

PART 10

LOCAL AREA FORUMS

10.1 COMPOSITION

10.1.1 The Council has a policy of helping to build and sustain local communities. It is the Council's Policy to consult widely and to work within those communities.

10.1.2 The Council will ~~designate areas for establish~~ Local Area Forums (LAFs) to undertake these roles across Herefordshire. Local Area Forums will meet on a regular basis at locations around the County to ensure ease of access for all. Local Area Forums will be designated by reference to wards. Councillors for those wards will become members of the relevant LAF. There will be occasions where the interests of a particular ward relate to more than one LAF; in these circumstances the Ward Member will also be eligible to attend and participate in an adjacent LAF.

10.1.3 ~~Membership of each LAF will be decided by the Council as set out above.~~ The Leader of the Council, or a Cabinet Member nominated by him/her to act on his/her behalf will have the right to participate in each of the LAFs. The role of the Leader or Cabinet Member so nominated will be to hear the views of the LAF and when applicable represent the Cabinet's views to them.

10.1.4 ~~The ward composition and Councillor Membership of the LAFs is shown at Appendix 20.~~ There will be six LAFs meeting in the following areas:

- Central Herefordshire
- East Herefordshire
- Golden Valley
- Hereford
- North Herefordshire
- Ross on Wye

10.1.5 The Chairman of each LAF will be a Herefordshire Councillor and will be appointed by Group Leaders.

10.2 TERMS OF REFERENCE

10.2.1 The principal roles of a Local Area Forum will be :

- To consider the impact of Council policies and services on the area;
- To consider the impact of policies and services provided by other public bodies, Council partners and other organisations operating in Herefordshire.
- To propose to the Cabinet, policy and service delivery modifications to better serve the needs of the local area;
- To act as a focus for the area, co-ordinating local efforts where appropriate and acting as one of Herefordshire's means of consultation on policy and service delivery and other proposals.

10.3 CONDUCT OF BUSINESS ETC

10.3.1 Whilst conforming with Standing Order **5.8.3** with regard to notice etc., each LAF will develop its own method of working, following any legal and good practice requirements for the conduct of meetings. The Cabinet will from time to time issue procedural advice on the management of the Forums.

10.3.2 The LAF is not a decision making body and generally speaking, there will be no formal votes taken. A consensus of opinion will be reported to Cabinet, where appropriate.

10.3.3 In the event of the Chairman of the LAF not being present the Councillors present will elect a Chairman for that meeting from amongst their number.