

Article 1

The Constitution

Introduction

This Article sets out the fundamental provisions of the Constitution. It confirms that the Authority will act within the law and the provisions of this Constitution, and also that the Authority will monitor and review its 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 Council of the London Borough of Harrow.

1.03 Purpose of the Constitution

The Council's aim is:

To deliver high quality, cost effective services through a partnership with all stakeholders and the community in general.

To govern within a framework of fairness, openness, integrity and accountability.

The purpose and principles outlined in the Constitution seek to:

- enable the Council to provide clear leadership to the community;
- work in partnership with citizens, businesses and other organisations;
- support the active involvement of citizens 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;
- provide excellent standards of ethics and probity in decision making;

- ensure that those responsible for decision making are clearly identifiable to local people;
- explain the reasons for decisions; and
- provide a means of improving the delivery of services to the community.

1.04 Interpretation 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 above purposes.

1.05 Review and Amendment of the Constitution

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