

Part 2

Articles of the Constitution

March 2018

Article 1 – The Constitution

1.01 Powers of the Council

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

1.02 The Constitution

This Constitution, and all its appendices, is the Constitution of the South Somerset District Council.

1.03 Purpose of the Council and the Constitution

The Council has adopted a corporate plan which sets out the council's ambition and focuses through the period 2016 - 2021. The plan puts a sharp focus on priorities and what we want to deliver within our available resources.

The Council's vision for South Somerset is: "A place where businesses flourish, communities are safe, vibrant and healthy; where residents enjoy good housing, leisure, cultural and sporting activities."

The five corporate aims are:

- Protect core services to the public by reducing costs and seeking income generation.
- Increase the focus on jobs and Economic Development.
- Protect and enhance the quality of our environment.
- Enable housing to meet all needs.
- Improve health and reduce health inequalities.

The purpose of the Constitution is to:

- enable the Council to provide clear leadership to the community in partnership with the public, businesses and other organisations;
- support the active involvement of the public 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;
- ensure that no one will review or scrutinise a decision in which they were directly involved;
- ensure that those responsible for decision making are clearly identifiable to local people and that they explain the reasons for decisions; and to

- provide a means of improving the delivery of services to the community.

1.04 Interpretation and Review of the Constitution

Where the Constitution permits the Council to choose between different courses of action, the Council will always choose that option which it thinks is closest to the purposes stated above.

The Council will monitor and evaluate the operation of the Constitution as set out in Article 15.