

ARTICLE 10 – AREA COMMITTEES

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.

10.02 Form, Composition and Function

(a) In the event that the Council appoints Area Committees, it will decide upon the number and whether such committees are to have executive or non-executive functions or a combination of both. The Council will also decide what the composition, membership, budget allocation and terms of reference of the committees will be and the necessary details will be added to the constitution. The remainder of this Article sets out how Area Committees would operate if they come into being.

(b) Delegations

The Council and the Cabinet will add details of the delegations to Area Committees in the Constitution, including the functions delegated showing which are the responsibility of the Cabinet and which are not, and any limitations on delegation.

10.03 Conflicts of Interest – Membership of Area Committees and Overview and Scrutiny Committees

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 to do so is given by the Standards Committee.

10.04 Area Committees – Access to Information

(a) Area Committees will comply with the Access to Information Rules in Part 4 of this Constitution.

(b) Agendas and Notices for Area Committee Meetings which deal with both functions of the Cabinet and functions which are not the responsibility of the Cabinet will state clearly which items are which.

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.