

| <b>REPORT TO THE CALNE AREA (5) COMMITTEE</b>   |                    |  |                              | Report No. 9                      |  |                        |                    |  |                              |                                   |     |     |     |     |     |
|---|--------------------|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|------------------------|--------------------|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| <b>Date of Meeting</b>  |                    | 22nd July 2008   |                              |                                   |  |                        |                    |  |                              |                                   |     |     |     |     |     |
| <b>Title of Report</b>  |                    | Community Boards – Development Phase   |                              |                                   |  |                        |                    |  |                              |                                   |     |     |     |     |     |
| Link to Corporate Priorities  |                    | Partnership Working  |                              |                                   |  |                        |                    |  |                              |                                   |     |     |     |     |     |
| Public Report   |                    | Yes  |                              |                                   |  |                        |                    |  |                              |                                   |     |     |     |     |     |
| <p><b>Summary of Report</b><br/> To ask Members to note progress of the Community Boards Development Phase and to nominate 2 members to represent the Area (5) Committee on a Task Group that will help to shape new Community Boards during the transition period leading up to the formal Vesting Day for the new Wiltshire Council.</p>  |                    |  |                              |                                   |  |                        |                    |  |                              |                                   |     |     |     |     |     |
| <p><b>Officer Recommendations</b></p> <p><b>It is recommended that</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Members note the progress on the Development Phase of the Community Boards project.</b></li> <li><b>2. The Area (5) Committee nominates 2 Members to sit on a Task Group that will help to develop the new Community Boards by using scheduled Area (5) Committee meetings as a development forum.</b></li> </ol>   |                    |  |                              |                                   |  |                        |                    |  |                              |                                   |     |     |     |     |     |
| <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 15%;">Financial Implications</th> <th style="width: 15%;">Legal Implications</th> <th style="width: 15%;">Community &amp; Environmental Implications</th> <th style="width: 15%;">Human Resources Implications</th> <th style="width: 15%;">Equality &amp; Diversity Implications</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Yes</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Yes</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Yes</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Yes</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Yes</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> |                    |  |                              |                                   |  | Financial Implications | Legal Implications | Community & Environmental Implications | Human Resources Implications | Equality & Diversity Implications | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Financial Implications  | Legal Implications | Community & Environmental Implications   | Human Resources Implications | Equality & Diversity Implications |  |                        |                    |  |                              |                                   |     |     |     |     |     |
| Yes   | Yes                | Yes  | Yes                          | Yes                               |  |                        |                    |  |                              |                                   |     |     |     |     |     |
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## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 This report is intended to inform and update Members about the Development Phase of the Community Area Boards project. In addition it recommends that 2 Members of the Calne Area (5) Committee are nominated to work alongside nominated representatives of Wiltshire County Council, Calne Community Area Partnership, Town and Parish Councils and service providers to help shape new Community Boards ahead of the formal vesting day for the new authority. This will not represent a change to the current constitution and voting arrangements of the Area (5) Committee but will work alongside its normal business using scheduled meetings as a development forum. It is envisaged that the task group will be required to meet once between each scheduled meeting, i.e. one meeting per month including attendance at the scheduled Area (5) Committee meetings.

## **2. Options and Options Appraisal**

### **2.1 Option One**

It is recommended that

- 2.1.1 Members note progress of the Community Boards project – Development Phase.
- 2.1.2 The Area (5) Committee nominates 2 Members to sit on a Task Group with other representatives to work towards the development of new Community Boards.
- 2.2 The establishment of Task groups in all Community Areas involved in this development phase is a desired outcome of the Community Boards project leading to fully operational boards. In the Calne Community Area it is hoped that a Task Group will include 2 County Councillors, 2 District Councillors, a representative of the Calne Community Area Partnership and 2 members of Focus on Five representing the Town and Parish Councils. In addition, it is hoped that the Calne CAYPIG (Community Area Young Peoples Issues Group) and Health, Police and Fire Services will also be closely involved.

## **3. Background**

- 3.1 A key feature of Wiltshire County Council's unitary bid was a commitment to bring local government and public services closer to the community. This will be achieved by setting up Community Boards in each of Wiltshire's community areas. These boards will work with local communities and partners to deliver public services shaped around the needs of local people and places.
- 3.2 At the Area (5) Committee meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2007 Members resolved that the Area Committee supported the creation of an Area Board pilot in the Calne Community Area.
- 3.3 On 17<sup>th</sup> January 2008 the North Wiltshire District Council Executive resolved that the development of pilot Area Boards in North Wiltshire be supported; Area Committees continue until the implementation of Area Boards and that scheduled Area Committee meetings in 2008/9 be used as development forums for the pilot Area Boards.
- 3.4 All District and County Council Members were invited to attend a Community Leadership and Governance Seminar on Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> January 2008 in Devizes to discuss and develop ideas for improving community area working.

