

Part Two

Articles

Article 1 - The Constitution

1.01 Powers of the Council

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, is the Constitution of the London Borough of Haringey.

1.03 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.

1.04 Interpretation and Review of the Constitution

Where the Constitution permits the Council to choose between different courses of action, the Council will always choose that option which it thinks is closest to the purposes stated above. The Council will monitor and evaluate the operation of the Constitution as set out in Article 15.

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Article 2 - Members of the Council

2.01 Composition and eligibility

- (a) **Composition.** The Council will comprise 57 Members, otherwise called Councillors. Three Members will be elected by the voters of each ward in accordance with a scheme drawn up by the Local Government Commission and approved by the Secretary of State or by the Electoral Commission.
- (b) **Eligibility.** People can hold office as Councillors if they are on the electoral register or if they have lived, worked or occupied property in the Borough for 12 months.

2.02 Election and terms of councillors

Election and terms. The regular election of Councillors will be held on the first Thursday in May every four years beginning in 2002. The terms of office of Councillors will start on the fourth day after being elected and will finish on the fourth day after the date of the next regular election.

2.03 Roles and functions of all councillors

- (a) **Key roles.** All councillors will:
 - (i) Collectively be the ultimate policy-makers and carry out a number of strategic and corporate management functions;
 - (ii) Contribute to the good governance of the area and actively encourage community participation and citizen involvement in decision making;
 - (iii) Effectively represent the interests of their ward and of individual constituents;
 - (iv) Respond to constituents' enquiries and representations, fairly and impartially;
 - (v) Participate in the governance of the Council;
 - (vi) Maintain the highest standards of conduct and ethics; and
 - (vii) Be available to represent the Council on other bodies.

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(b) Rights and duties

- (i) Councillors will have such rights of access to such documents, information, land and buildings of the Council as are necessary for the proper discharge of their functions and in accordance with the law.
- (ii) Councillors will not make public information which is confidential or exempt without the consent of the Council or divulge information given in confidence to anyone other than a councillor or officer entitled to know it. However, a Committee may disclose information previously treated as "exempt" where such information is within the Committee's terms of reference and such disclosure is reasonable, in the public interest, in good faith and does not breach any other reasonable requirements of the Council. The advice of the Monitoring Officer should be sought prior to any disclosure of such information.
- (iii) For these purposes "confidential" and "exempt" information are defined in the Access to Information Procedure Rules in Part 4 of this Constitution which define Councillors rights to information in more detail.

2.04 Conduct

Councillors will at all times observe the Member's Code of Conduct and the Protocol on Member/Officer Relations set out in Part 5 of this Constitution.

2.05 Allowances

Councillors will be entitled to receive allowances in accordance with the Members' Allowances Scheme set out in Part 6 of this Constitution.

Article 3 - Citizens of The Council

3.01 Citizens rights

This Article explains the rights of citizens in Haringey. The rights of citizens to information and to participate are explained in more detail in the Access to Information Procedure Rules in Part 4 of this Constitution:

- (a) **Voting and petitions.** Citizens on the electoral roll for the area have the right to vote and sign a petition to request a referendum for an elected Mayor form of Constitution.
- (b) **Information.** Citizens have the right to:
 - (i) Attend meetings of the Council and its committees except where confidential or exempt information is likely to be disclosed, and the meeting is therefore held in private;
 - (ii) Attend meetings of the Cabinet when key decisions are being made except where confidential or exempt information is likely to be disclosed, and the meeting is therefore held in private;
 - (iii) Find out from the forward plan what key decisions will be taken by the Cabinet and when and what key decisions will be taken by officers;
 - (iv) See reports and background papers, and any records of decisions made by the Council and the Cabinet; and
 - (v) Inspect the Council's accounts and make their views known to the external auditor.
 - (vi) Be informed in writing whether the Council holds any information as requested under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. If the information is held by the Council, citizens have the right to have that information communicated to them except where such information is the subject of an exemption under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.
- (c) **Participation.**

The Council is committed to helping people contribute to how decisions are made about local services, and will therefore support a wide range of consultations to hear residents' views. The Council also wants to develop more ways of working with local people and communities, particularly hard to reach

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groups such as young people and minority ethnic communities. In addition, individual citizens of Haringey have the following rights under this Constitution:

- (i) The right to participate in any public sessions arranged for members of the Cabinet to answer questions from Haringey residents.
 - (ii) The right to be asked to contribute to the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and its scrutiny panels and reviews.
 - (iii) The right to attend as part of a deputation to the Cabinet and to Council in accordance with the relevant rules.
- (d) **Representations and Complaints.** Citizens wishing to complain may:
- (i) Make representations to their ward Councillors or to members of the Cabinet;
 - (ii) Make a formal complaint about any Council service to the Council itself under its complaints scheme;
 - (iii) Complain to the Ombudsman after using the Council's own complaints scheme;
 - (iv) Complain to the Standards Board for England about a breach of the Councillor's Code of Conduct.
- (e) **Petitions**

People on the electoral roll for the Council's area may sign a petition to request a referendum for an elected Mayor form of Constitution. Citizens may also present petitions on other matters to the Cabinet, to Council or their ward member.

3.02 Citizens responsibilities

There are a number of ways that Haringey citizens can contribute to a flourishing democratic local authority and civic culture, which this Constitution is intended to support:

- (i) Assisting the Council with the compilation of the electoral register (including meeting their obligations to provide information about themselves and members of their household) and respecting any requirements for proper use of this information;

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- (ii) Exercising their right to vote in local, regional, national and European elections;
- (iii) Respecting and valuing the diversity of communities and their views within a densely populated urban area such as Haringey;
- (iv) Behaving in socially and morally responsible ways, towards those in authority and towards each other;
- (v) Meeting their obligations in relation to the Council, such as paying their Council Tax, ensuring their child attends school, etc.
- (vi) Citizens must not be violent, abusing or threatening to Councillors or officers and must not wilfully harm things owned by the Council, councillors or officers.

