
PART 3A: COUNCIL ASSEMBLY

ROLE AND FUNCTIONS

Council assembly is responsible for setting up the decision making structure of the council including its committees. It does this annually. Council assembly takes a number of decisions including agreeing the annual budget, setting the council tax, agreeing policy framework strategies and plans. It makes decisions on local legislation and bylaws. The meeting also appoints to outside bodies unless the appointment is an executive function or has been delegated by council assembly.

The council assembly will question the cabinet. The meeting will receive reports from the cabinet, overview and scrutiny committee and officers. It will also debate matters of local importance and consider members' motions.

MATTERS RESERVED FOR DECISION

The following matters are reserved to the council assembly for decision:

1. Electing the Mayor.
2. Adopting the local authority's code of conduct.
3. Electing the leader.
4. Establishing committees.
5. Agreeing and amending terms of reference for committees except for executive functions.
6. Deciding the composition of committees and sub-committees.
7. Agreeing the budget and determining the level of local taxation. The budget includes the allocation of financial resources to different services and projects, proposed contingency funds including reserves and balances, setting the council tax and decisions relating to the control of the council's borrowing requirement, the treasury management strategy and the setting of virement limits.
8. Agree the capital strategy and programme at least once every four years and as necessary in the event of a significant change in circumstances, and the approval of virements over £10,000,000 between capital projects or programme headings as set out in the overall programme.
9. Agreeing the constitution, subject to the provisions in Article 1.05 on changing the constitution.
10. Agreeing the policy framework comprising the following plans and strategies:
 - Council delivery plan
 - Development plan documents (which form part of the development plan framework)
 - Policy on the community champions
 - Treasury management strategy (including prudential borrowing arrangements).

11. Agreeing the following policies:
 - Licensing statement
 - Gambling statement.
12. Agreeing any application to the Secretary of State in respect of any housing land transfer. Housing land transfer means the approval or adoption of applications to the Secretary of State (whether in draft form or not) for approval of a programme of disposal of 500 or more properties to a person under the Leasehold Reform, Housing and Urban Development Act 1993 or to dispose of land used for residential purposes where approval is required under sections 32 or 43 of the Housing Act 1985.
13. Taking decisions in respect of functions which are the responsibility of the cabinet which are not in accordance with the policy framework or budget agreed by the council assembly.
14. Subject to the urgency procedure contained in the access to information procedure rules in part 4 of this constitution, making decisions about any matter on the discharge of an executive function which is covered by the policy framework or the budget where the decision maker is minded to make it in a manner which would be contrary to the policy framework or contrary to/or not wholly in accordance with the budget.
15. All local choice functions set out in part 3 of this constitution which the council assembly decides should be undertaken by itself rather than the cabinet.
16. Taking decisions in respect of functions which are not the responsibility of the cabinet and which have not been delegated by council assembly to committees, sub-committees or officers.
17. Making or confirming the appointment of the head of paid service.
18. Making, amending, revoking, re-enacting or adopting bylaws and promoting or opposing the making of local legislation or personal bills.
19. Determining the scheme and amounts of members' allowances.
20. Appointing representatives to outside bodies unless the appointment is an executive function or has been delegated by the council assembly.
21. Changing the name of the area, conferring the title of Honorary Alderman or Freedom of the Borough.
22. All other matters which, by law, must be reserved to council assembly.