

ARTICLE 16 – REVIEW, REVISION AND SUSPENSION OF THE CONSTITUTION

Duty to Monitor and Review the Constitution

1. The Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Head of Paid Service, the Chief Financial Officer and the Leader of the Council will monitor and review the operation of the Constitution to ensure that the aims and principles of the Constitution are given full effect.

Protocol for Monitoring and Review of Constitution

2. A key role for the Monitoring Officer is to be aware of the strengths and weaknesses of the Constitution adopted by the Council, and to make recommendations to the Council for ways in which it could be amended in order better to achieve the purposes set out in Article 1. In undertaking this task the Monitoring Officer may:
 - (i) observe meetings of different parts of the member and officer structure;
 - (ii) undertake an audit trail of a sample of decisions;
 - (iii) record and analyse issues raised by members, officers, the public and other relevant stakeholders; and
 - (iv) compare practices in this authority with those in other comparable authorities, or national examples of best practice.

Changes to the Constitution

3. All changes to the Constitution shall be approved by the Council, with the exception of the following which may be made by the Monitoring Officer:
 - (i) changes to give effect to any decisions of the Council;
 - (ii) changes in the law;
 - (iii) minor amendments such as to correct errors; and
 - (iv) to ensure that the Constitution is maintained up-to-date.
4. Any such changes will be communicated to all Councillors.

Suspension of the Constitution

Limit to Suspension

5. The Articles of this Constitution may not be suspended. The Rules set out in Part 4 may be suspended by the full Council to the extent permitted within those Rules and the law.

Procedure to Suspend

6. The procedure for suspension is set out in the rules in Part 4 of this Constitution.