Article 4 - The Full Council

4.01 Meanings

- (a) **Policy Framework.** These are the plans and strategies that Haringey Council has decided should be reserved to the full Council for approval:

Overarching strategies:

- (i) Community Strategy;
- (ii) Such other strategies that the full Council is required to adopt as a matter of law.

Major service plans:

- (i) Housing Strategy ;
- (ii) Unitary Development Plan;
- (iii) Single Education Plan;
- (iv) Strategy for Children and Young People;
- (v) Local Transport Plan;
- (vi) Statement of Licensing Policy
- (vii) Statement of Gambling Policy
- (viii) Such other service plans that the full Council is required to adopt as a matter of law

Plans required from partnerships of which the authority is a member:

- (i) Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership/Drug Action Team Strategy
- (ii) Connexions Business Plan

Such other plans and strategies that Haringey Council decides should be reserved for the full Council for approval and adopted by it.

- (b) **Budget.** The budget includes the allocation of financial resources to different services and projects, proposed contingency funds, setting the council tax and decisions relating to the control of the Council's borrowing requirements, the control of its capital expenditure and the setting of virement limits. The determination of the Council Tax Base is delegated to the Chief Finance Officer in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and the Cabinet Advisory Board.
- (c) **Housing Land Transfer.** Housing Land Transfer means the approval or adoption of applications (whether in draft form or not) to the Secretary of State for approval of a programme of disposal of 500 or more properties to a person under the

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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.

4.02 Functions of the full Council

Only the Council will exercise the following functions:

- (a) Adopting and changing the Constitution;
- (b) Approving or adopting the policy framework as set out in the appropriate schedule above;
- (c) Approving the budget and levying Council Tax;
- (d) Determining the borrowing limits for the authority for each financial year and the proportions of borrowing that are to be set at variable rates;
- (e) Approving any application to the Secretary of State in respect of any Housing Land Transfer as set out in Article 4.01 (c) above;
- (f) Subject to the urgency procedure contained in the Access to Information Procedure Rules in Part 4 of this Constitution, making decisions about any matter in the discharge of an Cabinet 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;
- (g) Appointing the Leader;
- (h) Agreeing and/or amending the terms of reference for committees, deciding on their composition and making appointments to them and delegating functions to them from time to time as may be appropriate;
- (i) Agreeing recommendations arising from Scrutiny Reviews of non-executive functions;
- (j) Deciding on recommendations arising from Scrutiny Reviews not accepted by the Cabinet and referred by the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- (k) Agreeing and/or amending the Scheme of Delegations to Officers with respect to non-executive functions;
- (l) Appointing representatives to outside bodies unless the appointment is a Cabinet function or has been delegated by the Council;
- (m) Adopting and amending the Members' Allowances Scheme;
- (n) Changing the name of the area, conferring the title of honorary alderman or freedom of the borough and establishing any new Civic Link;
- (o) Confirming the appointment or dismissal of the Head of Paid Service;
- (p) Making, amending, revoking, re-enacting or adopting bylaws and promoting or opposing the making of local legislation or

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- personal Bills including the adoption of any legislation where the Council has a discretion;
- (q) All local choice functions set out in Part 3 of this Constitution which the Council decides should be undertaken by itself rather than the Cabinet, or any Committee, Sub-Committee or officer;
 - (r) Entering into, or confirming existing, joint arrangements with other local authorities unless this only concerns "executive" functions when the decision is for the Cabinet;
 - (s) Adopting the Members' Code of Conduct;
 - (t) Approving Pilot Schemes for Local Elections;
 - (u) Resolving not to issue any casino premises licences in the next three years;
 - (v) Adopting Standing Orders for the Council and Standing Orders as to Contracts;
 - (w) Making any decisions in respect of non-Executive functions which have not been expressly delegated elsewhere;
 - (x) All matters that must be reserved to Council under the Financial Regulations including the adoption and amendment of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and the consideration of annual, mid-year monitoring reports and an out-turn report after the close of the year on treasury management policies and practices; and
 - (y) All other matters that, by law, must be reserved to Council.

4.03 Council meetings

There are three types of Council meetings:

- (a) The Annual meeting;
- (b) Ordinary meetings;
- (c) Extraordinary meetings.

They will be conducted in accordance with the Standing Orders (Council Procedure Rules) in Part 4 of this Constitution. Council meetings will be chaired by the Mayor if he/she is present. If the Mayor is not present, Council will select another Councillor to take the Chair. The Deputy Mayor does not automatically chair the meeting in the Mayor's absence. The Council may select the Deputy Mayor if it so wishes.

4.04 Responsibility for functions

The Council will maintain the information in Part 3 of this Constitution setting out the responsibilities for the Council's functions that are not the responsibility of the Cabinet.

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Article 5 - Chairing the Council

5.01 Role and function of the Mayor

The Mayor will have the following roles and functions:

1. To uphold and promote the purposes of the Constitution, and to interpret the Constitution when necessary;
2. To preside over meetings of the Council so that its business can be carried out efficiently and with regard to the rights of councillors and the interests of the community;
3. To ensure that the Council meeting is a forum for the debate of matters of concern to the local community and the place at which Members who are not members of the Cabinet or hold committee chairs are able to hold the Cabinet and committee chairs to account;
4. To promote public involvement in the Council's activities;
5. To be the conscience of the Council; and
6. To attend such civic and ceremonial functions as the Council and he/she determines appropriate.

5.02 First Citizen.

The Mayor shall take precedence i.e. shall be the first citizen of the London Borough of Haringey.

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Article 6 - Overview and Scrutiny

6.01 Terms of reference

The Council will appoint an Overview and Scrutiny Committee to discharge the functions conferred by section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000, the Health & Social Care Act 2001 and the NHS Reform & Health Professionals Act 2002.

