

CHAPTER 8- AREA COMMITTEES

- 1 The Council may appoint Area Committees as it sees fit, if it is satisfied that to do so will ensure improved service delivery in the context of best value and more efficient, transparent and accountable decision making.

A FORM, COMPOSITION AND FUNCTION

- 2 The Council has decided to appoint the Area Committees as set out below

Committee	Composition
Crosby	Councillors for Blundellsands, Church, Manor and Victoria Wards plus non-voting Parish Council representative for Hightown, and Thornton
Formby	Councillors for Harington and Ravenmeols Wards plus non-voting Parish Council representatives for Formby, Little Altcar and Ince Blundell
Linacre and Derby	Councillors for Derby and Linacre Wards
Litherland and Ford	Councillors for Ford and Litherland Wards
St. Oswald and Netherton and Orrell	Councillors for Netherton and Orrell and St. Oswald Wards
Sefton East Parishes	Councillors for Molyneux, Park and Sudell Wards plus non-voting Parish Town Council representatives for Aintree Village, Lydiate, Maghull, Melling and Sefton
Southport	Councillors for Ainsdale, Birkdale, Cambridge, Dukes, Kew, Meols and Norwood Wards.

DELEGATIONS

- 3 The Council and the Cabinet will include details of the delegations to Area Committees in this Constitution including those functions delegated which are the responsibility of the Cabinet and those which are not, budgets and any limits on delegations.

AREA COMMITTEE PROCEDURE NOTE

- 4 An Area Committee procedure note has been agreed by Party Leaders and Area Committee Chairs to cover the operation of the Committees and this is available on the Council's website.

ADVISORY GROUPS

- 5 Every Area Committee meeting is joined by an advisory group of local representatives, comprising members from voluntary groups, residents/tenants groups, local businesses plus pupils from local secondary schools. Members of advisory groups are able to participate in Area Committee debates but do not have voting rights. The advisory group will comprise up to six members except for the Southport Area committee where the Advisory Group will be up to 10 members.

B CONFLICTS OF INTEREST - MEMBERSHIP OF AREA COMMITTEES AND OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

- 6 If an Overview and Scrutiny Committee is scrutinising specific decisions or proposals in relation to the business of the Area Committees of which the Councillor concerned is a member, then the Councillor may not speak or vote at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee unless dispensation to do so is/has been given by the Audit and Governance Committee.

C AREA COMMITTEES - ACCESS TO INFORMATION

- 7 Area Committees will comply with the Access to Information Rules in Chapter 12 of this Constitution. Agendas and notices for Area Committee meetings which deal with both functions of the Cabinet and functions which are not the responsibility of the Cabinet will state clearly which items are which.

D CABINET MEMBERS ON AREA COMMITTEES

- 8 A member of the Cabinet may serve on an Area Committee if otherwise eligible to do so as a Councillor.

E GENERAL POWERS (ALL AREA COMMITTEES)

- 9 To consider, review and monitor all services and activities provided by the Council, Sefton Borough Partnership and key partner organisations which impact at an area level within the wards covered by the Area Committee.

- 10 To ensure that any functions for which the Area Committee is responsible are carried out in a manner which is consistent and within the policies approved by the Council.
- 11 To refer to the appropriate Cabinet Member, or to the Cabinet, Sefton Borough Partnership or key partner organisation any matters which are of a strategic, policy or resource nature.
- 12 To ensure that any planned activity at an area level by the Area Committee is clearly aligned with the priorities set out in the Sustainable Community Strategy.
- 13 To refer to the Cabinet any matter which contravenes, or appears to contravene, Council policy.
- 14 To expend any budgets delegated to the Area Committee for the purposes in accordance with policies, rules and financial regulations of the Council. To commission services as and when appropriate using available budgets and to influence mainstream services which can be delivered at an area level.
- 15 To refer to the Cabinet any matters which have financial implications which fall outside the budget delegated to the Area Committee.
- 16 To appoint or nominate representatives on outside bodies where appropriate.
- 17 To hear and consider petitions relating to matters within the purview of the Area Committee (N.B. petitions relating to specific planning or licensing applications must follow procedures laid down in the Council and Committee Procedure Rules set out in Chapter 4).
- 18 To appoint a Local Advisory Group in accordance with the guidelines set down by the Council.
- 19 To seek to secure external funding for matters within the responsibility of the Area Committee, subject to resource availability, and confirmation that such applications do not conflict with other applications made by the Council, nor conflict with overall Council policies.

