

## **Article 9 – Area Forums**

### **9.1 Area Forums**

Full Council may appoint Area Forums as it sees fit and, 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.

Full Council will consult with relevant Parish and Town Councils and the chairs of relevant Parish Meetings when considering whether and how to amend the operation of its existing Area Forums.

### **9.2 Form, Composition and Function**

#### **(a) Details of Area Forums**

Full Council will appoint the Area Forums as set out in the first column of the table below, composed as set out in the second column of that table. The terms of reference are set out below the table.

<b>Name of Forum</b>	<b>Composition</b>
<b>Etwall</b> Etwall, Hatton and Hilton Wards <b>Linton</b> Linton and Seales Wards <b>Melbourne</b> Aston and Melbourne Wards <b>Newhall</b> Midway and Newhall Wards <b>Repton</b> Repton, Stenson and Willington & Findern Wards <b>Swadlincote</b> Church Gresley, Swadlincote and Woodville Wards	The County Councillor(s) for the County Electoral Division(s) covered by the Forum boundary and District Councillors for the Wards indicated (as the only voting members). Parish Council representatives will be invited on the basis of one per Parish for Parish Councils with up to 9 members and two per Parish for Parish Councils of 10 or more members. Parish Meetings will also be invited to appoint a representative to serve on their respective Area Forum.

#### **(b) Terms of Reference**

- (i) To consider and make recommendations in relation to the area administered in relation to any matters referred to the Area Forum.
- (ii) To consider, monitor and make recommendations to the relevant Policy Committee of the Council with respect to the delivery and performance of local services and the management of facilities.

- (iii) To submit recommendations to the relevant Policy Committee of the Council on policy issues and budgets which impact on the area.
- (iv) To be consulted by Policy Committees on major policy issues or changes to existing policies and services which have an impact on the area.
- (v) To provide the opportunity for public participation by acting as a forum for discussion on matters of local interest and, in particular, to elicit the views of local bodies and organisations, including the receipt of petitions on local issues.
- (vi) To provide information about local services to people and organisations in the area.
- (vii) To foster, in relation to the area and its people, a close working relationship with Derbyshire County Council, Derbyshire Constabulary, Parish Councils and other relevant agencies.
- (viii) To act as the appropriate consultative forum in accordance with the provisions set out in the Local Government and Rating Act 1997.

(c) **Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Area Forums**

Full Council will appoint the Chairman of each Area Forum from the Political Group with the majority of seats on that Area Forum. The Vice-Chairman will be appointed by the individual Area Forums in due course.

**9.3 Conflicts of Interest – Membership of Area Forums and Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

(a) **Conflict of Interest**

If the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is scrutinising specific decisions or proposals in relation to the business of the Area Forum 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 Councillor must declare his/her interest before the relevant agenda item is reached, but need not withdraw.

**9.4 Area Forums – Access to Information**

Area Forums will comply with the Access to Information Procedure Rules set out in Part 4 of this Constitution.