

## Article 10 – Community Councils<sup>1</sup>

### 10.01 Community Councils

The Council may appoint Community Councils (or "area committees") 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.

### 10.02 Composition and Function

#### (a) Composition of Community Councils

The Council will appoint Community Councils as set out in the table below. Community Councils do not need to be politically balanced. In addition Community Councils can only include members of the local authority who are members for the electoral wards wholly or partly contained within the area for which the committee has functions.

Name of Community Council	Members from Electoral Wards serving on Community Councils
Borough and Bankside	Cathedrals and Chaucer wards.
Bermondsey	Grange, Riverside and South Bermondsey wards
Rotherhithe	Livesey (north of the Old Kent Road), Rotherhithe and Surrey Docks wards.
Walworth	East Walworth, Faraday and Newington wards.
Peckham	Livesey (south of the Old Kent Road) and Peckham wards).
Camberwell	Brunswick Park, Camberwell Green and South Camberwell wards.
Nunhead and Peckham Rye	Nunhead, Peckham Rye and The Lane wards.
Dulwich	College, East Dulwich and Village wards.

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<sup>1</sup> The Council has decided to appoint eight Community Councils (defined as "area committees" in legislation) with executive and non-executive decision-making powers.

**(b) Role and functions of Community Councils**

**Role and Functions**

**Introduction**

1. The purpose of Community Councils is to promote the involvement of local people in the democratic process and to bring decision-making closer to local people.
2. Community Councils will be able to take decisions about local matters. At present the Council has delegated in part the following key areas: planning, licensing, environmental improvement, community safety, traffic management and appointment of Local Education Authority governors to local primary schools.
3. Community Councils will act as a formal consultation mechanism on Council wide policies and strategies.
4. Community Councils will be a focal point for discussion and consultation on matters that affect the area.

**Planning Functions (Non-Executive):**

5. To determine those planning applications reserved to Community Councils.
6. To provide comments on the following proposals to the Planning Committee:
  - expenditure of funds over £100,000 secured through legal agreements under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.
  - the designation of conservation areas.
  - adoption of planning briefs to guide the development of particular sites within the area of the Community Council.
  - all major and strategic schemes prior to consideration by the Planning Committee, subject to the consultation deadlines.

**Licensing Functions (Non-Executive)**

7. To determine applications for the grant, renewal, transfer, revocation or variation of annual public entertainments or night café licences, reserved to Community Councils.

**Role and Functions**

8. To determine any application for consent to provide striptease or hypnotism or like entertainment, the grant of new amusement arcade / prize bingo permits, or applications made in respect of occasional licenses over 28 days in any 12 month period.

**Environmental Management (Executive)**

9. To consider regular reports on environmental management issues, including street cleaning, refuse collection, abandoned vehicles and leisure centres.
10. To participate in contract reviews and be able to suggest service improvements and identify local priority issues.

11. To recommend local and major contract variations, to the Strategic Director of Environment & Leisure and the Executive respectively for consideration.

12. To appoint Ward Members to serve on warden schemes steering groups.

**Environmental Improvement Programme (Executive)**

13. To approve the mechanism and allocation of funds to local Environmental Improvement Programme (EIP) schemes.
14. To recommend bids for the funding of EIP schemes of a strategic nature, as part of an open bidding process, to the Executive.
15. To oversee and take responsibility for the development and implementation of the local schemes.

16. If successful in the bidding to the Executive for strategic projects, to oversee and take responsibility for the development and implementation of the schemes.

**Community Safety Functions (Executive)**

17. To undertake consultation on proposed Community Safety projects.
18. To recommend to the Executive local projects for submission for in-principle approval.
19. To grant detailed scheme approval to local projects and monitor the progress of approved schemes.

**Traffic Management Functions (Executive)**

20. To make non-strategic local traffic decisions, for example to modify a local traffic scheme, to determine objections to traffic matters and to hear and determine traffic petitions and deputations.

Role and Functions	
21.	To be consulted on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• strategic traffic management schemes</li><li>• Borough Spending Plans (BSP)</li><li>• decisions of strategic nature, such as whether to create parking zones or home zones.</li></ul>
<b>Education Functions (Executive)</b>	
22.	To appoint to Local Education Authority governorships on the governing bodies of primary schools within the area of the Community Council, from among the list of suitable persons maintained by the Council's Voluntary Bodies Appointments Panel.

**(c) Delegations.**

The Council Assembly and the Executive will include details of the delegations to Community Councils in Part 3 of this Constitution, including the functions delegated showing which are the responsibility of the Executive and which are not, the composition and membership of the committees, budgets and any limitations on delegation.

**10.03 Conflicts of interest – Membership of Community Councils and Overview and Scrutiny Committees/Sub-Committees**

**(a) Conflict of interest.**

If an overview and scrutiny committee/sub-committee is scrutinising specific decisions or proposals in relation to the business of the Community Council of which the councillor concerned is a member, then the councillor may not speak or vote at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee/Sub-Committee meeting unless a dispensation to do so is given by the Standards Committee. The Code of Conduct allows a Member to attend a meeting for the purpose of answering questions or otherwise giving evidence.

**(b) General policy reviews.**

Where the Overview and Scrutiny Committee/Sub-Committee is reviewing policy generally the member must declare his/her interest before the relevant agenda item is reached, but need not withdraw.

**10.04 Community Councils – access to information**

Community Councils will comply with the Access to Information Rules in Part 4 of this Constitution.

Agendas and notices for Community Councils meetings, which deal with both functions of the Executive and functions that are not the responsibility of the Executive, will state clearly whether an item relates to an Executive or non-Executive function.

**10.05 Executive Members on Community Councils**

A member of the Executive may serve on a Community Council if otherwise eligible to do so as a councilor.