

## Appendix 1: Response to Overview & Scrutiny Committee Report from 29<sup>th</sup> April 2013 regarding Area Forums and Committees

Recommendation	Response
<p><b>3.1</b> That, pending further work on their development, confirmation be provided of how support will be provided for area forums and committees to ensure their continued operation.</p>	<p>Area Forums and Committees are supported by Democratic Services through the committee secretariat. This support takes the form of agenda planning with the Chair of each Forum/Committee, taking responsibility for sending out the agenda to the agreed distribution list, attendance at the meeting and minuting of the area committee meeting. In addition, the Communications Team develops a poster to advertise each meeting and ensures copies are produced to enable councillors to further publicise meetings. Each Area Forum and Committee has a Champion who is a member of the Council's senior management team. There is no further support available at this time to Area Committees and Forums.</p>
<p><b>3.2</b> That consultation be undertaken with residents, including hard to reach groups, to obtain their views on possible future models for local engagement.</p>	<p>It is not proposed to carry out additional consultation at this time. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has carried out consultation in undertaking this review which can be utilised as part of the development of proposals for future community engagement. In addition, the Council will use findings from other consultations and best practice from other authorities to develop future models of engagement.</p>
<p><b>3.3</b> That officers work with chairs of area forums and committees to develop proposals for alternative means of engagement with local residents for piloting in a number of wards of the borough and to evaluate the success of these.</p>	<p>The Council will use the learning from the Scrutiny Review to support the development of revised engagement models during 2013/14 which in turn will feed into the next Governance review. In the meantime, it is suggested that Area Chairs lead on piloting different methods of engagement with local residents within their different areas during 2013/14. Outcomes of the pilots could be shared at the six weekly Area Chairs' Group meetings (which includes the Cabinet Member for Communities and the Head of Legal Service). The expectation is that Area Chairs will undertake this work.</p>
<p><b>3.4</b> That, following the above mentioned pilot projects and consultation with stakeholders, specific proposals for the future of area forums and committees be developed for implementation following the 2014 Council elections and that these be based on the principles outlined within paragraphs 6.4 of the report and clear evidence of effective and cost effective approaches that have been adopted by similar London boroughs.</p>	<p>As noted above proposals for future engagement models including consideration of area forums and committees will be considered as part of the next Governance review. They will take account of the principles listed in paragraph 6.4 of the report.</p>