

Article 10 – Area Committees and Forums

10.01 Area Committees and Forums – Position Statement

The Council may appoint area Committees and/or forums as it sees fit, if it is satisfied that to do so would ensure improved service delivery.

The Council will consult with relevant parish and town councils and the Chairperson of relevant parish meetings when considering whether and how to establish area Committees.

The Council has not established any area Committees in the parished part of the District, but has established a Winchester Town Forum, which covers the five (unparished) District Wards in Winchester Town. All 14 Members who represent the Town Wards are members of the Forum.

The Forum has been established as an area Committee with an advisory role and some decision-making powers as defined in Part 3 of the Constitution.

The following three paragraphs apply to the Winchester Town Forum and any other area Committee/Forum the Council may establish.

10.02 Conflicts of Interest – Membership of Area Committees and Forums and Overview or Scrutiny Committees

Conflict of interest – if an Overview and Scrutiny Committee is scrutinising specific decisions or action taken in relation to the business of an area Committee of which the Councillor concerned is a member, then the Councillor must consider whether they can speak or vote at the overview and scrutiny meeting, having regard to the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules in Part 4 of the Constitution or the Council's Code of Conduct in Part 5 of the Constitution.

General Policy Reviews – where the Overview or Scrutiny Committee is reviewing policy generally, the Member need not withdraw.

10.03 Area Committees and Forums – Access to Information

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

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

10.04 Cabinet Members on Area Committees and Forums

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