

EXAMPLE OF BEST PRACTICE – SOUTH SOMERSET DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council Name	Committee Name	Membership	Voting Rights	Purpose of Meeting	Powers	Budget	Frequency of meeting	Relationship with Community Planning Partnerships
<p><u>South Somerset District Council</u></p> <p>Cabinet with Leader (10 x Member Exec.)</p> <p>Rural - Yeovil and 8 smaller market towns</p>	Area Committees x 4	All District Ward Members	1 vote per District Cllr	To strengthen links with Council and local community	Executive decisions	<p><u>Capital</u> (local projects – e.g. playareas)</p> <p><u>Revenue</u> Grants to local groups</p>	Monthly at venues around each of 4 areas	<p>Close links to local Community Partnerships and involvement with community planning</p> <p>Links to South Somerset Together (LSP).</p> <p>Parish Plans discussed</p> <p>Community Safety Partnership involvement</p>
	Area South	(The 4 Chairs hold geographical portfolios on Executive)		To hear service delivery reports	Delegated budget (discretionary)		Good public attendance	
	Area East	No political balance rules		Discuss Planning applications	Planning Decisions		Forward Plans (copy attached)	
	Area West			Forum for public consultation	Scrutiny role (e.g. recent Area West special session on gulley clearing)		Action Plans	
	Area North	All Town and Parish Councils are invited to attend		Public can address any item			Parish Workshops - twice yearly. (These inform the Forward Plans)	
	Area Highways hold surgeries prior to meetings.			Publicity to all Parish and Town Councils				
							Pre-agenda meetings	

Officer Support: 4 x Area Development Managers working with Democratic Services Team

Comments: One of largest District Councils in England. SSDC is made up of 60 locally elected members, 37 Liberal Democrats, 16 Conservatives and 7 Independents. District Council Head Office with 8 satellite Area/Community Offices

Future aspirations: Improved youth involvement.

CPA rating: Fair. Specific reference in report to good area working through Area Committees and that SSDC is perceived as being close to the community, understands its needs and able to make an impact in delivery plans and outcomes reflecting the needs of its communities..

Beacon Council 'Getting closer to communities.' This recognised the way SSDC used its Area Committees to engage with local people.