

ARTICLE 10 - AREA COMMITTEES AND FORUMS

10.01 Area Committees and Forums

The Council may appoint Area Committees and Forums as it sees fit, if it is satisfied that to do so will ensure improved service delivery in the context of best value and more efficient, transparent and accountable decision making.

The Council will consult with relevant parish and/or town councils and the chairmen of relevant parish and/or town meetings when considering whether and how to establish Area Committees or Forums.

10.02 Conflicts of interest & membership of Area Committees and Overview and Scrutiny Committees

- (a) **Conflict of interest.** If an Overview and Scrutiny Committee is scrutinising specific decisions or proposals in relation to the business of the Area Committee or Forum of which the councillor concerned is a member, then the councillor may not speak or vote at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting unless a dispensation to do so is given by the Standards Committee.
- (b) **General policy reviews.** Where an Overview and Scrutiny Committee is reviewing policy generally the member must declare their interest before the relevant agenda item is reached, but need not withdraw.

10.03 Area Committees and Forums - access to information

Area Committees and Forums will comply with the Access to Information Rules in Part 4 of this Constitution.

Agendas and notices for Area Committee and Forum meetings which deal with both functions of Cabinet and functions which are not the responsibility of Cabinet will state clearly which items are which.

10.04 Cabinet members on Area Committees and Forums

A member of the Cabinet may serve on an Area Committee or Forum if eligible to do so as a councillor.