

**REPORT TO:** Executive Board

**DATE:** 15<sup>th</sup> April 2021

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources

**PORTFOLIO:** Community and Sport

**SUBJECT:** Local Area Forums

**WARD(S):** Borough-wide

## **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1) To provide Members of the Board with details of the impacts that the planned changes to the borough's Ward boundaries will have upon Local Area Forums and to ask Members to consider and approve recommendations in respect of dealing with those impacts.

## **2. RECOMMENDED: That Members approve:**

- 1) **The proposals for dealing with the impacts that Ward boundary changes will have upon Local Area Forums, as set out within the report;**
- 2) **That Halton's current seven Local Area Forums be disbanded with effect from 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021; and**
- 3) **That six new Local Area Forums, as set out in Paragraph 3.7, be established in Halton with effect from 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021.**

## **3. SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 3.1 Changes to the borough's current Ward boundaries were due to come into effect on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2020, however, following the postponement of the 2020 local elections due to COVID-19, those boundary changes will now come into effect on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021. The boundary changes will have implications for Local Area Forums.
- 3.2 At their meeting of 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021, Members of the Corporate Policy and Performance Board received a report on the impacts that the impending Ward boundary changes would have on Local Area Forums. Members endorsed a number of proposals contained within the report, including the proposed new Area Forum boundaries, and also made recommendations in respect of the Area Forum budget allocations.

- 3.3 Further to the meeting of the Corporate PPB on 21<sup>st</sup> January, the Council's Executive Board received a report on the 25<sup>th</sup> February which set out revenue budget proposals for 2021/22. The report contained the following proposal in respect of Area Forums, which Members of the Board approved;

*Remove the £200,000 budget provision for Area Forums for one year only.*

*This will be on the basis that the total underspend remaining at 31/03/21 (currently forecast to be £223,000) will be fully carried forward and reallocated on the usual basis to the new Area Forums in order to provide funding for 2021/22.*

- 3.4 The above proposal was subsequently approved by the Council on 3<sup>rd</sup> March and, in light of the decisions taken by the Executive Board and Full Council, the budget allocation of any carry forward will be distributed to the new Area Forums based upon the proportion of the borough's Electorate within each.
- 3.5 Should any Area Forum projects be approved and/or delivered within current Area Forum structures during the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 to 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021, the financial expenditure incurred shall be charged against the budget of the most relevant new Ward/Area Forum.

#### Area Forum 'Footprints'

- 3.6 There are currently seven Area Forums that are made up of the Wards as set out below;

Area Forum 1 – Broadheath, Ditton, Hale & Hough Green  
Area Forum 2 – Appleton, Kingsway & Riverside  
Area Forum 3 – Birchfield, Farnworth & Halton View  
Area Forum 4 – Grange, Halton Brook, Heath & Mersey  
Area Forum 5 – Halton Castle, Norton North, Norton South & Windmill Hill  
Area Forum 6 – Beechwood & Halton Lea  
Area Forum 7 – Daresbury

- 3.7 The establishment of new Wards will affect the current Area Forum 'footprints'. Officers have considered the implications of this and are recommending that six new Local Area Forums be established with effect from 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021. Using the current Area Forum 'footprints' as a guide to creating the new ones, Members are asked to consider that six new Area Forums be established as set out below;

Area Forum 1 – Bankfield, Ditton, Hale Village & Halebank and Hough Green  
Area Forum 2 – Appleton, Central & West Bank and Highfield  
Area Forum 3 – Birchfield, Farnworth and Halton View  
Area Forum 4 – Beechwood & Heath, Grange and Mersey & Weston  
Area Forum 5 – Bridgewater, Halton Castle and Halton Lea  
Area Forum 6 – Daresbury, Moore & Sandymoor, Norton North and Norton South & Preston Brook

A plan showing the proposed new Area Forum boundaries and the current Area Forum 'footprints' is attached as Appendix 1.

## **5.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The financial implications are set out within the report.

## **6.0. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 There are no new Policy implications arising from this report.

## **7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

### **7.1 Children and Young People in Halton**

None identified.

### **7.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton**

None identified.

### **7.3 A Healthy Halton**

None identified.

### **7.4 A Safer Halton**

None identified.

### **7.5 Halton's Urban Renewal**

None identified.

## **8.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

None identified.

## **9.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

None identified.

## **10.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

There are no background papers associated with this report.

PROPOSED NEW LOCAL AREA FORUMS



