

# 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 the delivery of services to support residents and communities to maximise Community Resilience at an area level.

## 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
<p>Sunderland North (Castle, Fulwell, Redhill, St. Peter's, and Southwick Wards).</p> <p>Sunderland East (Doxford, Hendon, Millfield, St. Michael's and Ryhope Wards).</p> <p>Sunderland West (St. Anne's, Pallion, Sandhill, Barnes, St. Chad's and Silksworth Wards).</p> <p>Washington (Washington East, West, Central, North and South Wards).</p> <p>Coalfields (Copt Hill, Hetton, Houghton and Shiney Row Wards).</p>	<p>All Members of the Council representing those wards included within each area committee boundary.</p>	<p>The purposes of the Area Committees are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lead on the development, implementation and effectiveness of an Area Plan, which includes all main priorities for the Area which enables its residents to be resilient, and in doing so have due regard to the needs of residents in the area, linked to the City Plan and other significant strategies for the City, for approval by the Cabinet.</li> <li>• Actively encourage local residents to become involved in shaping the Area Plan, ensuring delivery of activities to support matters which affect them.</li> </ul> <p>To support delivery 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 Area Plan.</li> <li>• Consult, engage and work collaboratively with partners (including the Voluntary and Community Sector, public and private sector) in development and delivery of the Area Plan and maximising social value within communities.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In developing Area Plans, 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, and publicise initiatives supported by the Area Committee.</li> </ul> <p>Area Committees will report on the delivery of area priorities and working in partnership with communities through the production of an Annual Report to Council.</p>
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(b) Delegations

Area Committees have delegated decision making powers in relation to Area Budgets in support of delivery of Area Plans. 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.