

Epping Forest District Council

Epping Forest District sits on the northeastern edge of London and has travel links to London via the Central Line and the M11 motorway. The District covers approximately 131 square miles and contains the main towns of Epping, Loughton, Chigwell, Ongar and Waltham Abbey. Its administrative centre is based at the Civic Offices in Epping Town Centre.

We provide a wide range of local services. The Council priorities for the years 2000-2005 are set out in our Community Plan and we are in the process of updating this in conjunction with our community partners.



The Council is taking the lead role in bringing together the Community Plan. Additionally information on our priorities and targets is given in our Best Value Performance Plan, updated annually. Copies of these documents are available from Epping Forest District Council Performance Management Unit and on the website at www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk.

The Council employs more than 700 FTE staff across a range of sites including Leisure Centres and Trades Units or DSO's. We are an equal opportunities employer and have investors in people accreditation.



Political Make-up

In Epping Forest District there are currently six recognised political groups: Conservative, Labour, Liberal Democrats, Loughton and Chigwell Residents Association, Independent Group and British National Party.

None of these groups hold more than 50% of the seats (i.e. 30 seats) and no two parties have a formal agreement to run the Council (called a Coalition or Administration). The Council is what is called in 'no overall control'.

How we make decisions

58 Councillors form 'The Council' which meets six times a year. Obviously, the Council itself could not take every single decision down to who sweeps the road and there are many decisions that need to be taken on a daily or indeed hourly basis.

Decisions are, therefore, made by smaller groups of Councillors called a 'committee' or by delegating (or giving the power to decide) to officers of the Council.

The way in which the Council is run is governed by its Constitution. This Constitution was adopted by the Council in May 2002 and sets out how we make decisions and governs procedure.

The Council's aim is to be efficient, open and accountable to local people. The constitution of the Council can be viewed on line at:

http://www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/local_democracy/reports_publications_poli/constitution.asp

The Council has a 'Cabinet', which is group of nine Councillors from all the political groups with strategic responsibility for running the Council. Each councillor on the Cabinet is responsible for an area of the Council's services (or Portfolio). The Cabinet meets regularly to discuss and decide on how the Council is run.

The also Council has four Area Planning Sub-committees which look after planning applications made in that area and Other Panels and Committees that look after specific functions.



Scrutiny

New arrangements have been made for Scrutiny and its report is available on request or is from the website:

http://www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/local_democracy/Scrutiny_home.asp