

## CHORLEY CONSTITUTION

### ARTICLE 16 – COMMUNITY FORUMS (DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE)

#### 16.01 Community Forums

The Council may appoint Community Forums 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.

#### 16.02 Form and Composition

The Council will appoint the Community Forums as set out in the first column of the table below, composed as set out in the second column of that table.

Name of Community Forum	Composition
1. Central	The electoral wards of Chorley East, Chorley North East, Chorley North West, Chorley South East and Chorley South West
2. East	The electoral wards of Astley and Buckshaw, Brindle and Hoghton, Clayton-le-Woods North, Clayton-le-Woods West and Cuerden, Clayton-le-Woods and Whittle-le-Woods, Pennine and, Wheelton and Withnell
3. South	The electoral wards of Adlington and Anderton, Coppull and Heath Charnock and Rivington
4. West	The electoral wards of Chisnall, Eccleston and Mawdesley, Euxton North, Euxton South and Lostock

#### 16.03 Membership

As each Forum is primarily consultative and advisory and does not exercise delegated powers and budgets there is no requirement for political balance. Accordingly membership will be all ward members for the relevant areas, together with any relevant co-optees. The Council will appoint the Chair and Vice-Chair of each Community Forum. All meetings will be chaired by one nominated Borough Councillor and the Vice-Chair of each Community Forum will be appointed from the Borough Councillors for each area.

#### 16.04 Purpose

The purpose of the Community Forum is to provide an open forum to discuss local concerns and issues. It will provide an opportunity to consult and receive feedback, not only on the Council's policies and services, but also on wider issues of local concern including crime and disorder, community safety and environmental issues, which in turn will facilitate the Council's partnership working with other agencies.

It is not a substitute for Members' own surgeries and will not therefore be able to deal with individual cases or concerns, although members of the public will be welcome to attend and make contact after the meeting with their local Ward Councillor.

#### 16.05 **Terms of Reference**

The terms of reference for the borough-wide community forums will be to:

- Ensure local people are able to voice issues of concern directly to the Council and partner organisations.
- Keep in touch with 'live' current issues within communities.
- Develop an area-based approach to problem-solving across agencies.
- Develop a local action plan for each area linked to the Community Strategy and building on existing parish plans.
- Provide a feedback loop back in the Council and partners – ensuring the 'you said – we did' approach is embedded at all levels.
- Link in with the excellent local work of PACT meetings.
- Provide an opportunity for areas with no organised feedback mechanism to actively engaged with the Council and its partners.
- Enable parish councils and other local groups to work together across a larger area to pursue areas of common interest.
- Provide a basis for the further development of the Council (and the Local Strategic Partnerships) approach to neighbourhood service delivery and the future recommendations of the Environment and Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel on neighbourhood working.

#### 16.06 **Meetings**

Meetings of Area Forums will be held in public. The meetings will be held at a suitable venue in the local area. A period of 30 minutes will be allocated for questions by members of the public. Although there is no obligation to do so, it would be helpful if questions could be put in writing to a Ward Councillor at least 48 hours before the start of the meeting. This will help facilitate a full response.

#### 16.07 **Procedure Rules**

The procedure rules for the meetings are set out at Part 2, Appendix 3 of the Constitution.