

Title of Report:	Area Forum Review – recommendations following call-in of Executive decision	Item 14
Report to be considered by:	Executive	
Forward Plan Ref:	EX0781	

Scrutiny Report To Executive

Strategy and Commissioning Select Committee

Chairman of Select Committee:	Councillor Keith Chopping
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Purpose of Report:	To request the Executive to consider the recommendations of the Strategy and Commissioning Select Committees arising from its meetings held on 19th May 2004.
Recommended Action:	That the Executive considers and determines the recommendations of the Select Committees as detailed in this report.
Reason for decision to be taken:	The original decision of the Executive was called-in in accordance with the Council's Constitution.
List of other options considered:	Not Applicable
Key background documentation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Decision Notice • Executive Report of 8th April 2004 • Select Committee Report of 18th May 2004

Supporting Information

Background

- 1.1 On the 8th April 2004 Executive made a decision in relation to the recommendations of the Area Forum Task Group as laid out in the Area Forum Review report.
- 1.2 Following publication of the decision monitoring form of 8th April Executive meeting, the Council received notice, in accordance with Procedure Rule 6.5.4, calling-in the decision. The reason given for the call-in was as follows:
 - “disagree with the recommendation to extend the system of Area Forums, which they feel is not currently working well and requires further in depth debate.
 - There was insufficient consideration given by the Executive to other options besides increasing the number of forums (e.g. abolition of Area Forums, exploring other ways to strengthen co-operation with Parishes).
 - The report on which the decision was based contained insufficient detail on a number of key areas. There was no detail on the financial implications of increasing the number of area forums. There was no detail in the report on the nature and extent of consultation responses and maps showing the proposed Area Forum boundaries were not included with the report.”
- 1.3 The Select Committee met on 18th May 2004 and debated the issues raised by the call-in. The Select Committees recommendations are contained in the next section of this report.

Recommendations

Recommendation 1 – The Strategy and Commissioning Select Committee accepts the decision of the Executive on 8th April 2004, with the provision that a Task Group is re-established in January 2005 to examine the impact of the Executives recommendations’.

Reason: The Select Committee felt it was important to assess the impact of the Executive’s recommendations on the effectiveness of Area Forums. The task group should be established in January 2005 to allow sufficient time to feed into the budget build for 2005/06.

Recommendation 2 – That consideration be given to increasing the amount of money available to the Area Forums within the current financial year’s budget. If that does not prove possible, to give consideration to this issue when the budget for 2005/06 is considered.

Reason: That increasing the budget of Area forums would enable greater empowerment at a local level.

Recommendation 3 – That Compton is moved to the Downlands Area Forum.

Reason: Compton Parish council felt that their parish shared more common interests with the Downlands area than the Kennet and Pang Valley.

Appendices

None