

ARTICLE 9 - AREA COMMITTEES AND FORUMS

9.1 Area Committees and Forums

The Council may appoint Area Committees and/or 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 carry out appropriate consultation with relevant Parish and Town Councils, the Chairmen of relevant Parish Meetings and the public before considering whether, and if so how, to establish Area Committees and/or Forums.

9.2 Form, Composition and Function

To be devised in the event that the Council decides to create Area Committees and/or Forums.

9.3 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 an 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.

(b) **General Policy Review.** 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.

9.4 Area Committees - Access to Information

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