

Forest Heath District Council

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 The Constitution

This Constitution, and all its appendices, is the Constitution of the Forest Heath District Council.

1.3 Purpose of the Constitution

The purpose of the Constitution is to:

- a) enable the Council to provide clear leadership to the community in partnership with local people, businesses and other organisations and in accordance with the Council's vision and priorities;
- b) support the active involvement of local people in the Council's decision-making process;
- c) help councillors represent people in their wards more 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 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 the other way round).

1.4.3 Where the Constitution permits the Council to choose between different courses of action, the 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 Council will monitor and evaluate the operation of the Constitution as set out in Article 14.