6.02. General role

Within its terms of reference, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee may:

- (a) Exercise an overview of the forward plan;
- (b) Review or scrutinise decisions made or actions taken in connection with the discharge of any of the Cabinet's or Council's functions;
- (c) Make reports and recommendations to the full Council, the Cabinet or relevant non-Executive Committee in connection with the discharge of any functions;
- (d) Make reports or recommendations on matters affecting the area or its inhabitants;
- (e) Exercise the right to call-in, for reconsideration, decisions made but not yet implemented by the Cabinet;
- (f) Receive the reports and recommendations of its commissioned Scrutiny Review Panels; and
- (g) In accordance with statutory regulations to review and scrutinise matters relating to the health service within the Authority's area and to make reports and recommendations thereon to local NHS bodies.

6.03 Specific functions

(a) Scrutiny Review Panels.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee shall appoint task oriented, time limited Scrutiny Review Panels in order to discharge the Overview and Scrutiny role and will co-ordinate their respective roles.

(b) Policy development and review.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee and any Scrutiny Review Panels it may establish may:

- (i) Assist the Council and the Cabinet in the development of its budget and policy framework by in-depth analysis of policy issues;

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- (ii) Conduct research, community and other consultation in the analysis of policy issues and possible options;
- (iii) Consider and implement mechanisms to encourage and enhance community participation in the development of policy options;
- (iv) Question members of the Cabinet and chief officers about their views on issues and proposals affecting the area; and
- (v) Liaise with other external organisations operating in the area, whether national, regional or local, to ensure that the interests of local people are enhanced by collaborative working.

(c) Scrutiny.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee and any Scrutiny Review Panels it may establish may:

- (i) Review and scrutinise the decisions made by and performance of the Cabinet and council officers both in relation to individual decisions and over time;
- (ii) Review and scrutinise the performance of the Council in relation to its policy objectives, performance targets and/or particular service areas;
- (iii) Question members of the Cabinet and chief officers about their decisions and performance, whether generally in comparison with service plans and targets over a period of time, or in relation to particular decisions, initiatives or projects;
- (iv) Make recommendations to the Cabinet or relevant non-executive Committee arising from the outcome of the scrutiny process;
- (v) Review and scrutinise the performance of other public bodies in the area and invite reports from them by requesting them to address the overview and scrutiny committee and local people about their activities and performance; and
- (vi) Question and gather evidence from any person (with their consent).

(d) Finance

Overview and Scrutiny Committee may exercise overall responsibility for the finances made available to them.

(e) Annual report.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee must report annually to full Council on their workings and make recommendations for future work programmes and amended working methods if appropriate.

6.04 Proceedings of Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee and any Scrutiny Review Panels it may establish will conduct their proceedings in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules set out in Part 4 of this Constitution.

6.05 Votes of No Confidence

The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or the Chair of a Scrutiny Review Panel shall cease to hold that office as a Scrutiny member if a vote of no confidence, of which notice appears on the agenda, is carried at the meeting of the relevant body. The responsibilities of that member shall be carried out by the relevant Vice-Chair until such time as a subsequent meeting of that body has been notified of the appointment of a replacement or the reappointment of the member concerned. In the event of all members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee having been removed from office in this way at any time, Scrutiny functions shall in the interim be carried out by Full Council.

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Article 7 - The Leader and the Cabinet

7.01 The Leader

The Leader will be a councillor elected to the position of Leader by the Council. The Leader may exercise any "executive" functions of the local authority even if delegated elsewhere in this Constitution except those functions which by law must be discharged by an officer. Unless the context indicates otherwise, where there is a reference in this Constitution to a decision which may be taken by the Cabinet meeting, by a Cabinet Committee or subordinate body or by an individual Cabinet Member, that decision may be taken by the Leader personally.

7.02 The Leader will hold office until:

- (a) He/she resigns from the office; or
- (b) He/she is suspended from being a councillor under Part III of the Local Government Act 2000 (although he/she may resume office at the end of the period of suspension); or
- (c) He/she is no longer a councillor; or
- (d) He/she is removed from office by resolution of the Council under Article 7.06; or
- (e) The Annual Meeting following the Council Elections after his/her election as Leader.

Council Election Year Provisions in 2010

In 2010 the provisions below will apply in place of (e) above in the period between Election day and the Annual Meeting or the first election of a Leader if that occurs after the Annual Meeting:

- (i) If the Leader in office immediately before the Council Elections is re-elected as a councillor within the political group having an overall majority of councillors after the Elections, then the Leader shall continue in office until the election of a Leader by the Council and may exercise any "executive" functions under this Constitution, if necessary. The Leader may appoint an Interim Deputy Leader with power to exercise "executive" functions if the Leader is unable to act. The Leader shall not appoint other Cabinet Members.
- (ii) If the Leader in office immediately before the Council Elections ceases to be a councillor or ceases to be within the political group having an overall majority of councillors after the Elections, then the Leader shall not continue in office and delegated power is granted to the Chief Executive to exercise all "executive" functions of the Council in consultation with the representative of the largest political group of councillors

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(or groups in the event of a parity of councillors) but only in cases of genuine urgency,

- (iii) Decisions made under these Council Election Year Provisions must be reported to the first meeting of the appropriate body after the Annual Meeting which is likely to be the first meeting of the newly constituted Cabinet of the Council.
- (iv) For the avoidance of doubt, the scheme of delegation to officers with respect to both "executive" and "non-executive" functions will remain in force.

7.03 The Cabinet

The Cabinet will carry out all of the local authority's "executive" functions that are not the responsibility of any other part of the local authority, whether by law or under this Constitution, unless the Leader decides to discharge them personally.

7.04 Form and Composition

The Cabinet will consist of the Cabinet Leader together with between 2 and 9 other councillors ("Cabinet Members") appointed to the Cabinet by the Leader.

