

Changes to the constitution are shown as follows:

- Additions (shown as underlined)
 - Deletions (shown with a ~~strike through~~)
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PART 2 – ARTICLES

Article 1 – The constitution

1.1 Powers of the council

The council will exercise all its powers and duties in accordance with the law and this constitution.

1.2 Purpose of the constitution

The purpose of the constitution is to:

- enable the council to provide clear leadership to the community in partnership with citizens, businesses and other organisations
- support the active involvement of citizens in the process of local authority decision making
- help councillors represent their constituents more effectively
- enable decisions to be taken efficiently and effectively
- create a powerful and effective means of holding decision makers to public account
- ensure that no one will review or scrutinise a decision in which they were directly involved
- ensure that those responsible for decision making are clearly identifiable to local people and that they explain the reasons for decisions

- h) provide a means of improving the delivery of services to the community.

1.3 Principles of decision making

All decisions of the council will be made in accordance with the following principles:²

- a) the link between strategy and implementation must be maintained
- b) decision making generally, whether by individual officers, individual cabinet members or the cabinet collectively, should have reference to the policy framework
- c) respect for human rights, law and probity
- d) due consultation and the taking of professional advice from officers
- e) proportionality (i.e. the action must be proportionate to the desired outcome)
- f) a presumption in favour of openness
- g) clarity of aims and desired outcomes
- h) consideration of the likely climate consequences and the likely equality (including socio-economic disadvantage and health inequality) consequences of the relevant decision and therefore reports for decision should include advice from officers of the likely climate and equality impacts of that decision.