

## SECTION 4 - AREA COMMITTEE FUNCTIONS

### Powers and Duties

(Delegated)

Within the area of the Borough which it represents, and subject to conformity with the Policy Framework and Budget as determined by the Council meeting, and any other relevant plans and strategies adopted by the Cabinet, each area committee is authorised as follows:-

### Executive Functions

1. To exercise the following functions of the Council as local highways authority on all highways except:
  - Motorways;
  - the Key Route Network;
  - the first 15metres of any side road connecting with the Key Route Network or any district distributor road;
  - highways within Stockport Town Centre;
  - highways within the district shopping centres of Bramhall, Cheadle, Hulme, Edgeley, Hazel Grove, Houldsworth Square, Marple and Romiley
  - (a) all traffic orders except :-
    - (i) the restriction of access to premises for more than 8 hours each day
    - (ii) the prohibition of loading outside the peak hours of 7.00 a.m. to 10.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.
    - (iii) traffic orders which regulate fees for parking
  - (b) traffic calming
  - (c) road closures
  - (d) cyclical maintenance comprising minor works, road markings, fences, walls and guardrails, highway drainage and dropped kerbs
  - (e) ward based pavement repairs
2. To determine applications for the use of parks by outside organisations.as follows:
  - where attendance or participation of over 250 or more persons is anticipated.
  - where events are likely to result in noise or traffic disturbance to local residents.
  - where the sale of alcohol is requested at the event.
  - Bonfires and firework displays.
  - Fairs.
  - Circuses.
  - Events involving animals.
  - All evening events which continue after 10pm.
  - And such other applications for the use of parks that have been referred to the Area Committee by the Director of Place.
3. Subject to regulation restricting the pooling of funds, to determine, in accordance with planning agreements under S106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 the use

of sums received by the Council pursuant to those agreements for schemes in the Area Committee geographic area.

4. To undertake local environmental improvement schemes.
5. The consideration and determination of objections to the designation of litter control areas.
6. To determine applications for assets (land and buildings) to be listed as being of community value.
7. To act as Trustee land held by the Council under charitable trust.
8. To determine the use of Ward Flexibility Funds in accordance with the Council's budget.

### **Oversight functions**

9. To monitor:-
  - (i) the operation, within the area committee's area, of services provided by the Cabinet, partnerships and external agencies;
  - (ii) proposals by the Cabinet for activities within the area;
  - (iii) any aspect of Council policy or administration affecting or relating to that area;
  - (iv) to undertake local scrutiny reviews.

liaising where appropriate with the Cabinet, and with the Council's Scrutiny Committees.
10. To receive and consider a Councillor Call for Action in accordance with Part 6 CP12.

### **Advisory functions**

11. To comment on planning applications and other development control matters in respect of land within the area committee's area that exceed the following thresholds:
  - a) Residential development of 100 dwelling units
  - b) Development of 5,000 square metres of floor space
  - c) Development of a site of 3 hectares
  - d) Applications requiring an Environment Impact Assessment
12. To comment on applications for planning permission which straddle or are adjacent to an Area Committee boundary which have significant implications for the Area Committee by reason of traffic, noise, or pollution or which have a substantial environmental or visual effect.
13. To comment on applications which the Area Committee has declined to determine.
14. To comment on applications where a site visit has been requested.
15. Applications involving departures from the development plan where the officer recommendation is to approve and the Area Committee is minded to support the recommendation.

16. To focus on and encourage the well-being of the local community, and to coordinate processes for public consultation with the local community, community councils, tenants' and residents' associations and other local groups, on those issues which are of interest or concern to them.
17. To hold open forums, public question times, and facilitate public speaking on planning applications, **in accordance Part 6 (CP6)**
18. To act as a focal point for disseminating information on the Council's services, policies, and performance and community plans.
19. To carry out Local Scrutiny Reviews and liaise where appropriate with the Cabinet, and with the Council's Scrutiny Committees
20. To assist in the preparation of plans and strategies included in the Policy Framework and Budget, where requested by the Cabinet so to do, in accordance with the **Policy Framework and Budget Procedure Rules (Part 5 - PR2)**
21. The nomination of a member of the Area Committee to represent the Council at any hearing or inquiry where the Area Committee has made a decision contrary to officer advice.
22. To comment on minor property transactions referred to the area committee by the Deputy Chief Executive on the grounds that the transaction is novel, controversial or relates to charity or not for profit organisations.

