

## **Article 16 – Suspension, Interpretation and Publication of the Constitution**

### **1. Suspension of the Constitution**

- 1.1 The Articles of this Constitution may not be suspended. Other Rules and protocols may be suspended by the body to which they apply (or if no such body, then by the Council) to the extent permitted within those Rules and the law.
- 1.2 A motion to suspend any Rules may not be moved without notice unless at least two thirds of the whole number of Councillors are present. The extent and duration of suspension should be proportionate to the result to be achieved.

### **2. Interpretation**

- 2.1 The ruling of the Mayor of the Council as to the construction or application of this Constitution or as to any proceedings of the Council shall not be challenged at any meeting of the Council. Such interpretation will have regard to the purposes of this Constitution contained in Article 1. Before making a ruling, the Mayor shall have regard to the advice of the Monitoring Officer.

### **3. Publication**

- 3.1 The Monitoring Officer will provide an electronic copy of this Constitution to each Member of the authority upon delivery to him/her of that individual's declaration of acceptance of office on the Member first being elected to the Council. Printed copies can be provided on request.
- 3.2 The Monitoring Officer will ensure that copies are available for inspection at Council offices, libraries and other appropriate locations, and can be purchased by Members of the local press and the public on payment of a reasonable fee, which must meet the cost of production.
- 3.3 The Monitoring Officer will ensure that the summary of the Constitution is made widely available within the area and is updated as necessary.
- 3.4 The Monitoring Officer shall ensure that a record is kept of any changes to this Constitution which shall be re-issued in up-to-date form as soon as practicable after any substantial changes have been made to it.
- 3.5 The Monitoring Officer shall ensure that an up-to-date version of the Constitution is available on the Council's website.