

## **Examples of Delegations to Local Area Committees**

***(Note: This list is a high level summary of functions and the exact power in each case is unclear. Caution is therefore encouraged in considering this list, but it is intended to provide examples which could be looked into further.***

***It should also be noted that in all these cases a system of Area Committees is adopted across the whole of the Council's area – no examples have been found where an Area Committee is operated for only one part of the Borough. Some of the functions listed therefore may not be appropriate for delegation to one part of the Borough only).***

### **Eastleigh Borough Council**

- Planning applications and planning enforcement (*Note: this is a delegation to determine planning applications in this case*).
- Deciding on local priorities
- Traffic Management
- Leisure facilities
- Local refuse collection and recycling
- Each committee (x5) has its own budget and is able to use this in whatever way it thinks is appropriate to meet local circumstances, provides its operates within overall council guidelines

### **Ashfield District Council**

- Dealing with Grant Aid Applications
- To consider formulation of schemes for progression utilising monies paid to the council as developer contributions under section 106 Town and Country planning Act 1990.
- To be responsible for the consideration of capital bids in so far as they relate to the area.
- To approve the allocation of street names for new developments or the alteration of existing names to avoid confusion.
- To be responsible for formulating a response to consultation documents (eg. Road traffic proposals, statutory undertakers works etc)
- Liase and consult with local people and the voluntary sector in order to formulate a response to consultation exercises about strategic issues where the views of local communities are sought.
- To be responsible for making recommendations to the council on matters that concern the local community and which have been referred to the area consultative group by the council
- To be responsible for making recommendations to cabinet in so far as they relate to the area on the following:
  - § Car parks
  - § Markets
  - § Community centres

- § Leisure centres
- § Parks
- § Allotments
- § Visitor centres
- § Toilets
- § Cemeteries
- § Housing issues

- Receive presentations on key strategic initiatives likely to affect the district and local residents.
- Scope to hold an annual public forum on a topic chosen by the committee. Such a debate to include the suspension of formal council procedure rules to allow flexibility for extended public participation and comment.
- Representatives from relevant partner organisations be invited to attend committee meetings to provide updates on current performance / initiatives and to be questioned by the committee or members of the public.

### **Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council**

- Area Committees (x7) have budgets to make decisions about traffic calming, road closures, pavement repairs, public rights of way and other local highways matters.
- They determine applications for the use of parks for events,
- They nominate governors to local schools
- They comment on planning applications and other development control matters in respect of land within the area committee's area (and determine planning applications where authorised to do so in accordance with a Council agreed scheme of delegation).
- They determine the use of commuted sums.
- They undertake local environmental improvement schemes.
- They prepare and adopt district centre plans.
- They consider and determine objections to the designation of litter control areas.
- They monitor the operation of service provided by the council and external agencies within their area and can make proposals on how services can be improved.
- They focus upon and encourage the wellbeing of the local community and coordinate processes for public consultation with the local community, community schools, tenants and residents associations, and other local groups on those issues which are of interest or concern to them.
- To hold open forums, public question times, and facilitate public speaking on planning applications.
- To act as a focal point for dissemination information on the council's services, policies and performance and community plans.
- To draft ward plans
- To determine applications for street trading permits.

**Sefton Council**

- Area Committees (x3) are a focus for consultation and discussion about issues in their area and for making decisions on local transport, planning and environmental matters.
- Agenda consist of
  - Public Forum – Police issues, Area Management Update, outlining local activity by both Council departments and partner organisations (e.g NHS, voluntary groups)
  - Consultation and engagement - presentation of reports and matters of local interest
  - Council business - consideration of reports requiring a decision from councillors (e.g transport, planning and environmental matters)

Note: Cambridge, Hull, Derbyshire, Leeds and Kirklees Councils also have some limited information on their websites about the operation of their Area Committees.