

ARTICLE 15 - SUSPENSION, INTERPRETATION AND PUBLICATION OF THE CONSTITUTION

15.1. Suspension of the Constitution

(a) Limit to Suspension

The Articles of this Constitution may not be suspended. The Procedure Rules contained in Part 4 of this Constitution may be suspended by the Full Council to the extent permitted within those Rules and the law.

(b) Procedure to Suspend

A motion to suspend any Rules will not be moved without notice unless at least one half of the whole number of Councillors are present. The extent and duration of suspension will be proportionate to the result to be achieved, taking account of the purposes of the Constitution as set out in Article 1.

15.2. Interpretation

(a) 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 Article 1.

(b) The headings do not form part of the Constitution document and are not to be taken into account in its construction or interpretation.

(c) For the purposes of this Constitution, any reference to clear working days, shall refer to days on which the Council Offices are open to the public but shall exclude both the day on which notice is given and the day of the meeting.

(d) For the purposes of this Constitution, any reference to clear days shall exclude Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays and shall also exclude both the day on which notice is given and the day of the meeting.

(e) Reference in this Constitution to the Chief Executive shall be construed as reference to the Deputy Chief Executive or Head of Service on any occasion when the Chief Executive is absent or unable to act.

(f) Reference in this Constitution to the Leader shall be construed as reference to the Deputy Leader on any occasion when the Leader is absent or unable to act. If the Deputy Leader is unable to act or the office is vacant, the Cabinet must act in the Leader's place or arrange for a Member of the Cabinet to do so.

(g) References in this Constitution to a Cabinet Member or Portfolio Holder shall be construed as reference to the Chair of the Cabinet on any occasion when that Cabinet Member or Portfolio Holder is absent or unable to act.

15.3. Publication

(a) The Head of Legal, Democracy and HR will give a copy of this Constitution to each Member of the authority upon delivery to them of that individual's declaration of acceptance of office on the Member first being elected to the Council.

- (b) The Head of Legal, Democracy and HR will ensure 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 the public on payment of a reasonable fee.
- (c) The Head of Legal, Democracy and HR will ensure that the summary of the Constitution is made widely available within the area and is updated as necessary.