7.05 Other Cabinet Members

- (i) The Leader will determine the number of Cabinet Members to be appointed which will be between 2 and 9 (in addition to the Leader).
- (ii) Each Cabinet Member will be appointed by the Leader to cover one of the specific portfolio responsibilities (other than those reserved to the Leader) determined by the Leader. The Leader or a Cabinet Member must hold the specific statutory portfolio responsibility for Children's Services and a separate portfolio responsibility for Adult Services.
- (iii) One Cabinet Member will be appointed as Deputy Leader with power to exercise the Leader's functions in the event that the Leader is unable to act or the office is vacant.
- (iv) Individual Cabinet Members may exercise powers delegated by The Leader within their specific portfolio responsibilities as set out in Part 3.
- (v) Cabinet Members shall hold office until one of the events (a) to (e) below but in 2010 the Cabinet Members in office immediately before the Elections shall cease to hold office

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after the Council Elections whether or not they are re-elected as councillors:

- (a) They resign from office; or
- (b) They are suspended from being councillors under Part III of the Local Government Act 2000 (although they may resume office at the end of the period of suspension); or
- (c) They are no longer councillors; or
- (d) They are removed from office, either individually or collectively, by the Leader; or
- (e) The Annual Meeting following the Council Elections after their appointment.

7.06 Votes of No Confidence

The Leader shall cease to hold office if a vote of no confidence, of which notice appears on the agenda, is carried at a meeting of the full council by a majority of the members of the whole council then present. The responsibilities of the Leader shall then be carried out by the Deputy Leader until such time as the election of a replacement Leader, or the re-election of the previous Leader, by full Council. The election of the new Leader may take place at the meeting when the vote of no confidence was carried or at a subsequent meeting.

7.07 Default Provisions

- (i) In the event that Leader is unable to act or the office of Leader is vacant and, at the same time, the Deputy Leader is unable to act or the office of Deputy Leader is vacant, then the other Cabinet Members shall act collectively in place of the Leader until such time as a new Leader is elected by the full Council.
- (ii) In the event that no Cabinet Members remain in office or able to act then all functions of the Leader and Cabinet Members shall be exercised by the Chief Executive acting so far as is practicable in consultation with the Mayor, or Deputy Mayor if the Mayor is unable to act, until such time as a new Leader is elected by the full Council.

7.08 Proceedings of the Cabinet

Proceedings of the Cabinet and decisions by individual Cabinet Members shall take place in accordance with the Cabinet Procedure Rules set out in Part 4.

7.09 Responsibility for Functions

The Leader will maintain a list in this Constitution or the appendices to it setting out which individual Cabinet Members, Committees of the Cabinet or officers are responsible for the exercise of particular Cabinet functions.

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Article 8 - Non-Executive Committees

- 8.01 A number of functions such as planning control, licensing, health and safety regulation, electoral matters, local act powers, employee terms and conditions and pensions matters are not Executive functions for which the Cabinet is responsible. These matters are excluded from the Executive functions by law, regulations or the provisions of this Constitution.
- 8.02 The Council shall appoint a Committee to be called the Regulatory Committee to be responsible for planning control and licensing matters and a Committee to be called the Corporate Committee to be responsible for other non-executive functions as specified under legislation that are not reserved to full Council or delegated to any other Committee, Sub-Committee, Panel or other body described in Part 3 of this Constitution or an appendix to it. The Council's functions as statutory trustee of the Alexandra Palace and Park charitable trust are discharged by the Alexandra Palace and Park Board.
- 8.03 The Council's non-executive functions are currently set out in Statutory Instruments 2000 No. 2853, and 2001 No. 2212 and subsequent amending Regulations.
- 8.04 The Committees described above will be established at the Annual Meeting of the Council.
- 8.05 The Committees described above will establish appropriate sub-committees, whose terms of reference are set out in Part 3 of this Constitution or an appendix to it.
- 8.06 Proceedings of the Committees and their sub committees shall take place in accordance with the Council Committee Procedure Rules in Part 4 of this Constitution.

Article 9 - The Standards Committee

9.01 Standards Committee

The Council meeting will establish a Standards Committee.

9.02 Composition

The Standards Committee will be composed of Councillors who may not include the Leader or Mayor or more than one Cabinet Member and the independent members none of whom are Councillors or officers of the Council or any other body having a Standards Committee. At least one quarter of the membership of the Committee must be independent members.

- (a) **Membership.** The Standards Committee is composed of Councillors and independent members
- (b) **Independent members.** Independent members will be entitled to vote at meetings;
- (c) **Chairing the Committee.**
 - (i) The Committee selects its own Chair from among the Independent Members.
 - (ii) The Chair of the Standards Committee will have a casting vote in the event of a vote being tied.
- (d) **Quorum.** The quorum is three including a Chair from among the independent members and at least one Councillor.

9.03 Role and Function

The Standards Committee will have the following roles and functions:

- (a) Promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by Councillors, co-opted members and representatives of religious organisations and parent governor representatives;
- (b) Assisting the Leader, Councillors, co-opted members and representatives of religious organisations and parent governor representatives to observe the Members' Code of Conduct;
- (c) Advising the Council on the adoption or revision of the Members' Code of Conduct;
- (d) Monitoring the operation of the Members' Code of Conduct;
- (e) Advising, training or arranging to train Councillors and co-opted members on matters relating to the Members' Code of Conduct and the ethical framework;
- (f) Granting dispensations to the Elected Mayor, Councillors and co-opted members from requirements relating to interests set out in the Members' Code of Conduct;

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- (g) Advising the Council on codes and protocols forming the Council's ethical framework and its governance arrangements, monitoring the effectiveness of those arrangements and making reports and recommendations accordingly;
- (h) Carrying out an assessment and review function for all complaints received by the Council against Councillors and co-opted members;
- (i) Dealing with any reports from a case tribunal or interim case tribunal and any report from the Monitoring Officer on any matter which is referred by the Ethical Standards Officer to the Monitoring Officer;
- (j) Hearing complaints against Councillors and co-opted members made to the Council or referred back from the Standard Board for England;
- (k) Hearing complaints against co-opted members arising from alleged breaches of Codes and Protocols falling outside the jurisdiction of the Standards Board for England;
- (l) Responding to national reviews and consultations on standards related issues;
- (m) Granting exemptions for politically restricted posts and giving directions to include a post on the list of restricted posts;
- (n) Advising the Council on the appointment of independent members and taking steps to select them.

