

Article 4 – The Full Council

4.1 Role and Function

The Full Council is a formal meeting of all Councillors and is required by law to take certain important decisions as set out below. Full Council also approves a number of key plans and strategies, which together form the Policy Framework:

- Approving the strategic financing of the council upon recommendations of the Policy and Resources Committee
- Determination of the Financial Strategy
- Approval of the Budget
- Approval of the Capital Programme
- Setting the Council Tax
- Determination of borrowing limits
- Adopting and changing the Constitution (unless delegated)
- Approving and adopting the Policy Framework
- Delegating/receiving functions to/from other councils or their Executives
- Adopting a Members' Allowance Scheme
- Agreeing and amending the terms of reference of committees, deciding their composition and making appointments to them
- Electing chairs and vice-chairs of committees
- Conferring the title of Freeman of the Borough
- Confirming the appointment or dismissal of the Head of Paid Service
- Byelaws and dealing with local legislation or private bills
- Electing the Leader of the Council and the Mayor
- Approval of annual pay statement
- Housing Land Transfers
- Appointment of Lead Members, Member Champions and Lead Officers for particular subject matters
- Approving Member and officer appointments to outside bodies and external organisations on the recommendation of the Group Secretaries or Chief Executive
- Make decisions on matters normally reserved to committees (except for planning and licensing matters) where an urgent decision is required or where the matter is so significant that it requires all Members to determine. Determination of whether a matter is urgent or significant will be made by Mayor and Chair of relevant committee in consultation with Leader and relevant chief officer.

The Full Council provides a central forum for debate and gives the opportunity for Councillors to ask questions about the Council or matters affecting the Council.

4.2 Meanings

(a) Policy Framework.

- Safer Communities Strategy

- Sustainable Community Strategy
- Development Plan Documents comprising the Local Plan
- Adoption of Neighbourhood Development Plans, Neighbourhood Development Orders and Community Right to Build Orders
- Statement of Licensing Policy
- Statement of Gambling Licensing Policy
- Local Implementation Plan

(b) **Budget.**

The budget includes the allocation of financial resources to different services and projects, proposed contingency funds, setting the council tax base and Council Tax, decisions relating to the control of the Council's borrowing requirement, the control of its capital expenditure and the setting of virement limits.

(c) **Housing Land Transfer.**

Housing Land Transfer means the approval or adoption of applications to the Secretary of State for approval of a programme of disposal of 500 or more properties to a person under the Leasehold Reform, Housing and Urban Development Act 1993 or to dispose of land used for residential purposes where approval is required under the Housing Act 1985.

4.3 **Council Meetings**

There are three types of Council meeting:

- (a) the annual meeting;
- (b) ordinary meetings;
- (c) extraordinary meetings;

and they will be conducted in accordance with the Council Procedure Rules included within Part 2 of this Constitution.