

ARTICLE 1 - THE CONSTITUTION

1.1 Powers of the Council

The Council will exercise all its powers and duties in accordance with statute and this Constitution.

1.2 The Constitution

This volume, and any other supplementary volumes, form the Constitution of the Bath and North East Somerset Council.

Copies of the Constitution may be inspected at Council Offices (including “Council Connect” points) and may be purchased from the Democratic Services team.

1.3 Purpose of the Constitution

The purpose of the Constitution is to:

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

1.4 Interpretation and Review of the Constitution

The Council will make arrangements to monitor, review and evaluate the operation of the Constitution. Such arrangements will be consistent with any review arrangements set down in legislation.

Where a change in the political proportionality of the Council occurs, (*proportionality addresses the number of Council seats held by each confirmed political group and the number of committee places allocated in proportion*), the Council will as a consequence review this Constitution and make such changes as are appropriate to reflect the new position and which are consistent with the law.

In other circumstances, the Constitution may be reviewed by the Council on a motion from a member, or through a report from the Chief Executive, the Monitoring Officer or the Chief Financial Officer.

Any reference in this Constitution to the roles of the Chief Executive, Head of Paid Service, Monitoring Officer or Chief Financial Officer shall be taken to apply also to any officer nominated by those office-holders to act on their behalf or in their absence.

Any reference in this Constitution to the Leader of the Council or any other office held by a member of the Council, shall be taken also to refer to any nominated deputy/deputies for that role.

Any issues of interpretation of the Constitution shall be determined by the Director Legal and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) after consultation with the Chief Executive.