



specific needs of the area which it served.

Questions were also asked about the role that Councillors would play in the forums, and if they would have voting rights as the Committee believed that initial guidance was unclear. The Committee also expressed their concern that as yet, there was no guidance about how members of the forums would be chosen. It was felt that this needed careful consideration and that an ill informed choice could seriously undermine the credibility of the forums.

Concern was also expressed about the amount of money that would be devolved and managed by the forums, and in particular about the amount of money that could be devolved in the future (giving rise to risks). It was also pointed out that, for a major project, the initial sum of £50,000 was small and may not be enough to make a major impact. Councillor Patel stated that any devolved budgets would be subject to the usual finance procedure rules and mechanisms were in place to ensure that risks were managed. It was also noted that at this stage it was not possible to give an accurate figure on the amount of money that may be devolved, this would depend on what each area wanted and what was practical.

Questions were also asked about the suitability of the areas which made up each of the 'neighbourhoods' as the Committee felt that some of these did not reflect the views of people living in the areas. It was also suggested that the number of people sitting on each forum would not be enough to give a real sense of community involvement, with approximately only 1/1000 residents participating. Councillor Patel stated that discussions were currently taking place about how people would be selected to serve on the forums, and stressed that the project was a major system change in the way that the Council took decisions. It was acknowledged that the project did have risks attached but that Cabinet had taken every step to ensure that these risks were minimised and managed.

#### RESOLVED:

- (1) That the Committee express its concern to Cabinet regarding the level of funding for Revitalising Neighbourhoods,
- (2) That the Committee express to Cabinet its concern at the lack of significant capital provision for the development of the project.
- (3) That the Committee express to Cabinet its concern that no method of choosing forum members has been agreed, and
- (4) That the Committee express to Cabinet its concern that the proposed neighbourhood areas are insufficiently related to local communities.