

Article 1

The Constitution

Introduction

This Article sets out the fundamental provisions of the Constitution. It confirms that the Authority will act within the law and the provisions of this Constitution, and that the Authority will monitor and review its Constitution. It also provides for methods of changing the constitution, and for its publication.

1.1 Powers of the Council

1.1.1 The Council will exercise all its powers and duties in accordance with the law and this Constitution.

1.2 The Constitution

1.2.1 This Constitution, and all its appendices, is the Constitution of the Council of the London Borough of Barnet.

1.3 Purpose of the Constitution

1.3.1 The purpose and principles outlined in the Constitution seek to:

- enable the Council to provide clear leadership to the community;
- work in partnership with citizens, businesses and other organisations;
- support the active involvement of citizens 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;
- provide excellent standards of ethics and probity in decision making;
- ensure that those responsible for decision making are clearly identifiable to local people;
- explain the reasons for decisions; and
- provide a means of improving the delivery of services to the community.

1.4 Interpretation of the Constitution

1.4.1 The ruling of the Mayor as to the construction or application of this Constitution or as 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 this Article.

1.5 Review and Amendment of the Constitution

1.5.1 The Council will monitor and evaluate the operation of the Constitution and will amend it as appropriate.

1.5.2 Where changes must be approved by Full Council, the Monitoring Officer, having first consulted with the Leader of the political groups or their nominees, may present a report direct to Council proposing changes to the Constitution. Subject to any statutory requirements, the Codes and Protocols and other documents in Part 4 of the Constitution may be reported to the relevant committee prior to adoption by Full Council.

1.6 Publication

1.6.1 The constitution is published on the Council's website and updated when amendments are made.

1.7 Change from a Leader and Executive form of governance to alternative arrangements, or vice versa.

1.7.1 The Council must comply with any statutory requirements in relation to such changes.

1.8 Suspension of the Constitution

1.8.1 The Articles of this Constitution may not be suspended. Other Rules and Protocols may be suspended by the body to which they apply (or if no such body, by the Council) to the extent permitted within those Rules, and Protocols and the law.