

West Suffolk Shadow Council

Article 1 – The Constitution

1.1 Powers of the Shadow Council

The Shadow Council will exercise all its powers and duties in accordance with the law, the provisions of the Implementation Order and this Constitution.

1.2 The Constitution

This Constitution, and all its appendices, is the Constitution of the Shadow Council.

1.3 Purpose of the Constitution

The purpose of the Constitution is to:

- a) Provide clarity on how decisions will be made to prepare for West Suffolk Council to take the functions, powers and responsibilities of Forest Heath District Council and St Edmundsbury Borough Council on 1 April 2019
- b) Demonstrate how Forest Heath District Council and St Edmundsbury Borough Council will perform their duty to co-operate;
- c) support the active involvement of local people in the Shadow Council's decision-making process;
- 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 reasons for decisions; and
- h) provide a means of improving the delivery of services.

1.4 Interpretation and review of the Constitution

1.4.1 The Rules of Procedure which form Part 4 of the Constitution provide mechanisms for interpreting and operating the Constitution, including in cases of dispute.

1.4.2 In the Constitution, the term 'Cabinet' should be taken to mean 'Executive' (and vice versa).

1.4.3 Where the Constitution permits the Shadow Council to choose between different courses of action, the Shadow Council will choose the option which it thinks will be most likely to achieve the purposes set out in 1.3 above.

1.4.4 The Shadow Council will monitor and evaluate the operation of the Constitution as set out in Article 14.