

Minutes of the meeting of the **RUGBY AREA COMMITTEE** held at the **TOWN HALL, RUGBY** on the **29 November 2007**

**Present: -**

Councillor John Vereker (Chair)  
“ Tom Cavanagh  
“ Gordon Collett  
“ Phillip Morris-Jones  
“ Jerry Roodhouse  
“ Ian Smith  
“ Heather Timms  
“ John Wells

**Officers:**

David Carter, Strategic Director for Performance and Development  
Dan Green, Rugby Area Manager, Performance and Development Directorate.

Jean Hardwick, Principal Committee Administrator, Performance and Development Directorate.

Claire Lloyd, Area Administration Officer, Performance and Development Directorate.

Peter Endall, Senior Solicitor, Performance and Development Directorate.

Nick Gower-Johnson, County Partnership Manager, Performance and Development Directorate.

**Also Attended: -**

Councillor Claire Watson, Rugby Borough Councillor for Lawford and Kings Newham Wards.

**1. General**

**Tribute**

The Area Committee stood in silent tribute to the memory of the four Fire-Fighters who had died in the incident at Atherstone-on Stour and to Councillor Bryan Levy who had died recently.

**(1) Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Katherine King and John Wells.

## **(2) Members' Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests**

Members declared personal interests as follows –

Councillors Tom Cavanagh, Jerry Roodhouse and Heather Timms declared personal interests by virtue of them serving as Rugby Borough Councillors.

## **2. Locality Proposals for the Rugby Area**

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director of Performance and Development, which followed on from the decision of the Cabinet on 18 October 2007 and sought the views of the Area Committee on the current position relating to the development of locality proposals for the Rugby Area.

During discussion the following comments were noted –

### Rural Area Concerns

- That the rural area proposals were unworkable in that they were too large, stretching from one side of the county to the other involving communities that had individual and different issues. The concern was that residents would not be prepared to travel long distances outside their own areas to attend panel meetings.
- That the delivery of services in the rural areas needed the involvement of local people in local issues.
- That the existing 3 rural panels had equal status to the town panels and they enabled partners to share issues and should be retained.

In response David Carter said that the boundary proposal were the same that were recommended to Members previously and gave assurances that the existing arrangements and the 3 advisory panels would be retained. The main issue for Members to note was that the areas shown on the map reflected the operational and managerial support arrangements that would be provided by County Council and District Council officers.

### Specific Issues

Long Lawford – The Chair invited Claire Watson to address Members about the particular areas of concern in her Ward. Councillor Watson explained that Little Lawford was a parish within Long Lawford and these should be classed together in the Rural: Central Forum. She added that the County Council's proposals separated these two areas. This view was supported by other Members.

Rugby West Panel – Councillor Ian Smith expressed concern about the proposed boundary for Rugby West (Caldecott Ward), which he suggested would be more logical if it extended to Cromwell Road (WCC Divisional boundaries).

### General comments

- (1) That the proposals heralded the end of the Area Committee and this was of concern to some Members.
- (2) That the public were becoming confused with the re-branding of local meetings and why change what was already working.
- (3) That it would be more logical if the Locality Areas matched the Police PACT areas.
- (4) That the proposals and map had been seen by Members before and they had had ample opportunity to comment.
- (5) That the proposed officer support arrangements were welcomed in that they would formalise the current informal arrangements.

Following which it was –

Resolved that the Area Committee –

(1) Emphasises -

(a) its support for retention of the Rugby Area Committee.

(b) that the existing three panel boundaries in the rural areas should be retained.

(2) Notes that the four locality areas are for operational and managerial purposes only.

(3) Recommends that Long Lawford should move to the Rural Central Forum and that the Town West/Town East boundaries should be reviewed with the Area Committee and partners with the Committee's preference being for the boundary to be determined by the County Divisional boundaries.

(4) Recommends that these arrangements should be reviewed after 12 months.

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Chair of Committee

The Committee rose at 6:40 p.m.