



COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW SUB COMMITTEE

Date of meeting: 19 February 2010
Report of: Elections and Registration Team Manager
Title: Briefing Paper – Initial Options Evaluation

1. In conducting this Review, the Council must consider how to respond to the proposals contained in the three separate petitions. In summary, the petitions and the proposals that they contain must be assessed in terms of the following criteria and the key considerations set out in the guidance:

Criteria

Community governance in the areas must be

- Reflective of the identities and interests of the community in that area
- Effective and convenient

Key considerations

- The impact of community governance arrangements on community cohesion
 - The size, population and boundaries of a local community or parish
 - Parishes should reflect distinctive and recognisable communities of interest with their own sense of identity
 - The degree to which the proposals offer a sense of place and identity for all residents
 - The ability of the proposed authority to deliver quality services economically and efficiently providing users with a democratic voice
 - The degree to which a parish council would be viable in terms of a unit of local government providing at least some local services that are convenient, easy to reach and accessible to local people
2. The guidance also indicates that as part of the review other viable options should be considered to determine if they represent a better option in terms of addressing the criteria. The Sub Committee will need to gather further information to make an initial evaluation of the options in the table below:

Area Committees

Formed as part of the structure of principal Councils, often including local councillors. They can be involved in a wide range of service provision and fulfil a number of community governance roles. Their primary role is to contribute to the shaping of Council services and improving local service provision. The Local Area Partnerships do provide a coherent and consistent pattern across the whole of Cheshire East. The approach is premised on coordination of partners in relatively small local area.

Neighbourhood Management

Generally aimed at service delivery improvement and implementation at the local level. Often facilitated by a neighbourhood manager rather than advising or making decisions at local level.

Tenant Management Organisations

Usually estate based, largely public/social housing focused.

Area/Community Forums

Often established as a mechanism to give communities a say on principal council matters or local issues and to influence decision making. Membership usually consists of people living or working in a specific area.

Residents' & Tenants' Associations

Usually focused on issues affecting neighbourhood or estate. They may be established with or without direct support from the principal council.

Community Associations

Democratic model for local residents and community organisations to work together to work together for the benefit of the neighbourhood. The principal council may be represented on the management committee.

Multiple Parish Councils

The review may decide that multiple parish councils may best meet the community cohesion requirements that are key criteria. The presence of geographic boundaries may need to be considered, for example they may form natural communities.