

Appendix A

PRINCIPLES FOR DEVOLVING DECISIONS TO AREA COMMITTEES

1. Decisions should only go to one committee.
2. Decisions about policy will be taken by the relevant Executive Member and scrutinised centrally, to avoid the need for multiple reporting to each area committee.
3. The default position for non-policy decisions is that they will be delegated to area committees unless there is a good reason not to do so (e.g. they relate to a city-wide decision or fall into a category of decision that is evidenced to be of little interest to local people).
4. Devolved decisions will be taken by the relevant area committee within the centrally agreed policy framework.
5. The process of devolving decisions must not require any net additional resource and preferably require less net resource.
6. If all members of an area committee are inclined to support a decision then a vote should be taken as soon as possible to leave more time for debate about less consensual issues. However, residents must be given the option to raise questions to ensure a proper democratic process is maintained.