

Article 14 – Area Based Consultation Mechanisms (ABCMs)

14.1 ABCMs

The Council may appoint such ABCMs 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.

14.2 Form, Composition and Function

If and when the Council appoints ABCMs, a table will be inserted here with the name, composition and terms of reference.

14.3 Delegations

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

14.4 Conflicts of Interest – membership of ABCMs 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 ABCM of which the Councillor concerned is a member, then the Councillor may not speak unless requested to do so by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and may not vote at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting unless a dispensation to do so is given.

(b) General Policy Reviews

Where an Overview and Scrutiny Committee is reviewing policy generally the member must declare his or her interest before or when the relevant agenda item is reached, but need not withdraw.

14.5 Area Based Consultation Mechanisms – Access to Information

ABCMs will comply with the Access to Information Rules contained in Article 15 of this Constitution.

Agendas and notices for ABCM 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.

14.6 Cabinet Members on Area Based Consultation Mechanisms

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