Chapter 2 – The Full Council

Part 1 – The Full Council

Article 4 – The Council

1.   Composition

1.1   The Council comprises the 49 directly elected Councillors meeting as a body (or as many of those Councillors who are in office at the time concerned).

2.   Functions of the Council

2.1   The Council has the following functions:

(a)   Adopting and changing the Constitution, except in so far as this function has been delegated to the Monitoring Officer

(b)   Approving or adopting the Policy Framework, the Budget and any application to the Secretary of State in respect of any Housing Land Transfer

(c)   Subject to the urgency procedure contained in the Access to Information Procedure Rules in Chapter 8 of this Constitution, making decisions about the discharge of an Executive Function where the decision-maker is minded to make it in a manner which would be contrary to the Policy Framework or contrary to or not wholly in accordance with the Budget

(d)   Electing or removing the Leader

(e)   Agreeing and/or amending the terms of reference for Committees of Council, deciding on their composition and making appointments to them

(f)   Appointing representatives to outside bodies unless the appointment is an Executive Function or has been delegated by the Council

(g)   Adopting a scheme for Members' allowances

(h)   Changing the name of the area

(i)   Appointing or dismissing the Chief Executive

(j)   Making, amending, revoking, re-enacting or adopting bylaws, or promoting or opposing the making of local legislation or personal Bills

(k)   All other functions which the Council lawfully decides should be undertaken by itself rather than the Leader / Cabinet and which are set out in this chapter of the Constitution

(l)   All other matters which, by law, must be reserved to Council

3. Council meetings

3.1 Council meetings will be conducted in accordance with the Council Procedure Rules in Part 2 of this chapter of the Constitution. Council meetings will be Chaired by the Mayor (or Deputy Mayor where appropriate).

4. Responsibility and delegation of functions

4.1 The Council may arrange for the discharge of any of its functions by a Committee of the Council, a Sub-Committee of the Council or by an Officer, subject to certain functions such as setting the Budget and Council Tax, decisions that depart from the Budget and Policy Framework or appointing the Chief Executive which are reserved by statute exclusively to Council. Similarly, a Committee may delegate any of its functions to a Sub-Committee or an Officer, and a Sub-Committee may delegate any of its functions to an Officer.

4.2 The Council (in respect of its functions) or the Leader (in respect of Executive Functions) may (subject to any restrictions in regulations under section 236 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007) arrange for any of their functions to be discharged by an individual Councillor in relation to that Councillor's ward. The Council or Leader have not yet made any such arrangements for ward Councillor decision-making.

5. The Policy Framework

5.1 "The Policy Framework" means the plans and strategies which have been approved by the Council to comprise the Policy Framework, and includes, at a minimum, the following:

    (a) Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy

    (b) Local Transport Plan

    (c) Licensing Authority Policy Statement under the Licensing Act 2003 and Gambling Act 2005

    (d) Plans with Development Plan Document Status

    (e) Corporate Plan Health and Well-Being Plan

    (f) Vision and Priorities

5.2 The Framework also includes the plans and strategies specified later in this Chapter at Part 3, paragraph 1.2 to 1.4.

6. The Budget

6.1 "The Budget" means the authority's Budget as approved by a resolution of the Council and includes the allocation of financial resources to different services and projects, proposed contingency funds, the Council Tax base, setting the Council Tax and decisions relating to the control of the Council's borrowing requirement, the control of its capital expenditure and the setting of virement limits.