

Article 18 – Review and Revision of the Constitution

18.01 Duty to monitor and review the constitution

The Monitoring Officer 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 by Monitoring Officer

A key role for the Monitoring Officer 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 Monitoring Officer may:

1. observe meetings of different parts of the Member and officer structure;
2. undertake an audit trail of a sample of decisions;
3. record and analyse issues raised with him/her by members, officers, the public and other relevant stakeholders; and
4. compare practices in this Authority with those in other comparable authorities, or national examples of good practice.

18.02 Changes to the Constitution

The process for changes to the Constitution differs depending upon whether the change is one of substance, or a minor, or a consequential change. Changes of substance need to be approved by the full Council. This will normally be after consideration by the Constitution Committee and it making a recommendation to the County Council. Minor or consequential changes to the Constitution can be made by the Head of Legal & Democratic Services/Monitoring Officer under delegated powers provided:-

1. The Chair of the Constitution Committee and the political Group Leaders have been consulted; and
2. None of those consulted under (1) above require the proposed change to be reported to County Council.