

PART 2 – INTRODUCTION

1. THE CONSTITUTION

The council exercises its powers and duties in accordance with the law and this Constitution. The Constitution sets out how the council operates, how decisions are made and the procedures that are followed to ensure that they are efficient, transparent and accountable to local people.

The purpose of the Constitution is to:

- (a) enable the council to provide clear leadership to the Isle of Wight community in partnership with members of the public, businesses and other organisations
- (b) support the active involvement of the public in local authority decision-making
- (c) help councillors to represent their constituents
- (d) enable decisions to be taken efficiently and effectively
- (e) create a means of holding decision-makers to public account
- (f) ensure that decision-makers are clearly identifiable and that they explain the reasons for decisions

The Constitution is divided into the following sections:

Part 1 - Contents, Index and Glossary

A list of contents and an index. An explanation of the meaning of some of the expressions used in the Constitution set out in a glossary of terms.

Part 2 - Introduction

Setting out general information about what is included, the decision-making processes, how key parts of the council operate, members' key duties and the rights of the public to become involved.

Part 3 – Responsibility for Functions

Setting out how decisions are made, including the responsibilities and terms of reference of the council's committees and boards, including the Cabinet and other Executive functions.

Part 4 - Rules Governing How the Council Operates

Setting out detailed procedure rules (standing orders), covering how meetings operate, including Full Council, Cabinet, Scrutiny and other committees. Cabinet Member portfolios are set out here. It also sets out the Petition Scheme.

Part 5 - Codes and Protocols

Explaining how Councillors and staff of the council must conduct themselves according to the various codes of conduct and protocols, such as the Access to Information rules and the use of resources and gifts and hospitality.

Part 6 - Members Allowance Scheme

Setting out details of all the allowances that members are entitled to claim.