

# ARTICLE 10 – AREA COMMITTEES

## 10.1 Appointment

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; more efficient, transparent and accountable decision making; and improved ways of identifying and meeting the needs of local people.

## 10.2 Form, composition and function

The council may 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.

The Cabinet or the council (in respect of their different functions) may allocate delegated powers to area committees, subject to their being satisfied that the relevant committee is maintaining satisfactory standards of community engagement and action planning. They may also provide small budgets to area committees at any time for spending on locally determined projects.

Name of Area Committee and Wards covered	Composition	Terms of Reference
<p>Batley Area Committee (Batley East and Batley West.)</p> <p>Birstall and Birkenshaw Area Committee (Birstall and Birkenshaw.)</p> <p>Colne Valley Area Committee (Colne Valley and Golcar.)</p> <p>Dewsbury Area Committee (Dewsbury East, Dewsbury South and Dewsbury West.)</p> <p>Huddersfield North Area Committee (Ashbrow, Greenhead and Lindley)</p> <p>Huddersfield South Area Committee (Almondbury, Crosland Moor and Netherton, Dalton and Newsome)</p> <p>Mirfield Area Committee (Mirfield.)</p>	<p>All elected members from the relevant wards, together with co-optees as approved from time to time by the council</p>	<p>To consider and report and make appropriate recommendations to the council and the Cabinet on:-</p> <p>(i) Within the context of the Kirklees community strategy and with partner organisations to develop a strategic direction and community plan for the township/area. The whole approach needs to be informed by community action plans which should be the basis for devolution and elements of funding.</p> <p>(ii) To be consulted on Kirklees wide strategic issues, budget setting and service plans.</p> <p>(iii) To contribute to service reviews and scrutiny processes. Also, for area committees maintaining the required standards as specified in Article 10.2 above, to propose scrutiny activities and the Overview &amp; Scrutiny Management Committee may decide to draw the membership of ad hoc scrutiny panels wholly from the membership of the relevant area committee, where considered appropriate.</p>

Name of Area Committee and Wards covered	Composition	Terms of Reference
Spenn Valley Area Committee (Cleckheaton, Heckmondwike and Liversedge & Gomersal.)		(iv) To work closely with other public, private and voluntary agencies in the area.
Denby Dale Area Committee (Denby Dale.)	<p>All elected members from the relevant Ward together with:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 Parish Councillors nominated by Denby Dale Parish Council.</li> <li>• Other co-optees as approved from time to time by the council.</li> </ul>	<p>(v) To oversee the development of community action plans for areas within the township / neighbourhood and monitor their implementation.</p> <p>(vi) To be a focus for community involvement and consultation.</p>
Holme Valley North Area Committee (Holme Valley North.)	<p>All elected members from the relevant Ward together with:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 Town Councillors nominated by Meltham Town Council.</li> <li>• 3 Parish Councillors nominated by Holme Valley Parish Council from its Wards falling within the KMC Holme Valley North Ward.</li> <li>• Other co-optees as approved from time to time by the council.</li> </ul>	<p>(vii) To carry out such delegated functions as may be determined by the council and the Cabinet and set out in Part 3 of this Constitution.</p> <p>(viii) To contribute, on the basis of local community engagement, to the work of the Kirklees Partnership (viii)</p>
Holme Valley South Area Committee (Holme Valley South.)	<p>All elected members for the relevant Ward together with:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 Parish Councillors nominated by the Holme Valley Parish Council from its Wards falling within the KMC Holme Valley South Ward.</li> <li>• Other co-optees as approved from time to time by the council.</li> </ul>	

Name of Area Committee and Wards covered	Composition	Terms of Reference
Kirkburton Ward Committee (Kirkburton.)	<p>All elected members for the relevant Ward together with:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 Parish Councillors nominated by the Kirkburton Parish Council</li> <li>• Other co-optees as approved from time to time by the council.</li> </ul> <p>For each of the above four Area Committees, two parish/town council nominees may have voting rights only in respect of decisions on matters lawfully delegated to those committees as joint committees with the relevant parish/town council. The method of determining which nominees have such rights will be determined before any such delegations take place.</p>	

The council and the Cabinet will include details of the delegations to area committees in Part 3 of this Constitution, including the functions delegated and any limitations on delegation.

### **10.3 Conflicts of Interest - Membership of area committees and Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee and panels.**

Conflict of interest – If the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee or a scrutiny panel is scrutinising specific decisions or proposals in relation to the business of an area committee of which the councillor concerned is a member, then the councillor must withdraw from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee or scrutiny panel meeting unless the member is attending for the purpose of answering questions or otherwise giving evidence.

### **10.4 Area Committees– access to information**

Area committees and housing management committees will comply with the Access to Information Rules in Part 4 of this Constitution. Agendas and notices for area

committees 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.

### **10.5 Cabinet members on area committees**

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

### **10.6 Area Committees as joint committees in parished areas**

In parished areas the council may establish area committees as joint committees with the relevant parish or town council(s) in respect of any functions which may, in accordance with the law, be the subject of joint arrangements between the council and a parish council.

### **10.7 Joint meetings of area committees**

Some services and some outside organisations have working structures around the seven locality areas established in Kirklees. On occasion it may be good governance for issues to be addressed in a joint meeting of the area committees within each of the seven localities.