### **Non-Executive Functions**

23. Subject to the delegations to the Planning and Highways Regulatory Committee to determine applications for planning permission and other development management matters which are not 'Excluded Matters' and which are for land situated within the relevant ward:
  - a) which have been called up for determination by an Area Committee
  - b) where the Council has received four or more representations which do not accord with the officer recommendation
24. Public rights of way matters including modifications to the Definitive Rights of Way Map (unless the proposed modification is contrary to an Officer recommendation or conflicts with a decision of another area committee).
25. To determine applications for street trading permits under Part III of and Schedule 4 to the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 where:-
  - (i) there have been two or more applications for a single pitch;
  - (ii) there have been objections; or
  - (iii) there has been an appeal against the decision of the Corporate Director
26. The consideration of objections to and the confirmation or modification of tree preservation orders in respect of which objections have been received.

### **Definitions**

In this section 'Excluded Matters' means:-

- (a) the determination of the validity of applications;
- (b) the refusal of planning applications for insufficient information;
- (c) declining to accept repeat applications which have previously been refused and raise no significant new issues;
- (d) determination of whether variations and amendments to existing permissions may be treated as working amendments and the determination of those amendments and variations where a planning application is not required;
- (e) matters submitted for approval in accordance with a condition of a planning permission;
- (f) All applications and notifications where the time period for determination is less than 56 days (including those where prior approval is not required);
- (g) certificates of lawfulness of existing or proposed uses or development;
- (h) determination of whether an environmental statement is required, the adoption of screening opinions and scoping opinions under the Town & Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment)(England and Wales) Regulations 2011;
- (i) enforcement action, service of breach of condition notices, tree replacement notices, and untidy land notices under the Town and Country Planning 1990;
- (j) enforcement action, service of repair, urgent works, and building preservation notices under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990;
- (k) the carrying out of work where notices have not complied with and the recovery of the costs incurred;
- (l) service of planning contravention notices and consideration of any offers and representations pursuant to such notices;
- (m) service of discontinuance notices under the Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) Regulations;
- (n) notices and action under the Building Act 1984;
- (o) injunction proceedings;
- (p) responses to hedgerow removal notices and the giving of notices under the Hedgerow Regulations 1997;
- (q) determination of whether claims for deemed hazardous substances consent are invalid;
- (r) authorising the prosecution of offenders for offences under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, the Building Act 1984, and Regulations made under those Acts;
- (s) the settlement of the amount of costs awarded to or against the Council on appeal;
- (t) the imposition of conditions on planning permissions and consents and the determination of reasons for imposing conditions.

- (u) the determination of reasons for refusal;
- (v) responses to consultations from other local planning authorities on applications other than strategic applications;
- (w) completion of section 106 agreements for planning applications.
- (x) the making of tree preservation orders and the confirmation of tree preservation orders where no objections have been received.
- (y) consent to fell, lop or top protected trees.

# Appendix 2

## Area governance local authority comparison

\*subject to certain exceptions

	Local authority						
	Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council	<a href="#">Barnsley Borough Council</a>	Bolton Borough Council	<a href="#">Rochdale Borough Council</a>	Leeds City Council	<a href="#">Eastleigh Borough Council</a>	<a href="#">Buckinghamshire Council</a>
Number of area meetings	7 Area Committees	6 Area Councils	7 Community Alliances (18 Area Forums)	5 Township Committees/ 11 Area Forums	10 Community Committees	5 Local Area Committees	16 Community Boards
Population	294,773	244,893	296,041	223,773	809,036	131,819	553,100
<b>Powers and duties</b>							
<b>Executive functions</b>							
Highways matters*	✓			✓		✓	
Traffic orders*	✓			✓		✓	
Applications for the use of parks by outside organisations	✓						
Undertake local environmental improvement schemes	✓			✓	✓	✓	
Determine objections to the designation of litter control areas	✓					✓	
Determine assets of community value	✓						
Act as Trustee for land held by the council under charitable trust	✓						
Determine the use of ward funds (e.g., grants - Ward Flexibility Fund/Ward Discretionary Fund)	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Oversight functions</b>							
Monitor services provided within the area	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Monitor Cabinet proposals for activities within the area	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Monitor council policy or administration affecting/ relating to the area	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Undertake local scrutiny reviews/ task and finish groups	✓	✓					✓
Consider Councillor Call for Action	✓	✓					
<b>Advisory functions</b>							
Comment on planning applications/ development control matters within the area that exceeds certain	✓			✓		✓	
Comment on planning applications that straddle/are adjacent to the area boundary	✓			✓		✓	
Comment on planning applications that the Area Committee has declined to determine	✓			✓		✓	
Comment on planning applications where a site visit has been requested	✓			✓		✓	

