

ARTICLE 10 - AREA COMMITTEES AND FORUMS

10.1 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 relevant parish councils when considering whether and how to establish area committees.

10.2 Form, composition and function

(a) Table of area committees

The Council will appoint the area committees as set out in the first column of the table below, composed as set out in the second column of that table and with the terms of reference set out in the third column.

Name of Committee	Composition	Terms of Reference
None	Not applicable	Not applicable

(b) Delegations

The Council and the Leader 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 Leader/Executive and which are not, the composition and membership of the Committees, budgets and any limitations on delegation.

10.3 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 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 has been granted.

(b) **General policy reviews** Where the overview and scrutiny committee is reviewing policy generally the member must declare his/her interest before the relevant agenda item is reached, but need not withdraw.

10.4 Area committees - access to information

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

Agendas and notices for area committee meetings which deal with both functions of the Leader/Executive and functions which are not the responsibility of the Leader/Executive will state clearly which items are which.

10.5 Executive members on area committees

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