

## Article 10 – Area Forums and Committees

### 10.1 Area Forums and Committees

The Council may appoint area forums or 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 chairmen of relevant parish meetings when considering whether and how to establish area committees.

### 10.2 Area Forums – Role and Function

Area Forums were discontinued by Council resolution on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2011 (Minute Number 69(B)/A87 refers).

### 10.3 Ward Forums – Role and Function

The Ward Forums established by the Council on 29th July 2009 shall have the following roles and functions:

- (a) build partnerships at ward level between the Council, other local public, private and voluntary sector organisations, community groups and the public, including Town and Parish Councils where relevant;
- (b) develop priorities for the ward which can be reflected within the wider community planning and local area agreement process;
- (c) enable local people to raise issues of local concern, and advise the Cabinet or Scrutiny Panels on matters of interest in their ward.

### 10.4 Conflicts of interest – membership of area committees and Scrutiny Panels

- (a) **Conflict of interest.** If a Scrutiny Panel 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 Scrutiny Panel meeting unless a dispensation to do so is given by the Standards Committee.

*(Note: This paragraph will only apply where an area committee is given delegation to exercise a function.)*

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

### **10.5 Access to information**

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

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

### **10.6 Cabinet members on area forums and committees**

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