Ward Meetings and New “Ward Tracker” Database

Karen Cheney – District Head and Service Lead for Community Governance and Support

Background to Ward Meetings/ Forums

- Governance arrangements for District Committees and Ward Committees changed in the Constitution 2015 and revised further in 2016 (Article 10)
- Further review in 16/17 ready for the new ward boundaries in 2018 (Boundary Commission – approx. 100 Members and 77 wards)
- Ward meetings usually bi-monthly alternating with District Committee and held in the ward.
- New ward meetings/forums– aspiration that they act as a 2 way interface between residents, local community organisations, public services and Members
- Now much more informal, flexible and participative than previous formal ward committee arrangements – avoiding a one size fits all approach .
- Members will provide **community leadership** at the ward level to take forward the functions of the District Committee, in particular **engaging the local community** and identifying **local issues and priorities**

Ward Meetings/ Forums contd.

- Provide a forum for **community engagement** in decisions affecting the local area – collaborative partnership
- Future focus on a **"better deal for neighbourhoods"**
- Make representations to District Committee, the Executive or to Council
- Comments on behalf of residents on significant planning applications
- Co-ordinate the work of councillors with local groups such as neighbourhood forums, residents associations etc.
- Plan work with the other wards in the District (Cross District)to support the functions of the District Committee and to engage with partners such as the police, health etc.
- No formal delegations and no longer any formal clerking and minute taking but replaced with informal notes and a new "ward tracker" database which is put on CMIS.

Officer Support to Ward Meetings/ Forums

- **Community Governance and Support Team** –Service Lead -Karen Cheney
- Current Team of **3 Community Governance Managers**
- **Kay Thomas – Hall Green, Selly Oak, Ladywood and Northfield**
- **Bev Edmead – Edgbaston, Hodge Hill and Yardley**
- **Lesley Bannister- Sutton, Erdington and Perry Barr**
- Each cover specific wards/ districts across the City
- Assist Ward Members with agenda setting and publicity poster, booking rooms if needed.
- Informal notes and initial ward tracker in 2015/16
- For 2016/17 new Ward Tracker – qualitative and quantitative information can be kept plus notes of meeting
- Able to pull off useful data – Citywide, by Theme/ Issue, ward level and district level