

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 (Part 1 – The Articles, and Part 2 – Key Supporting Documents) is the Constitution of the London Borough of Barnet.

1.3 Purpose of the Constitution

- Enable the Council to provide clear leadership to the community in partnership with residents, businesses and other organisations;
- Provide a means of improving the delivery of services to the community;
- Enable the Council itself, or in partnership with others, to provide high quality services through making arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way its functions are exercised; having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness, as well as to statutory requirements.
- Support the active involvement of residents 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 in making;
- Ensure that those responsible for decision-making are clearly identifiable to local people and that they explain the reasons for decisions.

1.4 **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, evaluate and may amend the operation of the Constitution as set out in Article 12.

1.5 **Suspension of the Constitution**

Limit to suspension. The Articles of this Constitution may not be suspended. Any of the Rules within Part 2 of the Constitution may be suspended by the Full Council.