

## **Part D – Joint and Area Working Arrangements**

### **Section D2:- Area Working Arrangements**

#### **In Part D:-**

**Section D1** explains the types of arrangements the council can enter into with other councils, organisations and people to deliver services together, or for each other. It sets out the key joint arrangements currently in place, what they do and where you can get more information.

**This Section (D2)** explains about local area working and the types of local area working arrangements that we have in place.

## **Part D – Joint and Area Working Arrangements**

### **Section D2:- Area Working Arrangements**

**In this Section:-**

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. District Advisory Panels**
- 3. Other Area Working Arrangements**

## **1 Introduction**

1.1 Sections B1 and C1 explain how the Council makes arrangements to deliver the services that it is responsible for. The introduction to section D1 explains how the council can enter into joint arrangements with other local authorities, organisations or people to deliver services together or for each other. This section D2 sets out the arrangements in place to deliver and inform the delivery of services to meet the specific needs of local areas.

## **2 District Advisory Panels**

### **Introduction and Composition**

2.1 There are four District Advisory Panels, one for each of the following areas in the borough:-

- (a) Chester
- (b) Ellesmere Port and Neston
- (c) Northwich and Winsford
- (d) Rural Area

2.2 The District Advisory Panels have no delegated decision making powers though they are able to advise and/or make recommendations to other decision-making bodies including Cabinet.

2.3 Each District Advisory Panel is responsible for evaluating and assessing how the Council Plan 2016 -2020 and the Outcomes within the Council Plan are being achieved within its area.

2.4 Each District Advisory Panels is comprised of the Ward Councillors for that area.

2.5 A Cabinet Member may also serve on a District Advisory Panel in their capacity as a local Ward Councillor.

### **Key Purpose**

2.6 To identify major issues within the area of each District Advisory Panel and evaluate and assess how the Council Plan 2016 -2020 and the Outcomes within the Council Plan are addressing these issues.

2.7 To develop a local response to inform Council of how the Council's objectives of Thriving Residents, Thriving Communities and Thriving Economy are progressing in each area.

## **Operating Principles**

2.8 Each District Advisory Panel will agree its work programme for the forthcoming year in March / April of each year.

2.9 The District Advisory Panels may act as a focal point for disseminating information on Council services, policies and performance and raising awareness on cross cutting issues.

2.10 The District Advisory Panels may make a formal request to Overview and Scrutiny to undertake a review of an issue where there are serious concerns over performance.

2.11 The District Advisory Panels will, as part of performing their responsibilities, engage with key partners including the Police, housing providers and the NHS.

2.12 The District Advisory Panels may participate in public consultations initiated by the Council.

2.13 When discharging their role, the District Advisory Panels shall take into account existing arrangements within their area with responsibility for local services including but not limited to Town and Parish Councils, resident's panels, neighbourhood action groups or any other local working arrangement and shall engage with them to ensure the activity of the District Advisory Panel supports and complements the role of such groups.

2.14 The District Advisory Panels will meet three times in each year as a minimum.

2.15 The District Advisory Panels may establish sub-groups or working parties to progress key areas of work in between meetings of the District Advisory Panel.

## **Chairman and Quorum**

2.16 The Chairman and Deputy Chair for each District Advisory Panel shall be appointed by Council at the Annual Council Meeting.

2.17 The quorum for meetings will be at least one third of the Ward Councillors for the relevant District Advisory Panel.

## **Publicity and Public Attendance**

2.18 District Advisory Panel meetings will be held in public and agendas and minutes will be published on the Council's website.

2.19 Each meeting will include a Question Time / Open Session allowing a total period of 15 minutes for members of the public to address the Panel on any matter

relevant to items of business on this agenda. Any questions which are not relevant to items on the agenda may be submitted in writing. In order for officers to undertake any background research, questions must be sent to the Director of Governance three days before the meeting. Individual members of the public may speak for up to five minutes.

## **Resources**

2.20 Ward Councillors may allocate their Member Budgets either individually or through a pooled approach (with or without match funding from partner organisations) to District Advisory Panel objectives in accordance with clear and transparent guidelines based on existing good financial practice.

2.21 Each District Advisory Panel is supported by the relevant Locality Team for the predominant area.

## **3 Other Area Working Arrangements**

3.1 The four Locality Teams work with a range of area working arrangements and structures in each locality to support local community engagement and empowerment and promote active involvement in addressing locally identified needs and priorities. These arrangements include town and parish councils, tenant and resident panels, neighbourhood forums and community action groups.

3.2 There are three Place-based programmes operating at locality level – Winsford Whole Place (Winsford); Building Futures (Ellesmere Port) and Enabling Lache (Chester). These programmes are financially supported by the Council's Reserve Fund - "Bridging the Inequality Gap" – and mainstream Council and partner resources and have their own locally determined governance arrangements.