Comment on applications involving departures from the development plan	✓			✓		✓	
Promote well-being of residents in the area and coordinate/ support processes for public consultation with the local community	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hold open forums (discussion with representatives of non-party political voluntary organisations active in the area)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hold public question times	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓
Facilitate public speaking on planning applications	✓					✓	
Disseminating information on the council's services, policies and performance and community plans	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Assist in the preparation of plans/strategies included in the Policy Framework and Budget, where requested by Cabinet	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Nominate a member of the committee to represent the council at a hearing/inquiry where the committee has made a decision contrary to officer advice	✓				✓	✓	
Comment on minor property transactions	✓					✓	
<b>Non-executive functions</b>							
Determine planning applications/ other development management matters*	✓			✓		✓	
Public rights of way matters*	✓			✓		✓	
Determine applications for street trading permits	✓					✓	
Consideration of objections to and the confirmation/modification of tree preservation orders	✓					✓	
<b>All other</b>							
Management of an area budget to provide local discretion on how borough-wide services can be enhanced or modified		✓	✓	✓		✓	
Prepare an area plan that will set out priorities for the local area and guide decisions	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Commissioning of services from the area budget to support area plan priorities		✓		✓		✓	
Appoint a member of the area meeting to represent the interests of the area on consultative/advisory bodies e.g., outside bodies	✓	✓			✓	✓	
Provide a focal point for residents and businesses in the area to raise and comment on issues and be made aware of developments in the area	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Support direction of use of local area funds (where there are no decision-making powers)				✓			
All Local Choice Functions that are the responsibility of the Cabinet (where local issue)						✓	

<p><b>Notes</b></p>	<p>Management of area budget reserved to Highways matters/ community grant funding/ one-off funding e.g., Ward Discretionary Budget.</p>	<p>Significant budgets (e.g., over £200,000).</p>	<p>Allocated a yearly flat rate budget of £15,000 (can be carried over). At least £7,500 of this must be spent on community projects.</p> <p>The council is moving away from Area Forums to 'Community Alliances'.</p>	<p>Area Forums have no decision-making powers.</p> <p>Township Committees can discharge certain executive functions. There are also a number of Township Sub-Committees with delegated powers.</p>	<p>Management of area budget reserved to allocating community grants for small projects approx. £500, over £500 for larger projects.</p>	<p>Advisory bodies - no decision-making powers other than the allocation of the budget devolved to them.</p> <p>The level of Community Board funding allocated to each area is based on the population of the area and the levels of deprivation.</p> <p>Maximum funding available for a community project is £15,000.</p>
---------------------	--	---	--	--	--	--