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Article 10 - Area Committees

10.01 Area Committees

The Council shall appoint Area Committees in order to ensure improved service delivery and more efficient, transparent and accountable decision making.

10.02 Form, composition and function

- (a) **Composition** - There is no requirement for political balance on Area Committees. The membership comprises all the Members from the relevant area .
- (b) **Terms of Reference** - The terms of reference of the Area Committees are set out in Part 3 of this Constitution. Area Committee meetings shall commence with an open forum, intended as an opportunity for informal public consultation on a broad cross-cutting range of local issues. The remainder of the Area Committee meeting will have a more formal decision-making and advisory structure.
- (c) **Delegations.** The Council and the Cabinet will include details of any delegations to Area Committees in Part 3 of this Constitution.

10.03 Access to Information

Area Committees will comply with the Access to Information Procedure Rules in Part 4 of this Constitution and with the Committee Procedure Rules in Part 4 except where this would be inconsistent with the Protocol on Area Committees.

10.04 Cabinet Members on Area Committees

A member of the Cabinet may serve on the Area Committee if otherwise eligible to do so as a councillor. A Cabinet Member may not serve as a Chair of an Area Committee because of the Chair's membership of Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

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Article 11 - Joint Arrangements

11.01 Arrangements to promote well being

The Leader, or the Cabinet with the Leader's agreement, in order to promote the economic, social or environmental well-being of its area, may:

- (a) Enter into arrangements or agreements with any person or body;
- (b) Co-operate with, or facilitate or co-ordinate the activities of, any person or body; and
- (c) Exercise on behalf of that person or body any functions of that person or body.

11.02 Joint arrangements

- (a) The Council may establish joint arrangements with one or more local authorities and/or their Executives to exercise functions that are not Executive functions in any of the participating authorities, or to advise the Council. Such arrangements may involve the appointment of a joint committee or board within these other local authorities. The Council may, where the legislation allows, also establish other joint arrangements with, for example, health service organisations. These other arrangements are called "boards" in this Constitution.
- (b) The Council may establish joint arrangements with one or more local authorities and their Executives to exercise functions that are partly Executive and partly Non-Executive ("mixed functions"). Such arrangements may involve the appointment of a joint committee or board with these other local authorities or bodies. Where the Council appoints only one Member to such a joint committee, that Member may be, but need not be, a Cabinet Member. Where the Council appoints more than one Member to such a joint committee, at least one of them shall be a Cabinet Member.
- (c) The Leader, or the Cabinet with the Leader's agreement, may establish joint arrangements with the Executives of one or more local authorities or other organisations to exercise functions that are Executive functions or to advise the Cabinet. Such arrangements may involve the appointment of joint committees or boards with these other local authorities or bodies. The Leader, or the Cabinet with the Leader's agreement, may, where the legislation allows, also establish other joint arrangements with, for example, health service organisations.

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- (d) Except as set out below, the Leader or the Cabinet may only appoint Cabinet Members to a joint committee or board and those members need not reflect the political composition of the local authority as a whole.
- (e) The Leader, or the Cabinet with the Leader's agreement, may appoint Members to a joint committee or board from outside the Cabinet in the circumstances where the joint committee has functions for only part of the area of the authority, and that area is smaller than two-fifths of the authority by area or population. In such cases, the Cabinet may appoint to the joint committee any councillor who is a member for a ward that is wholly or partly contained within the area. The political balance requirements do not apply to such appointments.
- (f) Details of any existing joint arrangements including any delegations to joint committees will be found at the end of this Article.

11.03 Access to information

- (a) The Access to Information Rules in Part 4 of this Constitution apply.
- (b) If all the members of a joint committee or board are members of the Cabinet in each of the participating authorities then the access to information rules relating to the Executive in the Local Government Act 2000 will apply.
- (c) If the joint committee or board contains members who are not on the Cabinet of any participating authority then the access to information rules in Part VA of the Local Government Act 1972 will apply.

11.04 Delegation to and from other local authorities

- (a) The Council may delegate non-Executive functions to another local authority or, in certain circumstances, the Executive of another local authority.
- (b) The Leader, or the Cabinet with the Leader's agreement, may delegate Executive functions to another local authority or the Executive of another local authority in certain circumstances.
- (c) The decision whether or not to accept such a delegation from another local authority shall be reserved to the Council meeting in the case of non-executive or mixed functions and to the Leader, or the Cabinet with the Leader's agreement, in the case of executive functions.

11.05 Delegation to and from other organisations

- (a) The Council may delegate non-Executive functions to other organisations or boards where legislation allows.
- (b) The Leader, or the Cabinet with the Leader's agreement, may delegate Executive functions to other organisations or boards where legislation allows.
- (c) The decision whether or not to accept such a delegation from another organisation or board shall be reserved to the Council in the case of non-executive or mixed functions and to the Leader, or the Cabinet with the Leader's agreement, in the case of executive functions.
- (d) The Leader, or the Cabinet with the Leader's agreement, may appoint other Cabinet members to act as the Leader's representatives and to exercise executive functions at meetings of the Haringey Strategic Partnership (HSP) and its subordinate bodies. Decisions taken by a Cabinet Member or Members in this way will have immediate effect. For the avoidance of doubt, the same will apply where the Leader sits in person as a member of the HSP or its subordinate bodies.

11.06 Contracting out

The Council for non-executive functions, and the Leader, or the Cabinet with the Leader's agreement, for executive functions, may contract out to another body or organisation functions which may be exercised by an officer and which are subject to an order under section 70 of the Delegation and Contracting Out Act 1994, or under contracting arrangements where the contractor acts as the Council's agent under usual contracting principles, provided there is no delegation of the Council's discretionary decision-making.

