

Article 10 – Area Committees and Forums

10.01 Area Committees and Forums

The Council may appoint area Committees 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 currently established any area committees in the parished areas of the district.

In the unparished part of the district, the Council has established the Winchester Town Forum, which covers the unparished parts of the five District Wards in Winchester: St Barnabas, St Bartholomew, St Michael, St Paul and St Luke. The Forum is responsible for setting the precept subject to the Council's budget and policy framework and that of the S35 Town Account Revenue Budget and acting as a consultative and advisory body to the Council in a comparable way to parish and town councils in the rest of the district, except on regulatory matters where Town and Parish Councils are statutory consultees and ward Councillors are consulted in their own right. All 14 Councillors who represent the five wards listed are members of the Forum, full details are found at Part 3, 3.iv).

The Council may establish a Forum to include a Major Development Area Forum which can advise and make recommendations on relevant issues and where Stakeholders and members of the public can raise any general matters of interest and / or matters relating to the Forum.

The following paragraphs apply to any Area Committee, Major Development Area Forum the Council may establish and paragraphs 10.02, 10.04 and 10.6 to the Winchester Town Forum.

10.02 Conflicts of Interest

Membership and Overview or Scrutiny Committees

If an Overview and Scrutiny Committee is scrutinising specific decisions or actions taken in relation to the business of the Town forum, an area Committee, a Forum or Major Development Area Forum 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 and the Council's Code of Conduct in the Constitution.

Membership of Planning Committee and Joint West of Waterlooville Major Development Area Planning Committee

If the Planning Committee or Joint West of Waterlooville Major Development Area Planning Committee are determining specific applications discussed in

relation to the business of the Town Forum, an area Committee, a Forum or Major Development Area Forum of which the Councillor concerned is a member, then the Councillor must consider whether they can speak or vote at the Planning Committee meeting, having regard to the relevant Planning Committees' procedure rules and the Council's Code of Conduct in the Constitution.

Membership of Licensing and Regulation Committee

If the Licensing and Regulation Committee is determining specific applications discussed in relation to the business of the Town Forum, an area Committee, a Forum or Major Development Area Forum of which the Councillor concerned is a member, then the Councillor must consider whether they can speak or vote at the Licensing and Regulation Committee meeting, having regard to the Licensing and Regulation Committee procedure rules and the Council's Code of Conduct in the Constitution.

General Policy Reviews

Where the Overview or Scrutiny Committee, Planning Committee, Joint West of Waterloo Major Development Area Planning Committee and the Licensing and Regulation Committee is reviewing policy generally, the councillor need not withdraw unless as a member they have been directly involved in the determination of the policy concerned.

10.03 Area Committees and Forums - Dissolution

The purpose of Area Committees and a Major Development Area Forum is to support development of a community. Area Committee and a Major Development Area Forum will continue until it is considered that adequate and appropriate governance is in place, taking into account the views of local ward councillors in the affected area. At least 6 months' notice will be given of the intention of the Council to disband the Area Committee and Major Development Area Forum.

10.04 Area Committees and Forums – Access to Information

Area Committees and Forums will comply with the Access to Information Rules in 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.

10.05 Cabinet Members on Area Committees and Forums

A member of the Cabinet may serve on an area Committee and/or Major Development Area Forum if otherwise eligible to do so as a Councillor.