

Part 2

Articles of the Constitution



Article 4: The Full Council and Chairman of the Council

4.1 Composition

The Full Council consists of all 31 Members who represent the 20 Wards of the District of the South Hams.

4.2 Meanings

(a) **Policy Framework.** The Policy Framework means the following plans and strategies adopted by the Council:

- Corporate Strategy –South Hams (including the Local Plan)
- Licensing Authority Policy Statements;
- The Financial Strategy; and
- Other plans and strategies which the Council may decide should be adopted by the Council meeting as a matter of local choice.

(b) **Budget.** The Budget includes:

- the allocation of financial resources to different services and projects;
- proposed contingency funds;
- the Council Tax base;
- setting the Council Tax;
- decisions relating to the control of the Council's borrowing requirement,
- the control of its capital expenditure and
- the setting of virement limits.

4.3 Functions of the Full Council

The full list of functions, which are reserved to Council, are contained in the Delegation Scheme (Part 3 refers).

4.4 Council Meetings

There are three types of Council meeting:

- (a) the annual meeting;
- (b) ordinary meetings;
- (c) extraordinary meetings.

and they will be conducted in accordance with the Council Procedure Rules in Part 4 of this Constitution.

4.5 Role and Function of the Chairman of the Council

The Council will appoint a Chairman and Vice-Chairman at its Annual Meeting.

The Chairman of the Council, and in his or her absence, the Vice Chairman of the Council will have the following roles and functions:

(a) Ceremonial Role

The Chairman of the Council represents the Council on ceremonial occasions, and as such, the Chairman of the Council is a symbol of authority, of an open society and an expression of social cohesion. The Chairman or Vice-Chairman and, if appropriate, their respective consorts will attend such civic and ceremonial functions as the Council and he/she determines appropriate.

(b) Chairing the Council Meeting

The Chairman of the Council will have the following responsibilities:

- (i) to uphold and promote the purposes of the Constitution, and to interpret the Constitution when necessary;
- (ii) to preside over meetings of the Council so that its business can be carried out efficiently and with regard to the rights of Councillors and the interests of the community;
- (iii) to ensure that the Council meeting is a forum for the debate of matters of concern to the local community (which relate to services the Council provides, commissions, or formally contribute to) and the place at which Councillors who are not on the Executive are able to hold the Executive to account; and
- (iv) to promote public involvement in the Council's activities.

- (v) ensure that matters of conscience (where appropriate in his/her opinion) are brought to the attention of the Council;
- (vi) represent the District and community at such civic and ceremonial functions as the Council and s/he determines are appropriate.