

Shropshire Association of Local Councils' Area Committee Review 2019

SALC's six Area Committees are located in each of the five districts of Shropshire and in Telford & Wrekin. They are able to focus on matters specifically affecting their area and each has representation on the SALC Executive Committee.

As set out in SALC's Constitution "The Executive Committee shall keep under review the appropriateness and effectiveness of the area committee structure and make such changes as may be required". The Executive appointed a Task & Finish Group (Cllrs C Mellings - Vice President, D Beechey – Chairman and R Wickson – Vice Chairman, Telford & Wrekin) in June 2018, which met with Area Committee Chairmen and Secretaries to discuss the operation and value of the AC's. In order to complete the review, the Executive agreed that the Task & Finish Group seek the views of member councils.

Your opinions will help inform the work of the Task & Finish Group when it reports to the Executive. Please have your say by completing the survey at this link **before 16 March**.
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/7PKGQYB> .

The questions are based upon the following.

What is the purpose of the Area Committees?

- *To assist in the sharing of good practice, ideas and to identify and address local issues*
- *To assist parish and town councils with their role and provide a forum where they can consider their relationship with principal authorities and other agencies through which they can ensure local provision of services, and identify and solve common problem.*
- *To provide a forum in which local councils are able to offer guidance and support for each other*
- *To share experiences and good practice between councils*
- *To exchange information and views*
- *To provide a channel of communication between local councils, SALC, principal councils and other groups*
- *To encourage local councils to work in partnership with each other and with principal partners*
- *To consider and offer a combined response to matters affecting a specific area*
- *To represent their area as a consultative forum with SALC and other agencies*
- *To formulate joint policies and explore area partnerships*
- *To receive information and briefings on topics of local concern*
- *To facilitate training and development*
- *To appoint parish representatives from their area to SALC's Executive and outside bodies*

- *To formulate recommendations and motions to SALC's Executive, to SALC's AGM and to NALC's Policy Committee via SALC Exec*
- *To take on a Scrutiny role on local services and highlight any issues with the appropriate agency and/or with SALC*
- *To set own agenda and work autonomously*

Question 1: Do you agree that your Area Committee meets its purpose?

Yes /No / Partially : Please delete as necessary

Please say why:

What do Area Committees Achieve?

They provide a dedicated forum to encourage clustering, networking, linking and harnessing local capacity, knowledge and skills with an improved flow of timely information in and around the Area: this leading to a better understanding of forthcoming changes that affect their local councils and communities.

Question 2: Do you agree that your Area Committee meets these achievements?

Yes /No / Partially : Please delete as necessary

Please say why:

How do Area Committees influence and bring forward matters to SALC's Executive?

Matters are brought to the attention of the Executive via the Area Committee representatives. Matters ultimately may be forwarded to the National Association for further action at a national level.

Question 3: Do you agree that your Area Committee influences and brings matters to SALC's Executive?

Yes /No / Partially : Please delete as necessary

Please say why:

Do Area Committees ensure SALC is in touch with its Membership?

AC representatives report matters to the Executive, and the representatives report back from the Executive to the Area Committee.

Question 4: Do you agree that your Area Committee ensures SALC is in touch with its Membership?

Yes /No / Partially : Please delete as necessary

Please say why:

Question 5: Is the Area Committee structure appropriate and effective?

Yes /No / Partially : Please delete as necessary

Please say why:

Question 6: Should a different Area Committee structure be pursued?

Yes /No : Please delete as necessary

If Yes, is there another structure you would prefer?

Question 7: We value your views and if you have any further comments on the review please add them here.

We appreciate your time and thank you for submitting the views of your Council.