

Article 1 – The Constitution

1.1 Powers of the Council

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

1.2 The Constitution

This Constitution, and all its appendices, is the Constitution of the Norfolk County Council.

1.3 Purpose of the Constitution

The Purpose of the Constitution is to:

- i. enable decisions to be taken efficiently and effectively;
- ii. create a powerful and effective means of holding decision makers to public account;
- iii. ensure that no one will review or scrutinise a decision in which they were directly involved;
- iv. ensure that those responsible for decision making are clearly identifiable to local people and that they explain the reasons for decisions;
- v. support the active involvement of the public in the process of local authority decision-making;
- vi. provide a means of improving the delivery of services across Norfolk;
- vii. help Councillors represent their constituents effectively;
- viii. enable the Council to provide clear leadership to the community in partnership with the people of Norfolk, District, Town and Parish Councils, businesses and other organisations; and
- ix. to set out the respective responsibilities of members and officers of the Council and how they inter-relate.

1.4 Application and Review of the Constitution

Where the Constitution permits the Council to choose between different courses of action, the Council will aim to 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 14.

