

ARTICLE 1 - THE CONSTITUTION

1 Powers of the Council

- 1.1 The Council will exercise all its powers and duties in accordance with the law and this Constitution. This Constitution and all its parts as listed on the contents page is the Constitution of the City of York Council.
- 1.2 Any reference in this Constitution to particular statutory provisions, or subsidiary legislation, shall include any subsequent statutory provisions or subsidiary legislation, which either replicates or substantially replicates any of those particular statutory provisions or subsidiary legislation.

2 Purpose of the Constitution

- 2.1 The purpose of the Constitution is to provide a framework, which will:
- (a) enable the Council to provide clear leadership to the community in partnership with citizens and other stakeholders;
 - (b) support the active involvement of citizens in the process of local authority decision-making;
 - (c) help Councillors represent their constituents 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 one 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 give** reasons for **their** decisions;
 - (h) provide a means of improving the delivery of services to the community; and

- (i) ensure that the Council promotes the Sustainable Community Strategy and its Council Plan by working in partnership with others to provide the best possible outcomes for the citizens of York.

3 Interpretation and Review of the Constitution

- 3.1 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 purpose stated above.
- 3.2 The Council will monitor and evaluate the operation of the Constitution as set out in Article 16.
- 3.3 Where the provisions of this Constitution require interpretation, such interpretation will be undertaken by the ~~Assistant Director Legal and Governance~~Director of Governance and in his/her absence by the Head of Civic, ~~and~~ Democratic & Scrutiny Services.