

# 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) Table of area committees The Council will appoint the area committees as set out in the first column of the table below, composed as set out in the second column of that table and with the terms of reference set out in the third column.

Name of Committee	Composition	Terms of Reference
Sunderland North (Castle, Fulwell, Redhill, St. Peter's, and Southwick Wards).  Sunderland East (Doxford, Hendon, Millfield, St. Michael's and Ryhope Wards).  Sunderland West (St. Anne's, Pallion, Sandhill, Barnes, St. Chad's and Silksworth Wards).  Washington (Washington East, West, Central, North and South Wards).  Coalfields (Copt Hill, Hetton, Houghton and Shiney Row Wards).	All Members of the Council representing those wards included within each area committee boundary.	<p>The purposes of the Area Committees are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lead development of a Neighbourhood Investment Plan, which includes all main priorities for improvement of the Area, for approval by the Cabinet.</li><li>• Lead and enable effective implementation of the Neighbourhood Investment Plan.</li><li>• Monitor the quality and effectiveness of services delivered by the Council and other main providers in the Area.</li><li>• Actively encourage local residents to become involved in decision-making on matters which affect them.</li></ul> <p>In pursuit of these objectives the Area Committee may:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Consult, engage and involve local people and organisations in development and delivery of the Neighbourhood Investment Plan.</li><li>• Consult, engage and involve partner agencies in development and delivery of the Neighbourhood Investment Plan.</li></ul>

Name of Committee	Composition	Terms of Reference
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Actively review the activities of other agencies within its area with a view to ensuring that services, initiatives and their manner of delivery meet local requirements as fully as possible.</li> <li>• Constructively challenge service providers to improve the standards of service and the levels of public satisfaction and trust with them.</li> <li>• Identify priorities for allocation of budgets delegated to the Area Committee.</li> <li>• Commission activity to improve local quality of life and public satisfaction in its area.</li> <li>• Promote and publicise initiatives taken to improve local quality of life and public satisfaction and to increase participation in decision making.</li> <li>• Request and consider reports in support of the Area Committee's work.</li> </ul> <p>The Area Committee will also produce an Annual Report which will review and evaluate the degree to which it was successful in achieving its objectives and effective in promoting Community Leadership.</p>

(b) Delegations

The Council and the executive will include details of the delegations to area committees in Part 3 of this Constitution, including the functions delegated showing which are the responsibility of the executive and which are not, the composition and membership of the committees, budgets and any limitations on delegation.

### 10.03 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 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.

(b) General Policy Reviews.

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.

#### **10.04 Area Committees – Access to Information**

Area 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.

#### **10.05 Executive Members on Area Committees**

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

