

## Appendix 1

The government published the Localism Bill on the 13<sup>th</sup> December 2010. The bill aims to shift power from central government back into the hands of individuals, communities and councils. This will enable a whole host of major decisions to be made locally by people most affected by those decisions. The legislation will provide new opportunities for communities but there will be a need to be prepared at a local level to make best use of those opportunities such as Neighbourhood Forums, Neighbourhood Plans, Right to Challenge, Assets of Community Value etc.

In order to address this emerging agenda, two options are presented for the Area Committee to consider:

### Option 1

A time limited post of **Localism Officer** is proposed. The post will be based within the area support team.

The principal accountabilities for the post would be:

- To develop and maintain close working relationships with local Parish and Town Councils in order to help them benefit fully from the emerging localism agenda, ensuring they have training, skills and the support necessary to take advantage of opportunities
- To support ward, town and parish councillors and communities in bringing decision making and service delivery to a local level, as appropriate
- To plan, develop and manage fundraising to maximise income generation for the area and to support organisations in the development of funding bids
- To provide advice to ward, town and parish councillors and local organisations on project design and development
- To support local initiatives that help maintain the vitality of local communities

More detailed work on the post job description would take place with ward members. A budget of approximately **£40,000** would be required to fund this post.

### Option 2

A **community planning officer** post would provide support and assistance to the Area Committee and the local community on planning related matters. The assistance will take the form of general planning advice, support on specific planning applications, help with developing planning related projects and providing training on statutory planning functions to parish and town councils and community groups.

Specifically the post holder would:

- Support and advise on specific planning applications
- Advise on planning policy
- Assist the Compliance Team (cases and letting board restrictions) and Conservation Team where appropriate
- Coordinate and attend appropriate area committee sub groups
- Advise communities on appeals and public enquiries

- Keep the Area Committee and the local community up to date with any changes to policy and legislation and of the implications of any changes

More detailed work on the job description would take place with ward members. A budget of approximately **£40,000** would be required to fund this post.