

ARTICLE 11 – WARD COMMITTEES

1 Ward Committees

- 1.1 Ward Committees will work in partnership with residents to tackle local issues. Additionally they will provide residents with opportunities to influence services at a local level. They will be chaired by the ward councillor(s) in each ward and will:
- Engage residents on issues affecting the ward and draw up priorities to address these issues
 - Agree expenditure and services from budgets allocated to the ward
 - Stimulate community schemes that tackle local issues
 - Engage with local residents about some of the big issues facing the Council
 - Work with communities to scrutinise the delivery of local services
 - Select ward planning panels where required
- 1.1 The Ward Committees are informally constituted relying on the delegated authority of the relevant chief officer to implement the wishes of the committee (subject to Council policy and procedures), for example in its spending decisions.
- 1.2 A minimum of one formal Ward Committee meeting will be held per annum. Wards may set a programme of additional meetings/events for the year but this will be for ward members to determine.
- 1.3 At the formal meeting Members will feed back on the previous year's achievements, discuss the priorities for the year ahead, decide on which ward projects to fund, make any other devolved budget decisions and select Ward Planning Panels where required.
- 1.4 Ward Members will also engage with their communities throughout the year in a variety of ways, appropriate to their circumstances.
- 1.5 Members may choose to have joint ward meetings with another ward where priorities cross boundaries.

- 1.6 Ward Committees will be devolved a budget to help address their priorities and to develop community initiatives which benefit local residents providing that the expenditure is within Council policies and procedures.