11.07 London Councils Arrangements for Co-ordinating Response to Emergencies

- (a) The Council and Cabinet have resolved to delegate their powers under section 138 of the Local Government Act 1972 (power to incur expenditure to avert or alleviate the effects of an emergency or disaster) to an outside Chief Executive appointed to co-ordinate the response of London local authorities to a major incident or a lesser emergency. This "L.A. Gold" will be appointed under arrangements approved by Central Government, London Councils and the London Resilience Team.

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- (b) Where an incident, emergency or other event emerges over a period of time (such as a pandemic or extreme weather), and where the Gold Co-ordination Group ("Gold Command") may not have been convened, L.A. Gold will be empowered on behalf of the London local authorities to co-ordinate any local authority response, as necessary, providing advice and guidance as required. In these circumstances L.A. Gold will not have power to incur expenditure or to exercise delegated powers unless authorised under paragraphs (c)(ii), (d)(ii) or (e) below.
- (c) The delegation of powers under section 138 of the Local Government Act 1972 to L.A. Gold will only have effect in the following circumstances:
 - (i) after the convening of Gold Command, normally led by the Police, in response to the declaration of a major incident, or
 - (ii) for other disruptive events such as extreme weather which do not require the convening of Gold Command, after the convening of a London Partnership Meeting, normally led by the London Resilience Team, provided that the agreement of London Councils (under delegated powers) is also secured.
- (d) Subject to paragraph (e) below, L.A. Gold will only have power to incur expenditure once:
 - (i) the Minister of State confirms that H.M. Government will reimburse expenditure reasonably incurred by L.A. Gold in taking immediate action to safeguard life or property or to prevent suffering or severe inconvenience, or
 - (ii) The Council or Councils in whose area the incident occurs confirm that it/they will reimburse expenditure incurred for the purposes in (i) above.
- (e) In the event that L.A. Gold has not been able to receive confirmation from the Council(s) in whose area the incident has occurred that expenditure will be reimbursed, and where it is absolutely essential for L.A. Gold to incur expenditure for the purposes in paragraph (d)(i) above, or to promote community cohesion and a return to normality, it has been agreed that the Council(s) affected will meet that expenditure provide it is kept to minimum levels and does not exceed £1 million in total while confirmation of reimbursement is being sought.

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- (f) All Council officers are authorised to take any action in accordance with instructions issued by the appointed L.A. Gold under the arrangements described above.

11.08 Outside Bodies

- (a) Introduction
 - (i) The Council has nomination rights to a large number of different external bodies (referred to as "organisations"). The practice of making nominations to organisations is a benefit to the Council and the links created contribute to the social well-being of the Borough. Some of these arrangements involve the formal delegation of the Council's powers to organisations but this is not true in most cases.
 - (ii) These organisations can be categorised as follows:
 - (A) "Association bodies" e.g. Local Government Association or Association of London Government joint committees and panels,
 - (B) "Statutory bodies" i.e. where Haringey needs to be represented by law, for example, the Alexandra Park & Palace Advisory Committee,
 - (C) "Partnership bodies" which usually involve the Council working with other agencies on local issues or projects, for example, the Haringey Strategic Partnership,
 - (D) "Trusts and Foundations" which generally have more specific and prescribed objectives, for example, the Tottenham Grammar School Foundation, and
 - (E) "Voluntary/Community bodies" which cover a very wide spectrum of organisations serving the community, or community groups, in various ways.
 - (F) "School Governing bodies" are independent organisations but the precise relationship to the Council varies according to the type of School.
- (b) Nominations Procedure
 - (i) Nominations to all organisations will be made or confirmed at each Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Council. In the case of Association and "Partnership" bodies, which mainly exercise "executive" functions at present, nominations of Cabinet Members will be made by the Leader, or the Cabinet with the Leader's agreement, and merely recorded in the complete list approved at the AGM.
 - (ii) The capacity in which Members are nominated, the duration of the appointment and any other relevant terms and conditions

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will be set out in the report to the AGM and recorded in the minutes. Nominations will be stated as being made "at the request of the Council".

- (iii) A full list of existing and newly nominated or appointed Councillors will be presented to the next meeting of full Council after the AGM setting out the name of the organisation, terms of appointment and status or capacity of the Councillor within the organisation.
 - (iv) Future nominations to voluntary or community bodies will generally be in a non-voting, "observer" capacity only, in order to avoid the greater potential for conflicts of interest. Nominated Members will not participate in management or decision-making within the organisation. Their role will be to assist in the exchange of information and views between the organisation and the Council.
 - (v) Nominations to other organisations will generally be in a full, voting capacity i.e. the Member should participate fully in management and decision making within the organisation, as appropriate, and should vote at its management committee. Exceptions would be made where the organisation so requested or its own constitution or ground rules so required. Nominations to trusts, for example, would have to be in a full, voting (not an "observer") capacity since the purpose of the nomination would be for the Member to have a decision making role.
- (c) Members' Conduct
- (i) The Members' Code of Conduct, as set out in the Council's Constitution, applies to Members' activities as representatives in any capacity on any outside body.
 - (ii) In addition, nominated Members will be required to observe the Constitution or rules of the organisation itself, except in so far as there might, unusually, be a conflict with the Council's Members' Code of Conduct. Members should seek advice from the Monitoring Officer if they think that any such conflict could arise.
 - (iii) Members may also be under legal duties imposed in respect of their roles in specific types of organisation e.g. as Directors of Limited Companies or as Charity Trustees. Further Guidance will be available to Members outside the text of this Constitution.

