

INTRODUCTION

What is the Constitution?

It is a document that has been agreed by the Council, which sets out how it operates, how decisions are made, and the procedures which it has to follow. The Council has to exercise all its powers and duties in accordance with the law and this constitution.

The Constitution is part of the Council's Corporate Governance framework which defines the systems and processes by which the Council leads, directs and controls its functions and relates to its communities and partners

What is its Purpose?

The purpose of this Constitution is to set out how the Council conducts its business, how decisions are made and the procedures it has to follow so that it remains accountable to local people. Some of these procedures are required by law while others are a matter for the Council to determine.

Can it be amended?

The Constitution can only be amended by all Members of the Council sitting together as Full Council, however, consequential amendments can be made by the Monitoring Officer of the Council (the Borough Solicitor).

How do I obtain or view a copy?

Copies are available on request from Democratic Services by telephoning (01325) 388351 or e-mailing democratic@darlington.gov.uk . Alternatively it can be viewed on the Council's website www.darlington.gov.uk.

If you require any further assistance or advice about the Constitution, please contact Democratic Services using the contact details above.