## AREA COMMITTEE MEETING STATISTICS

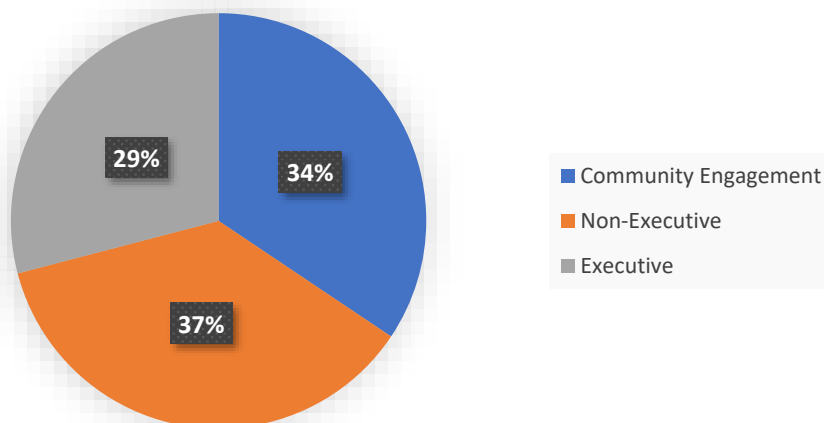
July 2021 – November 2023

### Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South

**3 wards**

Average Duration: 2 hrs 2 mins  
 Average Reports: 18  
 Average Agenda Length: 211 pages  
 Average planning apps: 4.3

**Bramhall & Cheadle Hulme South**  
Allocation of time

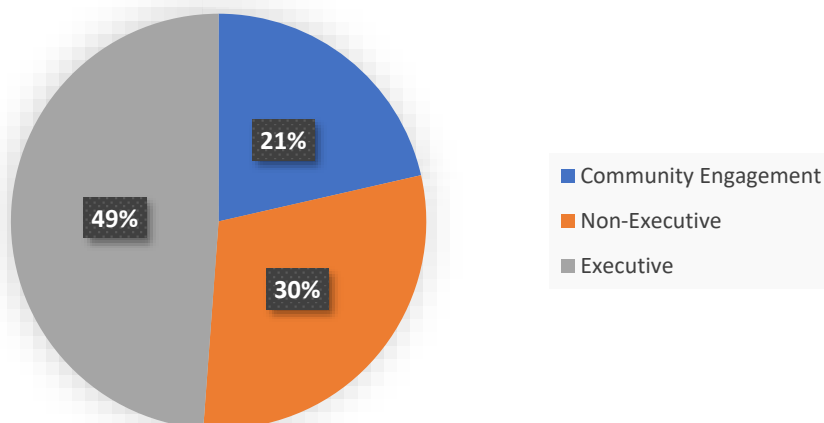


### Central Stockport

**4 wards**

Average Duration: 1 hr 36 mins  
 Average Reports: 14  
 Average Agenda Length: 217 pages  
 Average planning apps: 1.6

**Central Stockport**  
Allocation of time

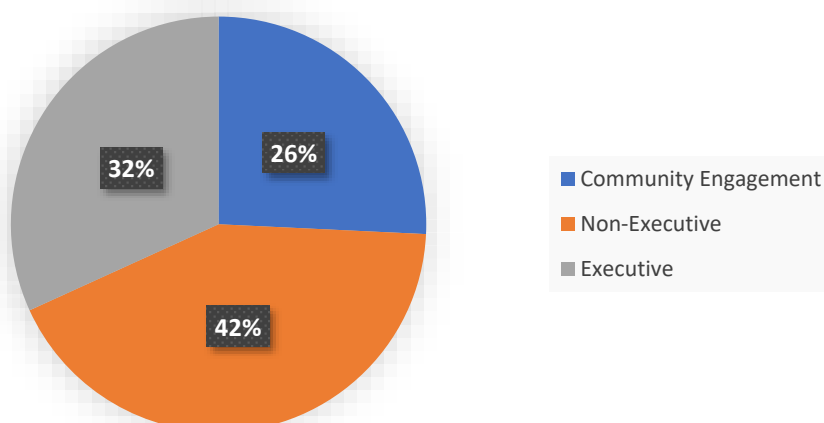


### Cheadle

**3 wards**

Average Duration: 1 hr 33 mins  
 Average Reports: 14  
 Average Agenda Length: 162 pages  
 Average planning apps: 1.9