#### **4. Composition and Role of Community Boards**

- 4.1 Under the new Authority the Boards will comprise the Wiltshire Councillors for the area in question. The Boards will form part of the Council's decision making structure and will be enshrined in the Council's constitution. Community Area Partnerships, Parish and Town Councils and members of the public will be strongly encouraged to participate at meetings of the Board.
- 4.2 The role of the Boards will be to take decisions regarding local services. They will consider the implications for the Council of issues raised by the wider Community Area Partnerships including those raised annually in local consultation events and the Community Area Plan. The Boards will be expected to shape Council services in response to local needs and circumstances and also to ensure that services are coordinated to tackle local 'cross-cutting' issues such as community safety, opportunities for young people and older people, regeneration, and the local environment.
- 4.3 In the longer term, the aspiration is for other key organisations providing public services to the area – such as the Health, Police and Fire services - to be represented on the Board and for them to make executive decisions at these meetings too.
- 4.4 'In a Nutshell' summaries of the roles of Community Area Boards and Community Area Partnerships are at **Appendices 1 and 2**.

#### **5. Development Phase – Community Boards**

- 5.1 A development team has recently been established to work in the 12 areas that will be helping with the development phase (this includes all five of North Wiltshire's Community Areas). The areas were selected following representations received from the local community, Community Area Partnerships and Area Committees. The list of project managers and the pilot areas in which they are working is at **Appendix 3**.
- 5.2 The primary aim of the project will be the development of Community Boards. This will include:
- Reviewing the boundaries of the Community Areas following the work of the Boundary Commission.
  - Agreeing the powers that will be delegated to area level
  - Agreeing how the boards will manage front line services within each Community Area
  - Developing new ways of engaging local people and partners in local decisions.
  - Agreeing how the Boards will hold public service providers to account
  - Agreeing how Community Boards will operate in practice
  - Agreeing the support needed by elected Members in their new role
- 5.3 Project plans will be developed for each Community Area involved in the development phase and elements that may be tested during the pilot phase are listed at **Appendix 4**.
- 5.4 Key aspects of the project will include:
- Communicating with elected members, local people and partners

- Engaging local elected Members in the project with a Task Group being formed in each development area which will examine particular aspects of the project
  - Working with the scrutiny task group to review progress
  - Working with University of Southampton to test and evaluate new approaches.
  - Running events and activities in each area to stimulate local participation
  - Engaging the Wiltshire Forum of Community Area Partnerships (WFCAP), Community Area Partnerships and Area Committees in the discussions at every stage.
- 5.5 Progress will be reported to the Community and Local Governance Workstream Board, the Joint Implementation Executive and the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Board on a monthly basis. Progress updates will also be given to this Area Committee.
- 5.6 Members should be aware that with the limited timescales and resources available it will not be possible to test all elements listed at Appendix 4 in all 12 participating development areas. It is hoped that each pilot area will test out and properly evaluate different elements to ensure that most new governance arrangements are tested ahead of the Community Boards becoming fully operational.

## **6. Legal Implications**

- 6.1 No constitutional changes will be necessary. Area Committee meetings will continue as scheduled.

## **7. Financial Implications**

- 7.1 There will be little or no cost savings from the proposals in the 2007/8 financial year, particularly as meetings scheduled for 2008/9 will be used as development fora.
- 7.2 The costs of the development phase are being calculated and budgets identified as part of the planning process for the pilots. It is assumed that any additional costs – beyond that which the District Council would have spent on Area Committees- will be provided by the County Council from the transition and/or other budgets. Reassurances that this will be the agreed way ahead will be sought from the County Council.

## **8. Human Resource Implications**

- 8.1 Officers in the Democratic Services Team will, where staffing levels permit, work with the Community Boards - Development Phase project manager to implement the programme of development work. Part of the development phase will be to consider how the new Community Boards will need to be supported once they have been launched following Vesting Day.

## **9. Community and Environmental Implications**

- 9.1 The implementation of Community Boards as an effective community forum and base for local decision making as described in the proposal will serve to ensure that North Wiltshire issues are championed through to appropriate discussion and decision in the new Unitary Authority. By advancing the pilot work in conjunction with local communities and key stakeholders there is the opportunity to shape the Boards so that they work to the best effect for the residents of North Wiltshire.

## 10. Equality & Diversity Implications

- 10.1 Once operational, the very nature of Community Boards and the ability of such a forum and decision making body to deliver against the priorities in local communities across the County puts issues of equality and diversity at its centre. There will be opportunities for inequalities to be addressed as a result of the stakeholder involvement in the development of Community Boards and the subsequent decisions and actions that the Boards will make.

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| Appendices:  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Appendix 1 – 'In a Nutshell' - Community Boards</li><li>• Appendix 2 – 'In a Nutshell' - Community Area Partnerships</li><li>• Appendix 3 - List of Pilot Community Board Areas</li><li>• Appendix 4 – Elements for Testing - Development Phase</li></ul> |
| Background documents used in the preparation of this Report: | One Council for Wiltshire submission  |

### Previous Decisions Connected with this Report

| Report           | Committee & Date                                       | Minute Reference |
|------------------|--|------------------|
| Area 5 Committee | Area (5) Committee - 11 <sup>th</sup><br>December 2007 | CA58             |
| Executive        | Executive 17 <sup>th</sup> January 2008                | E52              |