

Article 11: Review and revision of the constitution

11.01 Duty to monitor and review the constitution

The Governance Committee will monitor and review the operation of the constitution to ensure that the aims and principles of the constitution are given full effect.

Protocol for monitoring and review of constitution

A key role for the Governance Committee is to be aware of the strengths and weaknesses of the constitution adopted by the Council, and to make recommendations for ways in which it could be amended in order better to achieve the purposes set out in Article 1. In undertaking this task the Governance Committee may:

- observe meetings of different parts of the member structure
- undertake an audit trail of a sample of decisions
- record and analyse issues raised by members, staff, the public and other relevant stakeholders, and
- compare practices in this authority with those in other comparable authorities, or national examples of best practice.

11.02 Changes to the constitution

(a) Approval

Changes to the constitution will be approved by the full Council only after consideration of the proposal by the Governance Committee.

(b) Change from a Leader form of executive to alternative arrangements or vice versa

The Council must take reasonable steps to consult with local electors and other interested persons in the area when drawing up proposals.

(c) Delegated powers of the Monitoring Officer

The Monitoring Officer shall have power to:

- amend the Constitution to correct errors or to comply with any legal requirement or to reflect organisational changes to the Council's structure
- insert recommendations made pursuant to a written report agreed by Council

- clarify the Constitution, make non-contentious amendments, insert obvious omissions or to comply with any accepted recommendations made by the Audit Commission, and/or any other government appointed inspection regime (on giving five working days' notice to Group Leaders and the other Members of the Governance Committee).

If the Monitoring Officer makes any such amendment to the constitution, he or she must notify the Governance Committee accordingly at the first reasonable opportunity.