

ARTICLE 15 - SUSPENSION, INTERPRETATION, MAINTENANCE AND PUBLICATION OF THE CONSTITUTION

The amendment in red is proposed for consistency with the draft Committee Procedure Rules.

15.1 Suspension of the Constitution

15.1.1 **Limit to suspension** - The articles of this constitution may not be suspended. Any rules of procedure, except those required by law, may be suspended to the extent permitted within those rules and the law.

15.1.2 **Procedure to suspend** - A motion to suspend any rules will not be moved without notice unless at least one half of the total number of Councillors entitled to be present is present. The extent and duration of suspension will be proportionate to the results to be achieved, taking into account the purposes of this Constitution set out in Article 1.

~~15.1.3 No Committee or Sub-Committee or the Cabinet shall have power to suspend any Rules of Procedure, but may resolve to recommend the Council to suspend in special circumstances which shall be stated in the resolution.~~

15.2 Interpretation of the Constitution

15.2.1 The ruling of the [Mayor/Chairman] (or in his/her absence the [Deputy Mayor/Vice Chairman]) on the interpretation of this Constitution in relation 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.

15.3 Maintaining the Constitution

15.3.1 The Monitoring Officer will ensure that there are periodic operational reviews of this Constitution.

15.3.2 The Monitoring Officer will also ensure that an up-to-date version of this Constitution is maintained and that it is widely available for consultation by Members, staff and the public, as set out in Article 15.4 below.

15.4 Publication of the Constitution

15.4.1 The Monitoring Officer will make available an electronic copy of this Constitution to each councillor upon delivery of that individual's declaration of acceptance of office on the councillor first being elected to the Council.

15.4.2 The Monitoring Officer will ensure that the constitution is published on the council's website in a form that can be downloaded and 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 public on payment of a reasonable fee.

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