

PART 2 | ARTICLE 7 - OUTSIDE AND PARTNERSHIP BODIES DIRECTLY FACILITATED BY THE COUNCIL

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7.1 Outside and Partnership Bodies

7.1.1 In order to give members of the public, other organisations and stakeholders an opportunity to exchange views and ideas that may influence the Council's policies and its decision making-process, or jointly-undertake work to achieve common strategic objectives, the Council will directly facilitate and support a number of outside and partnership bodies as follows:

- (i) Children and Young Peoples' Forum;
- (ii) Community Safety Partnership;
- (iii) Residents' Forums, whose purpose, key aims and finances are set out in Article 7.2 below, for each of the town centres within the Borough being:
 - (a) Oadby;
 - (b) Wigston; and
 - (c) South Wigston
- (iv) Youth Council

7.1.2 These bodies facilitated and supported by the Council will be non-decision making bodies acting in an advisory capacity to decision-making bodies of the Council.

7.1.3 Each body will operate in accordance with its own Terms of Reference.

7.2 General Role of the Residents' Forums

The Residents' Forums will undertake their role as set out below.

7.2.1 Purpose

- (i) The Residents' Forums facilitate and enable a constructive relationship between the Council and the residents of the Borough. They provide an opportunity for the Council to consult the public on its policy decisions, service planning and Council consultations on areas of work that have the potential to impact on residents.

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- (ii) The Residents' Forums ensure that issues important to residents are brought to the attention of the Council and vice versa, always acknowledging that a diversity of views may exist and always promoting better community cohesion.

7.2.2 Key Aims

- (i) To provide a space for residents to come together and receive updates on current agendas and influence Council policy and decision-makers.
- (ii) To provide residents with the opportunity to meet and inform elected-Members about issues of concern.
- (iii) To ensure consultation and engagement on the Council's policies and provide constructive challenge and give feedback on the Council's performance.
- (iv) To advise and comment on grant applications submitted to the Forums for their specific consideration before final submission to the Policy, Finance and Development Committee.
- (v) To act as a key channel for distributing information, engaging with the community and answering questions.

7.2.3 Finances

- (i) The Policy, Finance and Development Committee will have budgets delegated to it by the Council to enable local groups, organisations and individuals to apply to their local Forum for funding of projects that seek to improve the quality of life for people who live or work in the Borough.
- (ii) Residents' Forums may make recommendations to the Policy, Finance and Development Committee about the benefits of such grants; however the final approval for the awarding of the grants is a decision to be taken by the Policy, Finance and Development Committee.