

**WALSALL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH
COUNCIL**

EXTRACT FROM CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE 10 – Local Neighbourhood Partnerships

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Explanation

The Council is committed to social inclusion and community cohesion. To facilitate and encourage both these aims the council believes that all citizens, businesses, people who work or visit the Borough should have the facility to make their views known either through organised groups or individually directly to those who represent them. Local Neighbourhood Partnerships (LNP's) provide that direct access channel to those who are accountable through the democratic process.

10.01 Number and administrative area

The Council has appointed 9 area committees, known as Local Neighbourhood Partnerships to promote improved service delivery at a local level and use as a vehicle for better consultation with its citizens and partners. Details of the LNPs, their administrative boundaries are set out below:-.

LNP	Wards
Brownhills Aldridge North	Brownhills and Aldridge North and Walsall Wood
Pelsall and Rushall	Pelsall and Rushall-Shelfield
Blakenall and Bloxwich	Bloxwich East, Bloxwich West and Blakenall
Willenhall	Willenhall North, Willenhall South and Short Heath
Darlaston	Darlaston South and Bentley and Darlaston North
Aldridge South and Streetly	Aldridge Central & South and Streetly
Pheasey and Paddock	Pheasey Park Farm and Paddock
St. Matthews and Birchills Leamore	St. Matthews and Birchills Leamore
Palfrey and Pleck	Palfrey and Pleck

10.02 Membership

The LNP will consist of ward members for the LNPs administrative area, Council appointed partners and up to 10 locally appointed partners. Council appointed partners will be determined from time to time by the Council whereas locally appointed partners will be chosen by each LNP to reflect the different communities that each LNP serves. No substitution of ward members is permitted.

10.03 Chairing

At the first meeting of each LNP in a municipal year the first item of business will be to elect a Chair for that municipal year. The Chair will be an elected member from the LNP and shall have a casting vote. Election of the Chair shall be by simple majority of the voting members present.

Amended June 2004

The Chair may request any member of the LNP to facilitate the meeting irrespective of whether the Chair is present or not, the presider. The presider shall have the same powers as the Chair at that meeting of the LNP save for the casting vote which remains with the Chair.

10.04 Meetings

There shall be four meetings of the LNP in each municipal year. The meetings shall be held in venues that are situated within the administrative area of the LNP and be in venues that are accessible to all. There shall be no further meetings of the LNP.

An LNP may establish time limited working parties to consider specific issues in detail. The membership of these working groups, their remit, reporting procedures and timescales will be set by the establishing LNP. Meetings of the working groups will not be meetings of a committee of this authority.

10.05 Access to meetings

Meetings of the LNPs will be meetings of a committees of the authority and as such are not public meetings. However, members of the public will have access to the meetings as will the press. The meetings will need to comply with access to information rules contained within the Constitution.

10.06 Quorum

The quorum for each LNP will be 6 made up of 3 Councillors and 3 partners. In the event that a quorum is not present or ceases to be present during the meeting then the meeting shall stand adjourned for 15 minutes.

If after that period of time the meeting is still inquorate the meeting will only be able to proceed with any items of business that are of a consultative nature if the chair in his absolute discretion so decides.

If the chair decides to adjourn the meeting, any uncompleted business will stand until the next meeting of the LNP. For the avoidance of doubt the LNP will not be able to make any decisions or any recommendations if it is inquorate.

10.07 Inclusion of items on the agenda

Any member of the LNP may comment on items on the agenda and ask the LNP for an item to be included on the agenda provided that

- the item falls within the remit of the LNP
- and sufficient notice of the item has been given to allow a report to be prepared and to comply with the access to information rules.

Notice of such items shall be notified to Constitutional Services who will consult with the Chair.

10.08 **Voting**

Only elected Members of the Council who are members of an LNP will be able to vote on any matters which are the responsibility of the Council. Partners on the LNP will have voting rights on all other issues. The agenda for the meeting will indicate these categories.

10.09 **Delegations**

LNP's are a key Council vehicle for consulting with its citizens and thus they do not have any executive powers nor do they have any devolved budgets.

10.10 **Public speaking**

Each agenda for an LNP will have open session, lasting no more than 30 minutes. During this period any member of the public who resides, works or has an interest within administrative area of the LNP will be able to address the LNP on an issue that affects a significant number of citizens within LNP boundary. The decision of the person presiding is final as to whether an item affects a significant number of members of the public residing or working in the area.

Members of the public will be required to identify themselves, state the nature of their interest within the LNP administrative area prior to being permitted to speak. The LNP may respond to the matter raised at the meeting, agree to respond in writing directly or agree to have the matter included on the agenda for the next meeting.

In addition to the open session any member of the public may speak on any agenda item for no more than 5 minutes with the agreement of the person presiding, whose decision whether to permit such address is final.

Members of the public will be allowed to present petitions and will be allowed not more than 5 minutes to give a brief outline of what the petition is about.

10.11 **Access to information**

LNP's will need to comply with the Access to Information Rules set out in Constitution.

10.12 **Remit**

The role of the LNP's is to :-

- (i) facilitate the participation and engagement of local people in decision-making, through the development of local plans;
- (ii) identify opportunities for better partnership working with other public service providers;
- (iii) provide a view of local services
- (iv) assist in the development of local community planning

- (v) make recommendations to the Executive implementing corporate plans and strategies in harmony with Local Plans,
- (vi) consider any proposals from the Executive affecting or relating to the area;
- (vii) consider and make recommendations to the Executive and where appropriate, the Council on:-
 - (1) the Council's corporate strategies; the forward plan, budget, policy framework and corporate plan.
 - (2) the provision of Council services within the framework of Best Value;
 - (3) services provided by other public bodies;
 - (4) partnership strategies and other initiatives which effect the area;
 - (5) to develop public participation in the Council's affairs including responding to issues raised by members of the public, and other local organisations.
- (ix) To consider petitions and other collective representations relating to the area and where appropriate make recommendations to the Executive
- (x) To review all land and property controlled or owned by the Council in its area and to make recommendations to the executive on any possible changes on existing use.

10.13 Objectives

In undertaking and fulfilling their remit the LNPs will have key objectives set by council from time to time. The council has agreed the following objectives for the first year of LNPs :

1. To consult and involve local residents, businesses and partner organisations in agreeing a five year Local Plan for their area.
2. To produce a five year Local Plan for the area covered by the Local Neighbourhood Partnership which is consistent with the Vision of the Council and of the Local Strategic Partnership which will inform the Walsall Borough Community Strategy.
3. To manage and monitor the implementation of the Local Plan and to annually publish the achievements consistent with the Councils performance management arrangements.
4. To increase local peoples involvement in the area and to involve local people in improving the environment in which people live and work.