

ARTICLE 10 - AREA COMMITTEES

(Note: the Council has not appointed any area committees. The provisions in this article will only have practical effect if and when area committees are appointed.)

10.01 Area Committees

The Council may appoint area committees 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 town councils and the chairs of relevant parish meetings when considering whether and how to establish area committees.

10.02 Delegations

The Council and the Cabinet will include details of the delegations to area committees in Part 3 of this Constitution, including the functions delegated, showing which are the responsibility of the Cabinet and which are not, the composition and membership of the committees, budgets and any limitations on delegation.

10.03 Conflicts of interest - membership of area committees and scrutiny committees

If a scrutiny committee is scrutinising specific decisions or proposals in relation to the business of the area committee of which the councillor concerned is a member, then the councillor must regard him/herself as having a personal and prejudicial interest in the matter and may not speak or vote at the scrutiny committee meeting unless a dispensation to do so is given by the Standards Committee. This shall not prevent a councillor attending the meeting for the purpose of answering questions or otherwise giving evidence relating to those specific decisions or proposals. Where the scrutiny committee is reviewing policy generally, rather than a specific decision or proposal, in relation to the business of an area committee, a member of the relevant area committee must declare a personal interest before the relevant agenda item is reached, but need not withdraw.

10.04 Area committees - access to information

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

Agendas and notices for area committee meetings will state clearly whether items relate to functions of the Cabinet or functions which are not the responsibility of the Cabinet.

10.05 Cabinet members on area committees

A member of the Cabinet may serve on an area committee if otherwise eligible to do so as a councillor.