

Constitution

1. Introduction to How the Council Works

(Pages 1 - 4)

- The County Council members, officers and citizens' rights
- The County Council and how decisions are made (including principles of decision making, Cabinet Decisions, definition of Key Decisions, definition of Scrutiny)

2. The Constitution

(Pages 5 - 8)

- Role, Purpose and Interpretation of the Constitution
- Review of the Constitution
- Suspension of the Constitution
- Publication of the Constitution

3. Members of the County Council

(Pages 9 - 46)

- Composition, eligibility, election and terms of councillors
- Roles, functions, rights and responsibilities of all councillors
- Members Code of Conduct
- Guidance on Member/Officer Relations
- Members' Allowances Scheme
- Parental Leave Policy and Procedure for Members

4. Citizens and the Council

(Pages 47 - 54)

- Citizen's Rights including complaints
- Petitions Scheme

5. Full Council

(Pages 55 - 64)

- Purpose and Functions of Full Council (including Local Choice Functions)
- Council Meetings (Including chairing meetings)
- Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules

6. Cabinet

(Pages 65 - 106)

- Executive Arrangements
- Appointment and terms of office of Leader of the Council, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Members
- Role of Cabinet, Cabinet Decisions and Cabinet Member Decisions
- Procedure at Cabinet Meetings (including Conflict of Interest etc)
- Consultation (including Boards)
- Cabinet Member Responsibilities (Including General Delegations)
- Local Choice Functions which are Cabinet Responsibilities
- Property Sub Committee
- County Farms Tenancies Panel
- Terms of Reference for Boards and Cabinet Sub-Committees
- The Shadow Cabinet

7. Select Committees

(Pages 107 - 120)

- General Role and Function of Select Committees
- Terms of Reference
- Membership and Cooption
- Meetings of Select Committees
- Work Programme and Budget
- Cabinet Member Accountability, Officers Giving Account, Attendance by others
- Policy Advisory Groups
- Policy Review, Scrutiny Reports, Rights of Members to Documents
- Call in

8. Other Committees

(Pages 121 - 136)

- Planning Committee
- Audit and Standards Committee
- Pensions Committee
- Charities and Trust Committee

9. All Party Working Groups

(Pages 137 - 138)

- Role and Purpose of All Party Member Groups
- Membership
- Meetings
- Agenda and Work Programmes
- Relationship between the All Party Working Groups and Select Committees

10. Joint Arrangements

- (Pages 139 150)
- Joint arrangements General principles
- Terms of Reference for existing arrangements.

11. Officers

(Pages 151 - 248)

- Management Structure
- Statutory Officers
- Conduct, Employment, Exercise of Delegated Powers and Finance, Legal and Contract matters
- Scheme of Delegation
- Local Code of Conduct for Officers
- Whistle blowing Policy
 - Whistleblowing Policy -Contact Officers List
- Anti-Fraud, Bribery and Theft Policy
- Officer Employment Rules

12. Procedural Standing Orders

(Pages 249 - 266)

13. Access to Information Procedure Rules

(Pages 267 - 278)

14. Financial Procedure Rules

(Pages 279 - 352)

- Financial Regulations
- Procurement Rules (including Contract Standing Orders)