

**COMMITTEE:** Resources and Governance Overview and Scrutiny  
Committee

Executive

19 June 2008

25 June 2008

**REPORT OF:** The Chief Executive

**SUBJECT:** District Public Service Boards

### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To seek Members' views on proposals for the involvement of Members in the delivery of the Community Strategy and Strategic Regeneration Frameworks in each area of the City.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. That the Chief Executive be requested to convene two meetings per year for each of the areas covered by Strategic Regeneration Frameworks for all Members of the Council representing Wards within each framework area for the purpose of monitoring progress on the implementation of Community Strategy, Local Area Agreement (LAA) and Strategic Regeneration Framework objectives in that part of the City.
2. That arrangements for joint work between Council officers and officials from partner agencies be organised on the basis of the projects and tasks which need to be administered to deliver the priorities agreed within the Community Strategy, the LAA and the Strategic Regeneration Frameworks.

## **FINANCIAL CONSEQUENCES FOR THE REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS**

None

### **CONTACT OFFICERS**

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### **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

None

### **WARDS AFFECTED**

All

### **IMPLICATIONS FOR:**

Anti-Poverty	Equal Opportunities	Environment	Employment
No	No	No	No

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 At its meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2007 the Executive resolved to consider the inclusion of democratically elected Members in the District Public Service Board (PSB) process in more detail at a future meeting. The Resources and Governance Overview and Scrutiny Committee had, in the context of a report on the review of Ward Co-ordination, recommended that at least one elected Member should be a member of each District PSB and the relevant agenda and papers for each meeting of the District PSB's should be issued to Ward Councillors in advance of each meeting.
- 1.2 Members are reminded that District PSBs were proposed as a continuation of the previous Public Agency Forums in North and East Manchester but rolled out to cover the rest of the City. Their core purpose was to ensure delivery of the Community Strategy and the Strategic Regeneration Framework for that part of the City, to support Ward Co-ordination by resolving problems which could not be resolved by individual services or partnerships and to develop a culture of partnership working across agencies.

## **2. PROPOSALS**

- 2.1 In light of the recommendations of the Resources and Governance Overview and Scrutiny Committee and in the light of experience of District PSBs, now that they have all started to meet, officers have reviewed the proposals for District PSB's. The minutes of the District PSB meetings are available to Members upon request from the contact officers for this report. In fulfilling their role of ensuring delivery of the Community Strategy and Strategic Regeneration Frameworks the District PSB meetings so far have tended to include both broad discussions of the objectives of partner agencies and discussion of specific issues of particular importance for the area or neighbourhoods within it. The broad discussions about objectives maybe useful in building the culture of partnership working but they do not need to be organised formally on a district basis, given our policy framework of the city-wide Strategy and neighbourhood focused delivery through Ward Co-ordination. Moreover, we have established through the debate at Overview and Scrutiny Committees and discussions with Executive Members ownership and commitment by Members of the Local Area Agreement (LAA) as the delivery plan for the next three years of the agreed Community Strategy. Given the views of the Resources and Governance Overview and Scrutiny Committee, it is clear that general discussions of objectives at District PSBs risks weakening ownership by Members of the LAA. It is, therefore, proposed to discontinue District PSBs. However it is important that the specific issues of importance to particular areas of neighbourhoods are taken forward as projects or tasks .

- 2.2 To ensure that democratically elected Councillors are involved in the identification and ensuring delivery of projects and tasks, it is proposed to convene two meetings per year for all Members of the Council in each of the Strategic Regeneration Framework areas. The meetings will be chaired by the Leader and Deputy Leaders of the Council in their positions as lead Members for regeneration areas as follows:

East Manchester: Councillor Jim Battle  
North Manchester: Councillor Sir Richard Leese  
Central Manchester: Councillor Val Stevens  
South Manchester: Councillor Val Stevens  
Wythenshawe: Councillor Jim Battle

- 2.3 Attendance by other officers and partners will be determined by the issues on the agenda. The purpose of the meetings will be to receive a general update on delivery of the Community Strategy and Regeneration Framework; to monitor delivery of the specific projects and tasks, to monitor delivery of the LAA targets in the area of the City; to receive an update on key physical projects; and to monitor Ward priorities on the basis of the State of the Wards Report and feedback from Ward Co-ordination.

### **3. DEVELOPING A CULTURE OF PARTNERSHIP WORKING ACROSS AGENCIES**

- 3.1 One of the purposes of District PSBs was to develop a culture of partnership working across agencies. We have received strong commitment from partner agencies to this through, for example, partners being prepared to come forward to develop leadership beyond their own organisations and the joint development of organisational development and leadership programmes. It will be important to maintain and further develop this commitment by partners in the absence of District PSBs. It is proposed to do this by working with partners to identify the actions and activities which will have the greatest impact on delivery of the agreed Regeneration Framework and Community Strategy/LAA priorities for each area of the City. This will be reported to the first meetings for Members in each Regeneration Framework Area where specific projects and tasks will be identified. Thereafter further joint working between officers of the Council and Officials from partner agencies will be organised around the necessary projects and tasks. These will not necessarily fall neatly into district boundaries, for example actions on worklessness. The joint working arrangements will therefore need to be flexible and focused on objectives rather than structures and boundaries.

### **4. SUPPORTING THE WARD CO-ORDINATION**

- 4.1 It will be important for these proposals to support Ward Co-ordination. It is therefore proposed that officers from the Public Service Board be asked to provide leadership and support for Regeneration Managers to

illicit feedback and input from Ward Service Co-ordination Groups and to resolve problems raised at Ward Co-ordination which can not be resolved by individual services or partnerships.. This work would be reported to and discussed at the six monthly meetings with all Members for the regeneration area.

- 4.2 It will, therefore, be important for these proposals to go forward hand in hand with the implementation of the outcome of the review of Ward Co-ordination including increased capacity and training and development for Ward Co-ordinators and Support Officers and the creation of actual and virtual ward teams of officers for each Ward.

## 5. **CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 Members views are requested.