

**ARTICLE 11 - AREA FORUMS**

11.1 The Council will appoint the Area Forums set out in the left hand column of the following table to be responsible for the functions set out in the remaining parts of this Article in respect of the wards listed in the right hand column.

<p><b>North Area Forum</b></p>	<p>Ashdon, Clavering, Littlebury, Newport, Saffron Walden Audley, Saffron Walden Castle, Saffron Walden Shire, Thaxted, The Chesterfords, The Sampfords, Wenden Lofts, Wimbish and Debden.</p>
<p><b>South Area Forum</b></p>	<p>Barnston and High Easter, Birchanger, Broad Oak and the Hallingburys, Elsenham and Henham, Felsted, Great Dunmow North, Great Dunmow South, Hatfield Heath, Stansted North, Stansted South, Stebbing, Stort Valley, Takeley and The Canfields, The Eastons and The Rodings.</p>

11.2 There shall be 20 members of the North Area Forum and 24 members of the South Area Forum Only those members of the Council representing wards designated to an Area Forum shall be eligible to be appointed. In addition the Area Forums will be attended by other agencies including (by way of illustration not limitation) the police, the fire and rescue service, the Highways Authority and the PCT.

**Area Forums are and shall operate as Consultative Bodies of the Council. They are not committees of the Council and have no decision making or advisory functions. [This wording is taken from the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 to demonstrate that the Forums do not need to comply with the legislation relating to political balance]**

11.3 The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Area Forums shall be appointed annually at Full Council. The Chairman if present shall preside at meetings of the Area Forums. In the absence of the Chairman the Vice-Chairman of the Area Forum shall preside if present. In the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman those Members of the Council who are present shall elect one of their number to be the Chairman for the purposes of the meeting.

11.4 Rules 2.1 – 2.6, 4 – 7, 14.1,15, 17 – 18, 20 and 21 of the Council Procedure Rules in Part 3 of this Constitution shall apply to Area Forums. Subject thereto

the procedure to be adopted at meetings of the Area Forums shall be in the discretion of the Chairman but in adopting a procedure the Chairman shall have regard for the desirability of permitting outside agencies attending the meetings sufficient opportunity to present information to the community on services and proposed initiatives and to enable the community to express its views to the Area Forum to be reported back to an appropriate Committee of the Council.

11.5 The Area Forums shall:-

11.5.5 consult with town and parish councils, local community representatives and the general public on all matters relating to services provided by the participating agencies, in particular to seek views to inform the Local Strategic Partnership of the community's requirements.

11.5.6 agree that agency representatives and council officers pursue matters arising from the meetings through the appropriate formal channels (in the case of the district council by investigation and reporting through the main committee structure).

11.5.7 provide information to the community on services and proposed initiatives.

11.5.8 provide an open forum for the community to identify requirements and provide feedback on success or otherwise of services and initiatives.

11.5.9 develop a co-ordinated agency working approach to resolve problems and to contribute to future planning policy developments (in the case of the district council by investigation and reporting through the main committee structure).

11.5.10 facilitate round table discussions between parish and district councillors on relevant matters.

11.6 Following meetings of Area Forums officers will report back to the next available meeting of the appropriate Committee or Committees of the Council as to the issues discussed, the consensus of the meeting and other views expressed at the meeting.