

## **ARTICLE 9 - AREA PARTNERSHIPS**

- 9.1** The Council recognises that it has the power to appoint Area Committees and Forums but at the present time it chooses not to establish such bodies. In deciding whether to do so in the future, the Council will consider the effectiveness of such bodies in the context of best value and the provision of more efficient service delivery, and more transparent and accountable decision-making.
- 9.2** In establishing Area Committees or Forums, the Council would ensure that the Terms of Reference of the Committees' functions and the geographical areas were clear and concise. The meetings, and the conduct of the Members of the Area Committees, would be governed by this Constitution, especially with regard to conflict of interest and scrutiny processes.
- 9.3** The Council has a corporate 'place approach' that aims to strengthen and deepen the reach of community work and share involvement in it more widely across the various service teams in the authority.

The Borough is split into three areas: east, south and north-west and each area has a Community and Place Development Officer assigned to it. The approach is focused on maximising the profile of 'place' within the authority overall and, using the three areas, Officers from different services share area specific information, initiatives and actions taking place within the communities which aid understanding and develop greater coordination of support.

In addition, Member meetings are held within the localities to share the key issues – this gives a great level of understanding and develops area focused priorities. The Community and Place Development Officers also base themselves within their area, so they are a significant presence for their locality and help build relationships.

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