

D FUNCTIONS OF LOCAL AREA FORUMS

9 The GC2C Strategy sets out three broad roles for LAFs:

- **Local Community Planning:** shaping responses to the needs of the local area
- **Empowered Local Decision Making:** within the delegated functions and delegated budgets
- **Influencing and taking action on local issues**

10 Based on these broad roles, the functions of the LAFs are set out in the Table below:

LOCAL AREA FORUMS – FUNCTIONS	
1	Setting Priorities for the Area <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To develop, as the basis for collective action, a shared understanding of local issues and priorities for improving the quality of life of the area.• To agree a Local Community Plan for the area, which reflects local priorities, the delivery of County and District Community Plans and the Local Area Agreement within the area.• To oversee the effectiveness of public services within the community area in meeting local needs, informed by residents' feedback, and to recommend changes to service policy as appropriate.• To consult and engage local people and local stakeholders on the priorities and policies of local service providers, including the desired level and range of services and major service developments affecting the area and annual budget proposals. (<i>Note: examples of this would be waste, major development proposals, school closures</i>).
2	Empowered Decision Making with Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To take decisions on matters devolved* from the County Council, District Council and other partner organisations, including town and parish councils.• To take decisions on budgets allocated* by the County Council, District Council and other partners. (<i>*Note: this will be subject to negotiation with Services and partners</i>)• To inform the relevant organisations on changes to the allocation of funding in the local community area to more effectively meet local needs
3.	Taking Action on Community Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To oversee community engagement* in the area, to co-ordinate local consultation events, to promote and extend community empowerment in the area and to ensure feedback on issues raised. (<i>*Note: this is defined as levels 1 and 2 in</i>

the Community Engagement Pathfinder project)

- To refer issues of local concern to the relevant organisation or partnership for attention, to monitor action and negotiate the resolution of issues.
- To undertake a local scrutiny role on service policy, performance or issues of local concern*, including co-option onto local **overview and scrutiny committees** for specific reviews and dealing with **Councillor Calls for Action** and local petitions. (**Note: the local scrutiny function will need to be exercised proportionately and with regard to the programme of Overview and Scrutiny Committees to avoid duplication)*