

**ARTICLE 10 – COMMUNITY FORUMS**

**10.01 Community Forums**

The Council may appoint Community Forums to ensure improved community engagement, community participation and greater transparency and accountability in the conduct of the Council's business.

**10.02 Form, composition and function**

- (a) Community Forums shall cover the areas included within the boundaries of the following electoral wards:-
- Sedgley and Coseley East
  - Gornal and Upper Gornal & Woodsetton
  - Castle & Priory, St James's and St Thomas's
  - Brockmoor & Pensnett and Brierley Hill
  - Netherton, Woodside & St Andrews and Quarry Bank & Dudley Wood
  - Kingswinford North & Wall Heath, Kingswinford South and Wordsley
  - Amblecote, Lye & Stourbridge North and Cradley & Wollescote
  - Norton, Pedmore & Stourbridge East and Wollaston & Stourbridge Town
  - Belle Vale, Halesowen North, Halesowen South and Hayley Green and Cradley South.
- (b) Community Forums shall comprise the elected Members for the wards referred to above. A Member of the Council shall be entitled to attend meetings of other Community Forum(s) to which he/she is not normally appointed as a ward Councillor.
- (c) The principal focus of Community Forums is the opportunity for local people to engage with Councillors to discuss local issues. The Forums shall otherwise operate in accordance with any protocols that are adopted by the Council from time to time.
- (d) Community Forums are centred on the democratic representational role of local ward Councillors and involve discussion of local ward issues and matters raised by members of the public. Forums will also receive petitions and make recommendations on the allocation of local area budgets.

- (e) Community Forums may also:
- (i) Refer service matters to the appropriate Directorates for a response.
  - (ii) Request that reports are submitted to any Committee, a Cabinet Member, the Cabinet or the Council.
  - (iii) Refer matters to local partner organisations.

#### 10.03 Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Community Forums

The Council shall appoint Members to serve as Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Community Forums on an annual basis.

#### 10.04 Conflicts of Interest

All Members of the Council shall observe the requirements of the Members' Code of Conduct when attending meetings of the Community Forums.

#### 10.05 Reports to Council

Bullet point informal minutes shall be produced of issues raised at Community Forums. These shall be submitted to ordinary meetings of the Council to enable questions in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.