

Wiltshire Council Written Update

Subject:	Area Board model May 2021
Web /contact:	Rhys Schell, Specialist Manager - Community Engagement and Governance rhys.schell@wiltshire.gov.uk

The Area Board model was first introduced in 2009 and has delivered significant success in developing stronger communities since its inception. The overall aims of the Wiltshire Area Boards remain the same, however, an evolved framework has been created that builds on the strengths of the model and enables Area Boards to use more flexible, informal methods to engage with local residents.

Over recent years multiple Area Boards have piloted different approaches using events, workshops and surveys, with the data clearly showing that this varied approach to resident engagement reaches a wider cross section of the community. This leads to a more consultative and collaborative approach and one that promotes local intelligence gathering to inform decision making.

The new framework allows Area Boards to tailor their approach to their communities, considering what their local priorities are, the partners involved and the outcomes they wish to achieve. It will importantly offer more opportunities for our residents to engage with us on issues important to them. The model promotes each Area Board to develop its network of community led activity through business meetings, community engagements such as events, workshops and surveys and a wide range of sub-groups.

Figure 1 shows an example of how the annual Area Board cycle could look. Four Area Board business meetings, with multiple Area Board engagements taking place at other times during the year, which focus on specific local priorities. In addition, working groups of the board such as youth networks, health and wellbeing groups and community area transport groups will continue to meet and link with the Area Board.

Figure 1 - The Area Board model

Area Board Example Model

4 business meetings scheduled evenly across the year. If additional business decisions are needed then meetings can be set or delegated decisions taken.

Informal engagement activities can be flexibly built into the Area Board programme, agreed between the Community Engagement Manager and Cllrs.

- Community Area Transport Group
- Health & Wellbeing Forum
- Local Youth Network

