

## Area Panels - Support

### Council, item 15

**Committee:** Council

Agenda Item

**Date:** 13 December 2005

**15**

**Title:** AREA PANELS - SUPPORT

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Item for noting

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### Summary

The document reports in outline on arrangements in hand to support area panels.

### Recommendations

Council notes the outline arrangements that are the subject of consultation.

### Background Papers

### Impact

Communication/Consultation	<b>Consultation has just begun with staff and UNISON</b>
Community Safety	<b>No direct impact</b>
Equalities	<b>Proposals have taken account of equalities issues.</b>
Finance	<b>The restructure arrangements are not expected to increase budget requirements.</b>
Human Rights	<b>Proposals have taken account of human rights issues.</b>
Legal implications	<b>Proposals have taken account of legal implications.</b>
Ward-specific impacts	<b>All, as grouped within the Area Panels</b>
Workforce/Workplace	<b>Consultation has just begun with staff and UNISON</b>

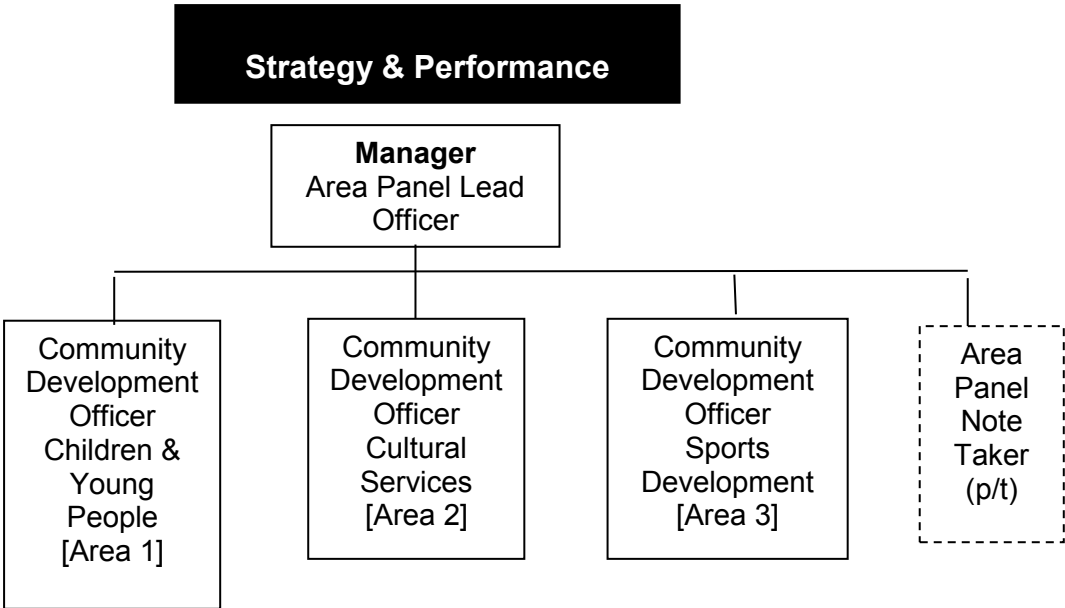
### Situation

- 1 The three area panels will require officer support to manage area work programmes and act as area champions for the North, South West and East Area Panels.

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- 2 It is proposed to move posts in Environment and Cultural Services to Strategy and Performance, within a Community Development Section. Consultation has begun in order to explore with staff and Unison how the roles, responsibilities, structure, job descriptions, job titles etc need to be built to support area panels and to develop the service.
- 3 It is anticipated that within the new structure that one lead post will be identified to act as Lead Officer for the Area Panels in general and that others in the team will support individual panels.
- 4 A currently vacant Community Development Officer post will be converted to posts to deal with support for community safety drugs work and note taking for area panels.
- 5 It is not anticipated that there will be increased costs from this restructure. However Members should be aware that new job descriptions will be evaluated and may result in a change of grading. It is anticipated however that new job descriptions will provide scope for development and be a career grade as far as is practicable.
- 6 In order to give Members an indication of what the structure that will support Area panels may look like an example is proposed below.



- 7 The Leisure PFI contract will be considered as part of the consultation and monitoring may either remain in Environmental and Cultural Services or move to Strategy and Performance.
- 8 The posts of Tourism Officer and Joint Research & Intelligence Officer will transfer to Development Services to support the economic development function set out in the original council restructure document in 2004.

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#### Risk Analysis

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Likelihood</b>	<b>Impact</b>	<b>Mitigating actions</b>
Significant workload for Community Development team	Medium	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Establishing realistic work programmes for Area Panels</li><li>• Working to proposed Cultural Strategy</li><li>• Reviewing current work programmes – completing reprioritisation and ceasing non-essential work</li><li>• Ongoing training and development for relevant officers</li></ul>