

Article 9 – Area Committees and Forums

9.01 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.

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.

9.02 Form, Composition and Function

- a) **Table of Area Committees.** The Council may appoint 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
Area Forums	5 Area Forums covering the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bedale• Easingwold• Northallerton• Stokesley/Great Ayton• Thirsk Membership to comprise all Members from the relevant Wards plus Member(s) of the North Yorkshire County Council representing those Wards.	As set out in Part 3 of this Constitution.

- b) **Delegations.** The Council and the Cabinet 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.
- c) **Voting.** North Yorkshire County Council Members will not be permitted to vote at meetings unless also a Member of the District Council.

9.03 Conflicts of Interest – Membership of Area Committees and the Scrutiny Committee

- a) **Conflict of interest.** If the 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 Scrutiny Committee meeting unless a dispensation to do so is given by the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee.
- b) **General policy reviews.** Where the Scrutiny Committee is reviewing policy generally the Member must declare his/her interest before the relevant agenda item is reached, but need not withdraw.

9.04 **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 Cabinet and functions which are not the responsibility of the Cabinet will state clearly which items are which.

9.05 **Portfolio Holders on Area Committees**

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

9.06 **Proceedings of the Area Committees**

Proceedings of the Area Committees should take place in accordance with any Area Committee Procedure rules set out in Part 4 of the Constitution.