

## **APPENDIX THREE - WARD WORKING**

### **GENERAL**

Councillors engage with residents in their through a variety of mechanisms in order to identify and respond to community priorities, and work with partners collaboratively to help solve problems. The Councils corporate values, as adopted by the Corporate Plan – Fair, Partners, Democratic and Responsible – guide how Councillors engage with their wards. These values are anchored by the Nolan Principles of Public Life.

The objectives of ward working are to:

- Enable residents to inform and influence local priorities;
- Put in place long-term solutions with partners to problems experienced in communities
- Improve knowledge, information and data flow about wards between Councillors and Officers;
- Improve the visibility and accessibility of Councillors within their wards;

### **THE ROLE OF COUNCILLORS IN WARDS**

As elected representatives, Councillors are encouraged to participate in and/or hold regular or issue-focussed meetings and related activities within their ward. Councillors may also wish to engage with residents through other mechanisms such as social media. This engagement with residents, sometimes in partnership with other agencies, helps identify and respond to residents' priorities and solve problems. No two wards in Plymouth are the same and therefore different engagement approaches will suit different Councillors and different wards.

Councillors and officers involved in ward working remain accountable to the public for their actions and the manner in which they carry out their responsibilities, as per Article 2 and Part G of the Constitution.

### **MEETINGS**

Councillors can request officers from relevant departments attend ward-related meetings about a specific issue that requires resolution.

Any meetings organised and held by Councillors are public meetings, run on an informal basis and have no decision making powers. Council Rules of Procedure do not apply, although advice is available from the Democratic Support Team on best practice in the running and record keeping of meetings.