

# Role & powers

## Role of Area Boards

The purpose of Area Boards is to promote the development of stronger and more resilient communities across Wiltshire's community areas through:

- Efficient, transparent and accountable decision making
- Effective collaboration with public, voluntary and private sector partners locally to meet the aspirations of local people
- Shaping the delivery of local services
- Addressing local issues
- Building community leadership and local engagement

## Summary of functions

Each Area Board has the following functions in connection with their local area:

- Providing a focus for community leadership, local influence and delegated decision-making, through the democratic mandate of elected councillors
- Influencing the allocation of resources and delivery of public services in the community area in order to address local priorities and issues
- Addressing local priorities through a community planning process linked to the Wiltshire Joint Strategic Assessment
- Determining budget priorities and spend within the capital and revenue budget allocated by the Cabinet
- Agreeing a framework for consultations carried out in the community area on behalf of the Council
- Providing feedback on major statutory consultations on behalf of the community area
- Allocating core funding for the operation of the community area partnership and project funding for identified community priorities
- Developing participatory budgeting processes and supporting funding applications to external bodies
- Providing excellent two-way communications for the community area about public service provision and to the Council and Cabinet about the implementation and effectiveness of policies
- Publishing and maintaining a Forward Plan of forthcoming agenda items to give members, the public, parishes and the media adequate notice of the issues that are to be considered
- Considering issues referred to the Area Board by town and parish councils, partners and the public
- Establishing task and finish groups to examine specific issues.
- Overseeing the development of the local Community Campus.

## Formal powers

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The role and function of the area boards is drawn from Paragraph 4 of Part 3 of Wiltshire Council's constitution. The rest of this note draws on the constitution to set out some of the formal decision making powers that area boards have to help them fulfil this role.

## Delegation of Powers

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All decisions involving the discharge of Wiltshire Council's executive functions will be made by the local Area Board, provided the decision does not:

- have a significant impact outside of the area concerned
- impact significantly on the overall resources of the Council
- contradict any policy or service standard set by the Council
- involve the taking of regulatory or quasi-judicial decisions
- relate to the exercise of functions in respect of any particular person, including any individual member of staff

Area Boards must operate within the Council's Policy and Budget Framework and in accordance with the requirements of the Council's Constitution.

Any key decision or policy proposal of Wiltshire Council that has, or is likely to have, a significant impact in the local area, will be discussed with the relevant Area Board. Area Boards must not be directly involved in deciding planning applications. However, they should be involved in the following in relation to their area:

- consideration of the benefits of larger developments
- pre-application discussions relating to major developments
- consideration of planning briefs
- development of Local Plan policies



Pewsey Area Board

## Area Board boundaries

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The Area Board boundaries were set in 2009 following extensive consultation with parish and town councils and partners. Because of the importance and cost of aligning local services to match these boundaries it was agreed that the boundaries should remain as agreed until such time as the local electoral arrangements are reviewed.

## Designation of Area Boards

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The Area Boards are appointed by Wiltshire Council under section 102 of the Local Government Act 1972 and are constituted as area committees within the meaning of Section 18 of the Local Government Act 2000 and regulations made under that section for the purpose of discharging functions delegated by the Leader of the Council.

## Further information

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For further detailed information on Wiltshire Council's area boards, please go to the following web page:

[Wiltshire Area Boards](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/area-boards)