

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 rules will not be moved without notice unless at least two-thirds 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.

(c) **Rules capable of suspension.** The following Rules may be suspended in accordance with Article 16.01 and 16.02:

- Council Procedure Rules
- Access to Information Procedure Rules
- Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules
- Executive Procedure Rules
- Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules
- Financial Procedure Rules
- Contracts Procedure Rules [may also be suspended by the Cabinet in accordance with Part 3 of this Constitution]
- Officer Employment Procedure Rules.

16.02 Interpretation

The ruling of the Mayor, on the advice of the Head of Paid Service, as to the construction or application of this Constitution or as to any proceedings of the Council shall be final. Such interpretation will have regard to the purposes of this Constitution contained in Article 1.

16.03 Publication

- (a) The Head of Paid Service will give a printed copy of this Constitution to each Member of the authority upon delivery to him/her of that individual's declaration of acceptance of office on the Member first being elected to the Council.
- (b) The Head of Paid Service 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.
- (c) The Head of Paid Service will ensure that the summary of the Constitution is made widely available within the area and is updated as necessary.

Schedule 1: Description of Executive Arrangements

The following parts of this Constitution constitute the Executive arrangements:

1. Article 6 (Overview and Scrutiny Committees) and the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules;
2. Article 7 (The Executive) and the Executive Procedure Rules;
3. Article 10 (Area Committees and Forums);
4. Article 11 (Joint arrangements);
5. Article 13 (Decision making) and the Access to Information Procedure Rules;
6. Part 3 (Responsibility for Functions and Scheme of Delegation).