

Review of Council Constitution	
Corporate Policy and Resources Committee	For Decision

Linkage to Council Strategy (2015-19)	
Strategic Theme	Leader and Champion
Outcome	Provide civic leadership to our citizens
Lead Officer	Elizabeth Beattie
Cost: (If applicable)	

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 A Council is required, under section 2 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014, to prepare and keep up to date a Constitution.
- 1.2 Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council agreed a new Constitution in October 2015. This governs how the Council operates, how decisions are made, and the procedures which are to be followed to ensure efficiency, transparency and accountability to local people. Some of these processes are required by the law, while others are a matter for the Council to choose.
- 1.3 The Council's Constitution is divided into sixteen Articles which set out the basic rules governing the Council's business. More detailed procedures and codes of practice are provided in separate Rules and Protocols at the end of the document.

2.0 What's in the Constitution?

- 2.1 Article 1 of the Constitution commits the Council to provide clear leadership; support the active involvement of its citizens; help Councillors represent their constituents more effectively; enable decisions to be taken efficiently and effectively; create a means of holding decision-makers to public account; ensure that no one will review or scrutinise decisions in which they were directly involved; ensure that decision makers are clearly identifiable; and provide a means of improving the delivery of services.
- 2.2 Articles 2 to 13 explain the rights of citizens and how the key parts of the Council operate. These are:-
- Members of the Council (Article 2)

- Citizens and the Council (Article 3)
- The Council meeting (Article 4)
- Chairing the Council (Article 5)
- Decision Making Structures (Article 6)
- Regulatory and other committees (Article 7)
- Joint arrangements (Article 8)
- Officers (Article 9)
- Procedures for Decision making (Article 10)
- Finance, contracts and legal matters (Article 11)
- Review and revision of the Constitution (Article 12)
- Suspension, interpretation and publication of the Constitution (Article 13)

3.0 Annual Review of the Council Constitution

3.1 As outlined in Article 12 “Review and Revision of the Constitution”, the Council will conduct an annual review of its Constitution. This review has now been undertaken for 2016 and the following amendments are recommended:

- Remove references to Interim Standing Orders on pages 15 and 19
- Include recently revised Standing Orders.
- Include new Members Allowance Scheme in Part 5 of the document.

4.0 Recommendation

It is recommended that the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee recommend to Council approval of the amendments to the Council Constitution as outlined in item 3.0.