**Cheadle**  
Allocation of time

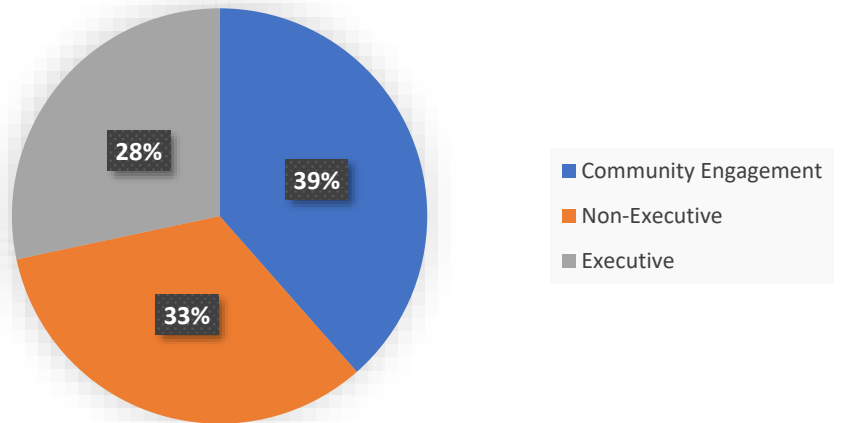


## Heatons & Reddish

### 4 wards

Average Duration: 2 hrs 3 mins  
Average Reports: 14  
Average Agenda Length: 257 pages  
Average planning apps: 1.3

### Heatons & Reddish Allocation of time



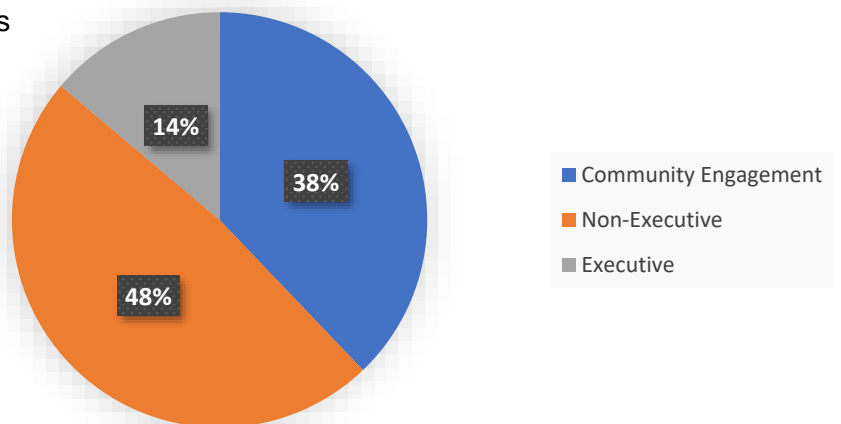
---

## Marple

### 2 wards

Average Duration: 2 hrs 16 mins  
Average Reports: 13  
Average Agenda Length: 154 pages  
Average planning apps: 2

### Marple Allocation of time



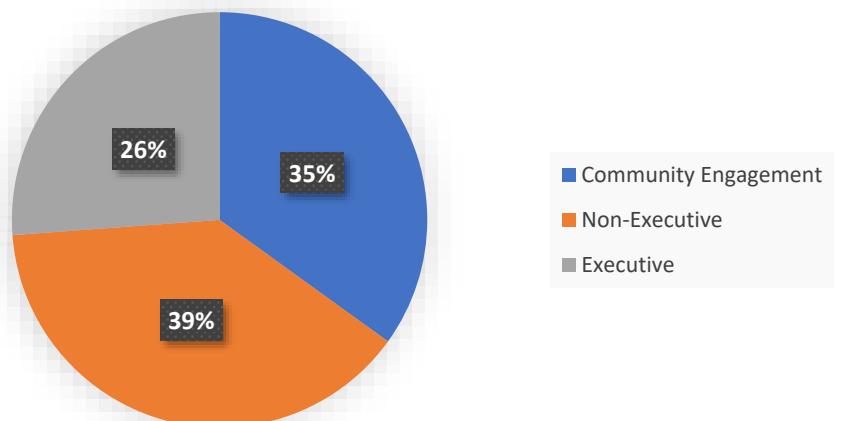
---

## Stepping Hill

### 3 wards

Average Duration: 1 hr 42 mins  
Average Reports: 12  
Average Agenda Length: 109 pages  
Average planning apps: 0.9

### Stepping Hill Allocation of time



**Werneth**

**2 wards**

Average Duration: 1 hr 12 mins  
Average Reports: 11  
Average Agenda Length: 103 pages  
Average planning apps: 0.7

**Werneth**  
Allocation of time

