

Part 2 – Articles of the Constitution

Article 1 – The Constitution

1.01 Powers of the Council

This is the Constitution of Winchester City Council, and the Council will exercise all its powers and duties in accordance with the law and this Constitution.

1.02 The Constitution

This Constitution and all its appendices forms the Constitution of Winchester City Council (the Constitution).

1.03 Purpose of the Constitution

The purpose of the Constitution is to:

- a) Enable the Council to provide clear leadership to the community in partnership with its residents, businesses and other organisations;
- b) Support the active involvement of residents in the process of local authority decision-making;
- c) Help Councillors to represent their constituents more effectively;
- d) Enable decisions to be taken efficiently and effectively;
- e) Create a powerful and effective means of holding decision-makers to public account;
- f) Ensure that no Councillor will review or scrutinise a decision in which they were directly involved;
- g) 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.

1.04 Interpretation and Review of the Constitution

Where the Constitution permits the Council to choose between different courses of action, the Council will always choose the option which it thinks is most consistent with the purposes stated above.

Amendments will be made to the electronic version of the Constitution as soon as reasonably practical and published on the Council website to provide transparency.

These amendments will either be those made under the delegated powers given to the Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer or amendments that are made by Full Council.