Members are elected to represent the views of their communities to the Council they should be a key part of this process. Therefore no other option is available for consideration.

**Implementation Date for the Decision**

Following the expiry of the “call-in” period for the Minutes of the Cabinet/Cabinet Member Meeting

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## **Background Papers:**

The following papers are available for inspection by contacting the above officer(s).

Appointment of Representatives of Sefton Borough Partnership Bodies 2012/13, Full Council 15 May 2012

### **1. Introduction/Background**

- 1.1 Cabinet and Council agreed to the establishment of Area Based Thematics on 4 March 2010, which following consultation evolved into Area Partnerships. The role of the Area Partnerships is to provide a strategic view of an area with the involvement of a range of partners looking at how services are best delivered at a local level.
- 1.2 It was agreed five Area Partnerships should be developed: South Sefton, Crosby, Sefton East, Formby and Southport. All of these excepting Formby were established and were operating for just over a year. It was agreed by Cabinet Member for Communities and Environment that a mini review of this structure should take place to ensure it was fit for purpose and was delivering what was needed in the context of other partnership arrangements in Sefton.
- 1.3 In conjunction with the Cabinet Member for Communities and Environment a revised proposal has been developed which has been out for consultation to current members of the existing Area Partnerships. Overall, feedback has been positive and all comments will be considered within the next phase of development.
- 1.4 In addition, there is a requirement to seek the formal nomination of Elected Member representation on any partnership arrangements. At Full Council on 15 May 2012 it was agreed appointments to the Area Partnerships should "be deferred to Cabinet for determination pending the review of the Partnerships".
- 1.5 The key elements of Area Partnerships within the revised proposals are to:
  - Provide a strategic overview for the area
  - Improve the ways services are delivered across the borough
  - Join up services to maximise efficiency and effectiveness of resources available
  - Influence and develop council and partner corporate policies to meet neighbourhood need
  - Provide an area perspective to forthcoming policy/legislation changes that will impact on local communities
  - Be the place where the Area Committees can escalate concerns up to that they cannot deal with on their own
  - Consist of a maximum of 12 core members

- Allow for a maximum of 3 sub groups to be established to take forward their top priorities

## **2. Proposals**

- 2.1 Elected Members have a key role to play on the Area Partnerships, in that they can reflect the views of the Council and its key priorities, but also can offer a view of their local community.
- 2.2 The revised proposal for Area Partnerships suggests Elected Member representation that reflects local concerns is taken from the Area Committees, and that the Area Committee Chairs act as the nominated members on these groups. This would mean the following:
- Southport 1 Elected Member
  - Crosby 1 Elected Member
  - Formby 1 Elected Member
  - Sefton East 1 Elected Member
  - South Sefton 3 Elected Members
- 2.3 Proportional representation has also been considered as an alternative option. However, as Area Committees represent local area interests as opposed to political views it is felt the Chair would still be the most appropriate representative to sit on the Area Partnership. Formal reporting arrangements back into the Area Committees will be put in place to ensure all Members are kept up to date on the progress of Area Partnerships.
- 2.4 As an addition to the revised proposal document put forward to partners it is also suggested that a Cabinet Member is nominated for each Area Partnership to ensure a strategic view of the borough can also be represented.
- 2.5 The proposal also allows for the provision of sub groups, which would take forward the actions agreed by the Area Partnerships. Additional Elected Members to the nominated representatives could be involved at this level if a particular issue was of interest to them.