Article 12 – Officers

12.01 Management Structure

- (a) General. The Council may engage such staff (referred to as officers) as it considers necessary to carry out its functions.
- (b) Chief Officers. The Council will engage persons for the following directorates, who will be designated chief officers:

DIRECTORATE	SERVICES
URBAN ENVIRONMENT	<i>Planning Enforcement Streetscene Regeneration Housing Neighbourhood Regeneration Delivery (SRB) Capital Programme</i>
CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE	<i>Children & families School standards & inclusion Service delivery & performance Business support & development</i>
ADULTS COMMUNITY SERVICES &	<i>Adults Older People Recreation Libraries, Museums Adult Learning</i>
POLICY, PERFORMANCE, PARTNERSHIPS, COMMUNICATIONS	<i>Improvement & performance Partnerships Strategy & Policy development Knowledge management Communications, consultation & reputation Community engagement Safer Communities, equalities Emergency Planning</i>
CORPORATE RESOURCES	<i>Benefits & Local Taxation Corporate Finance Corporate Procurement Audit & Risk Management Property IT Legal Customer Services</i>

DIRECTORATE	SERVICES
PEOPLE ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT	& Organisational Development Personnel Learning & Development Local democracy & Member Services Health, safety

- (c) Head of Paid Service, Monitoring Officer and Chief Financial Officer.

The Council will designate the following posts:

Head of Paid Service
Monitoring Officer
Chief Financial Officer

Such posts will have functions described in Article 12.02 - 12.04 below.

- (d) **Structure.** The Head of Paid Service will determine and publicise a description of the overall departmental structure of the Council showing the management structure and deployment of officers. This is set out in Appendix D to this Constitution.

12.02 Functions of the Head of Paid Service

- (a) **Discharge of functions by the Council.** The Head of Paid Service will report to full Council on the manner in which the discharge of the Council's functions is co-ordinated, the number and grade of officers required for the discharge of functions and the organisation of officers.
- (b) **Restrictions on functions.** The Head of Paid Service may not be the Monitoring Officer but may hold the post of Chief Financial Officer if a qualified accountant.

12.03 Functions of the Monitoring Officer

- (a) **Maintaining the Constitution.** The Monitoring Officer will maintain an up-to-date version of the Constitution and will ensure that it is widely available for consultation by Members, staff and the public.
- (b) **Ensuring lawfulness and fairness of decision making.** After consulting with the Head of Paid Service and Chief Financial Officer, the Monitoring Officer will report to the full Council or to the Cabinet in relation to an Executive function if he or she

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considers that any omission would give rise to unlawfulness or if any decision or omission has given rise to maladministration. Such a report will have the effect of stopping the proposal or decision being implemented until the report has been considered.

- (c) **Contributing to corporate management.** The Monitoring Officer will contribute to the corporate management of the Council
- (d) **Supporting the Standards Committee.** The Monitoring Officer will contribute to the promotion and maintenance of high standards of conduct through provision of support to the Standards Committee. The Monitoring Officer will be responsible for making periodic statutory returns of information to the Standards Board for England.
- (e) **Receiving reports.** The Monitoring Officer will receive and act on reports made by ethical standards officers and decisions of the case tribunals.
- (f) **Conducting investigations.** The Monitoring Officer, or investigators appointed by him/her in consultation with the Chair of the Standards Committee, will conduct investigations into matters referred by ethical standards officers or by the Standards Committee or one of its sub-committees and make reports on recommendations in respect of them to the Standards Committee.
- (g) **Proper officer for access to information.** The Head of Local Democracy & Member Services shall ensure that Cabinet and other Executive decisions, together with the reasons for those decisions and relevant officer reports and background papers are made publicly available as soon as possible. The Monitoring Officer will advise and assist to ensure the proper performance of these functions.
- (h) **Advising whether Cabinet decisions are within the budget and policy framework.** The Monitoring Officer and the Chief Financial Officer will advise whether decisions of the Cabinet are in accordance with the budget and policy framework.
- (i) **Providing advice.** The Monitoring Officer will provide advice on the scope of powers and authority to take decisions, maladministration, financial impropriety, probity and budget and policy framework issues to all councillors. The monitoring officer will report on new and amended legislation to Council so that Members can consider the effects on services and the possible need to amend the scheme of delegations.

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- (j) **Restrictions on posts.** The Monitoring Officer cannot be the chief finance officer or the head of paid service.

12.04 Functions of the Chief Financial Officer

- (a) **Ensuring lawfulness and financial prudence of decision making.** After consulting with the Head of Paid Service and the Monitoring Officer, the Chief Financial Officer will report to the full Council or to the Cabinet in relation to an Cabinet function and the Council's external auditor if he or she considers that any proposal, decision or course of action will involve incurring unlawful expenditure, or is unlawful and is likely to cause a loss of deficiency or if the Council is about to enter an item of account unlawfully.
- (b) **Administration of financial affairs.** The Chief Financial Officer will have responsibility for the administration of the financial affairs of the Council.
- (c) **Contributing to corporate management.** The Chief Financial Officer will contribute to the corporate management of the Council, in particular thorough the provision of professional financial advice.
- (d) **Providing advice.** The Chief Financial Officer will provide advice on the scope of powers and authority to take decisions, maladministration, financial impropriety, probity and budget and policy framework issues to all councillors and will support and advise councillors and officers in their respective roles.
- (e) **Give financial information.** The Chief Financial Officer will provide financial information to the media, members of the public and the community.

12.05 Duty to provide sufficient resources to the Monitoring Officer and the Chief Financial Officer

The Council will provide the Monitoring Officer and Chief Financial Officer with such officers, accommodation and other resources as are in their opinion sufficient to allow their duties to be performed.

12.06 Conduct

Officers will comply with the Officers' Code of Conduct and the Protocol on Officer/Member Relations set out in Part 5 of this Constitution.

12.07 Employment

The recruitment, selection and dismissal of officers will comply with the Officer Employment Rules set out in Part 4 of this Constitution.

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Article 13 - Decision Making

13.01 Responsibility for decision making

The Council will issue and keep up to date a record of what part of the Council or individual has responsibility for particular types of decision or decisions relating to particular areas of functions. This record is set out in Part 3 of this Constitution or an Appendix to it.

