

ARTICLE 1 – THE CONSTITUTION

1.1 POWERS OF THE COUNCIL

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

1.2 PURPOSE OF THE COUNCIL

The primary purposes of the Council are set out in its Best Council Plan. In delivering these objectives the Council will ensure the:

- operation of clear, accountable and efficient decision-making processes;
- design, securing and delivery of services which put the needs of the public first, are non-discriminatory and are appropriate to the different needs within the community; including having arrangements to make information accessible in appropriate formats if required;
- prioritisation of services and targeting resources to communities and individuals in greatest need;
- provision of an opportunity for citizens to get involved and make their views heard;
- resolution of the major issues confronting the city through effective partnerships with other public, private and voluntary organisations;
- consideration of the long-term implications of decisions on the environmental, social and economic well-being of the City; and
- consideration of the impact of decisions upon the City's diverse and disadvantaged communities and the positive promotion of equality of opportunity.

1.3 THE CONSTITUTION

This Constitution, (Parts 1 – 7), is the Constitution of Leeds City Council.

1.4 THE PURPOSE OF THE CONSTITUTION

The Constitution sets out everything anyone who has dealings with the Council would need to know about how the Council conducts its business, who takes which decisions and how to work with the Council.

The purpose of the Constitution, therefore, is to:

- enable the Council to provide visible, accountable and effective leadership to the community in partnership with citizens, businesses and other organisations;

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- support the active involvement of citizens in the process of local authority decision-making;
- help Councillors represent their constituents more effectively;
- enable decisions to be taken efficiently and effectively;
- create a powerful and effective means of holding decision-makers to public account;
- ensure that no-one will review or scrutinise a decision in which they were directly involved;
- ensure that those responsible for decision making are clearly identifiable to local people and they explain the reasons for decisions; and
- provide a means of improving the delivery of services to the community.

1.5 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.