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**Ref No:** EQ503036829

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**Officer Name:** Zara Hanman

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**Title of report:** Area Committee Achievements 2022/2023

**Report :** To review the impact of Area Committees and the funding allocated in the 2022/2023 municipal year.

**What evidence/data is being used to support this equality analysis? Please select all that apply.:** Issues arising from Area Committees, Information from statutory partners (e.g police), Information from voluntary & community sector (e.g ISCRE, ICVS), Published data - e.g Census, State of Ipswich report, Analysis of service data (e.g I-card)

**Service area:** Community Support

**Corporate Manager:** Gavin Fisk

**Corporate Manager email:** Gavin.Fisk@ipswich.gov.uk

**Links to supporting documents where available:**

**Please upload any supporting documents:**

**What is proposed?:** A report that reviews and updates Executive on the operation and impact of the Area Committees in Ipswich for 2022/23 as per the Constitution Part 3 Section 2 paragraph 6.4.4.

Area Committees were constituted in December 2011 in response to the Localism Act 2011 and are formal committees within the definition of the Local Government Act 1972 and involve all Ipswich Borough Councillors.

These public meetings of ward Councillors were created to:

- Make decisions on local issues
- Influence the Councils strategic agenda
- Influence partner organisations' policy making
- Engage with residents about what they would like to see in their local area
- Encourage public participation
- Achieve better services
- Strengthen democratic accountability

Area Committees have devolved powers to make decisions. Each committee has a budget allocated as part of the annual budget setting process. The total sum is divided by 16 (number of wards) and then multiplied by the number of wards represented by the Area Committee.

Each Area Committee can meet up to five times a year, 22 out of 25 meetings went ahead in the 2022/23 year (3 were cancelled due to the period of national mourning).

**Why are the changes being introduced?:** There are no changes being introduced.

**What evidence is being used to support this Equality Impact Assessment, and how is it being used?:** Feedback from Councillors, VCFSE organisations, the general public, monitoring information provided by funded projects/organisations.

**How will this change be implemented?:** There are no changes to implement. This report is to review and update executive on the impact of Area Committees in the 2022-23 municipal year.

**Age:** No impact

**Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.:** The report on Area Committee Achievements will not impact the protected characteristic of age.

All ages are catered for at Area Committee meetings. Community venues chosen to hold Area Committee meetings are accessible to all so that all residents can attend and participate. Microphones and speakers are used by all speaking at the meetings to ensure that the sound is clear and the public can hear and understand what is going on at all times. A hearing loop is available on request. Minutes are available to read following the meeting.

If a local resident cannot attend the meeting, they can submit any questions or feedback in advance of the meeting and will receive a written response from the Area Committee.

**Disability:** No impact

**Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.:** The report on Area Committee Achievements will not impact the protected characteristic of disability.

Community venues chosen to hold Area Committee meetings are accessible and have facilities available that are suitable for those with disabilities so that all residents can attend and participate. If an accessible community venue cannot be found in a particular ward/area of Ipswich, then the Town Hall can be used as an alternative. Microphones and speakers are used by all speaking at the meetings to ensure that the sound is clear and the public can hear and understand what is going on. A hearing loop is available on request. Minutes are available to read following the meeting.

If a local resident cannot attend the meeting, they can submit any questions or feedback in advance of the meeting and will receive a written response from the Area Committee.

Every Area Committee has an Area Action Plan. All ward Councillors are invited to set the priorities for their relevant Areas at the beginning of the municipal year. In the 2022-23 municipal year, all

five Area Committee Area Action Plans selected 'Health and Disability' or 'A Healthy Community' as a priority. Budgets are mostly spent in line with the Area Action Plans, which means that all five areas actively looked to allocate funding to support local residents with their health and/or disability.

**Marriage & Civil Partnership:** No impact

**Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.:** The report on Area Committee Achievements will not impact the protected characteristic of marriage & civil partnership.

**Race:** No impact

**Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.:** The report on Area Committee Achievements will not impact the protected characteristic of race.

**Pregnancy & Maternity:** No impact

**Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.:** The report on Area Committee Achievements will not impact the protected characteristic of pregnancy & maternity.

**Religion or Belief:** No impact

**Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.:** Due care is taken when deciding on community venues and the use of Churches has been minimised.

All Area Committee Grant documentation, and Ipswich Borough Council webpages, have recently been updated to reflect the addition of 'faith' into the VCFSE sector. The terminology now used is Voluntary, Community, Faith, Social Enterprise sector.

**Gender Reassignment:** No impact

**Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.:** The report on Area Committee Achievements will not impact the protected characteristic of gender reassignment.

**Sex:** No impact

**Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.:** The report on Area Committee Achievements will not impact the protected characteristic of sex.

**Sexual Orientation:** No impact

**Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.:** The report on Area Committee Achievements will not impact the protected characteristic of sexual orientation.

**I can confirm the report does meet Ipswich Borough Council's equality objectives:** I can confirm the report does meet Ipswich Borough Council's equality objectives

**The report helps us to 'eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment & victimisation' in the following way(s):** Ensuring that all residents of Ipswich can attend and participate in Area Committee meetings.

**The report helps us to 'advance equality of opportunity...' in the following way(s):** Ensuring that all residents of Ipswich can attend and participate in Area Committee meetings. Keeping the domains of deprivation and Council aims in mind when using Area Committee funding, to support projects/organisations that work to meet the needs of local residents and improve the areas in Ipswich in which they live.

**The policy helps us to 'foster good relations...' in the following way(s):** By using Area Committee funding to support local residents and communities in Ipswich, to meet their needs and improve the local areas in which they live.

**The new provisions will be reviewed in the following way(s):** A report will go to executive after each municipal year, to review the impacts of the Area Committees and its funding. All funded projects and organisations are to be monitored.

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