13.02 Principles of decision making

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

- (a) proportionality (i.e. the action must be proportionate to the desired outcome);
- (b) due consultation and the taking of professional advice from officers;
- (c) respect for human rights in particular, giving consideration to such issues at an early stage in the process;
- (d) a presumption in favour of openness; and
- (e) clarity of aims and desired outcomes.

Furthermore, the Council will explain what options were considered and give reasons for the decision.

13.03 Types of decision

- (a) Decisions reserved to full Council. Decisions relating to the functions listed in Article 4 will be made by the full Council and not delegated.
- (b) Key decisions.

A key decision is a Cabinet decision which is likely:

- (i) to result in the local authority incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the local authority's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates; or
- (ii) to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the area of the local authority.

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A decision taker may only make a key decision in accordance with the requirements of the Cabinet Procedure Rules set out in Part 4, the Access to Information Procedure Rules set out in Part 4 and the Protocol for Key Decisions set out in Part 5.

13.04 Decision making by the Full Council

Subject to Article 4 the Council meeting will follow Procedure Rules set out in Part 4 of this Constitution when considering any matter.

13.05. Decision making by the Cabinet

Subject to Article 7 the Cabinet will follow the Cabinet Procedures Rules set out in Part 4 of this Constitution when considering any matter.

13.06 Decision making by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Subject to Article 6, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will follow the Overview and Scrutiny Procedures Rules set out in Part 4 of this Constitution when considering any matter.

13.07 Decision making by the other Committees and Sub-Committees established by the Council

Subject to Article 8, other Council Committees and Sub-Committees will follow those parts of the Standing Orders set out in Part 4 of this Constitution as apply to them.

13.08 Decision making by Chief Officers

Subject to Article 12, Chief Officers shall follow the scheme of delegation, as set out in Part 3 of this Constitution and any Appendix to it, when considering any matter.

13.09 Decision making by Council bodies acting as tribunals

The Council, a councillor or an officer acting as a tribunal or in a quasi-judicial manner or determining/considering (other than for the purposes of giving advice) the civil rights and obligations or the criminal responsibility of any person will follow a proper procedure which accords with the requirements of natural justice and the right to a fair trial contained in Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

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Article 14 - Finance, Contracts and Legal Matters

14.01 Financial management

The management of the Council's financial affairs will be conducted in accordance with the Financial Procedure Rules set out in Part 4 of this Constitution.

14.02 Contracts

Every contract made by the Council will comply with the Contracts Procedure Rules set out in Part 4 of this Constitution.

14.03 Legal proceedings

The Head of Legal Services is authorised to institute, defend or participate in any legal proceedings in any case where such action is necessary to give effect to decisions of the Council or in any case where the Head of Legal Services considers that such action is necessary to protect the Council's interests.

14.04 Authentication of documents

Where any document is necessary to any legal procedure or proceedings on behalf of the Council, it will be signed by the Head of Legal Services or other person authorised by him/her, unless any enactment otherwise authorises or requires, or the Council has given requisite authority to some other person.

Any contract shall comply with the Council's Contract Standing Orders as outlined in Part 4 of this Constitution.

14.05 Common Seal of the Council

The Common Seal of the Council will be kept in a safe place in the custody of the Head of Legal Services. A decision of the Council, or of any part of it, will be sufficient authority for sealing any document necessary to give effect to the decision. The Common Seal will be affixed to those documents which in the opinion of the Head of Legal Services should be sealed or where required by the Contract Procedure Rules in Part 4 of this Constitution. The affixing of the Common Seal will be attested by the Head of Legal Services or some other person authorised by him/her either in relation to a specific document or to particular categories of documents.

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Article 15 - Review and Revision of the Constitution

15.01 Duty to monitor and review the Constitution

The Monitoring Officer will monitor and review the operation of the Constitution to ensure that the aims and principles of the Constitution are given full effect.

15.02 Protocol for monitoring and review of Constitution by monitoring officer

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 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:

- (a) Observe meetings of different parts of the member and officer structure;
- (b) Undertake an audit trail of a sample of decisions;
- (c) Record and analyse issues raised with him/her by Members, officers, the public and other relevant stakeholders; and
- (d) Compare practices in this authority with those in other comparable authorities, or national examples of best practice.

15.03 Changes to the Constitution

- (a) **Approval.** Changes to the Constitution, including the Scheme of Members' Allowances, will only be approved by the full Council after recommendation of the proposal by an informal Member group convened by the Leader and following advice from the Monitoring Officer save that authority is delegated to the Monitoring Officer to make any changes required as a result of legislative change or decisions of the Council or Cabinet to further enable him / her to maintain it up to date.
- (b) **Change from a Leader and Cabinet form of Executive to alternative arrangements, or vice versa.** The Council must take reasonable steps to consult with local electors and other interested persons in the area when drawing up proposals. If the proposals were to change the Executive Arrangements to a form with an elected Mayor, then a local referendum would be required.

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Article 16 - Suspension, Interpretation and Publication of the Constitution

16.01 Suspension of the Constitution

- (a) **Limit to suspension.** The Articles of this Constitution may not be suspended. The Rules specified below may be suspended by the full Council to the extent permitted within those Rules and the law.
- (b) **Procedure to suspend.** A motion to suspend any Rule will not be moved without notice unless at least one half of the whole number of councillors are present. The extent and duration of suspension will be proportionate to the result to be achieved, taking account of the purposes of the Constitution set out in Article 1.

16.02 Interpretation

The ruling of the Mayor (or other person presiding in the Mayor's absence) as to the construction or application of this Constitution or as to any proceedings of the Council shall not be challenged at any meeting of the Council. Such interpretation will have regard to the purposes of this Constitution contained in Article 1.

16.03 Publication

- (a) The Constitution is available on the Council's website. The Chief Executive will give on request a printed copy of this Constitution to a Member of the authority.
- (b) The Chief Executive will ensure that copies are available for inspection at council offices, libraries and other appropriate locations, and can be purchased by members of the local press and the public on payment of a reasonable fee. The Chief Executive will ensure that the summary of the Constitution is made widely available within the area and is updated as necessary.