

Information/Discussion Paper

Social and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 1st March 2010

Feedback from Neighbourhood Management Consultation

This note contains the information to keep Members informed of matters relating to the work of the Committee, but where no decisions from Members are needed

1. Why has this come to this committee?

- 1.1** Cabinet on 27th October agreed to go out consultation on a proposal to amalgamate the existing 14 neighbourhood police areas into 8 neighbourhood management areas with the five parish councils and three regeneration partnerships being identified as host organisations.
- 1.2** The consultation closed on 26 February 2010. Feedback from the consultation and indications of the way forward are due to go to Cabinet on Tuesday 16th March. In light of this, and given this committee's previous interest in neighbourhood management, it is timely that Social and Community consider the responses to date and help inform the way forward.
- 1.3** The Cabinet Member Cabinet Member Finance and Community Development will present his views on the consultation responses and his thoughts on the way forward to the committee for discussion and debate.
- 1.4** Neighbourhood Management is about coordinating service providers with community representatives at the local level so that issues can be comprehensively tackled and rising problems pro-actively addressed, and in this way communities strengthened. It is not about devolving decision making. It's about us doing our job better.

2. Feedback from the consultation

- 2.1** In general, consultees are supportive of the general principle of improved neighbourhood working, but many consultees responded with concerns about the proposed amalgamation.
- 2.2** While the County Council supported the proposals, the Gloucestershire Constabulary response stated that they wish to keep the 14 police areas as the amalgamation might confuse communities and the structure would fail to

meet the existing neighbourhood policing requirements. The police are also mindful that Gloucestershire Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership is assessing and scoping the benefits and implications of adopting neighbourhood management across the county. This is likely to be based on the 55 police communities and they do not want Cheltenham to establish something which may not fit with their future plans.

- 2.3 We will need to review our plans as there is a real risk that we will not have sufficient resources and capacity to support all 14 areas.
- 2.4 There has been a mixed response from the 8 proposed host organisations; the three regeneration partnerships are generally in favour and are happy to proceed whereas the 5 parish councils, with the possible exception of Charlton Kings and Up Hatherley, see little merit in the proposals in the areas where they are already working.
- 2.5 The summary of the consultation is attached as **appendix A**.

3. Next Steps

- 3.1 A summary of views from from Social and Community O+S, plus views from the community consultation will be presented to the council's Cabinet on Tuesday 16th March 2010

Background Papers	Neighbourhood Management update, report to Social and Community O+S, 7 September 2009 Establishing Neighbourhood Management, report to Cabinet, 27 th October 2009
Contact Officer	Richard Gibson, Policy and Partnerships Manager, 01242 235 354, richard.gibson@cheltenham.gov.uk
Accountability	Cabinet Member Finance and Community Development
Scrutiny Function	Social and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Attachments	Appendix A – summary of consultation responses