(NB. If there are major financial implications in a decision proposed to be made or such a decision contravenes Council policy, then it shall stand referred to the Cabinet and/or Council for consideration as appropriate. Excluded from the delegations are any decisions in respect of the Council's or school employees).

F ADDITIONAL POWERS FOR SOUTHPORT AREA COMMITTEE

- 20 To advise the Cabinet Member Transportation of the Area Committee's views on the proposed programme of works in the Integrated Transport Block of the Local Transport Plan.
- 21 To consider the outcome of consultation and the resultant proposals in respect of the following schemes and either:
 - a) approve the scheme as proposed
 - b) approve the scheme with minor amendments
 - c) refer the scheme to the Cabinet Member Transportation indicating the Area Committee's view on how the proposal should be progressed;
 - d) the making of Traffic Regulation Orders;
 - e) details of improvements to junctions;
 - f) cycle routes;
- 22 The determination of Rights of Way issues.
- 23 The determination of applications for the creation, diversion and extinguishment of footpaths.
- 24 The renaming of streets.
- 25 In connection with the on-street Pay and Display Scheme, to determine whether residents' parking permits should be issued, where there is a dispute as to eligibility.
- 26 To give approval for Gating Orders under Section 129 (A-G) of the Highways Act 1980.
- 27 To determine requests for the use of parks in those areas where officer delegation is inappropriate (subject to the Council's overall policies).
- 28 To give approval for, and determine the location of, public donations (e.g. park benches; memorial trees).
- 29 To determine requests for the use of land in those areas where officer delegation is inappropriate (subject to the Council's overall policies).
- 30 Educational Trusts - to be responsible for all matters relating to area-based educational trusts.
- 31 Community Centres - to be responsible for the appointment of local authority representatives on management committees of community centres.

- 32 Approval of matters relating to the review of Polling Places/Stations, except when consequent on the outcome of a Periodic Electoral Review.
- 33 To approve routes for horse drawn omnibuses following completion of the necessary licensing formalities.
- 34 Determination of applications for permission to site mobile phone masts on Council-owned land within the Wards covered by the Area Committee, in accordance with the Council's protocol.
- 35 All process to follow the Council's Public Engagement and Consultation Standards.
- 36 Major strategic planning documents (e.g. Development Plan Documents) prior to their formal consideration by the Planning Committee and the Council.
- 37 Major strategic transportation issues which have implications for the Area Committee (e.g. Transportation Strategy).
- 38 To inform the Cabinet Member Transportation of local priorities for planned maintenance work on highways.
- 39 Local Views on traffic management schemes which affect more than one Area Committee (subject to Borough-wide policies).
- 40 All planning matters upon which the DCSF or the Authority requires public consultation (e.g. Children and Young Person Plan).
- 41 Local issues of a non-educational nature affecting schools within their community (e.g. traffic calming and car parking issues outside schools).
- 42 School Governor and Youth Club appointments.
- 43 Environmental improvement schemes taking place within the area (including utilisation of funds arising from Section 106 Agreements).
- 44 Local environmental monitoring initiatives and their results.
- 45 Specific regeneration, economic development and tourism proposals in the boundaries of the Area Committee.
- 46 All planning matters upon which the Authority requires public consultation (e.g. Community Care Plan).
- 47 Local service development issues (e.g. changes in service levels within the Area; primary care issues; health related issues).
- 48 Matters referred to the Area Committee from Partners.

49 Strategic issues which require a specific input at local level.

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