

# ARTICLE 1 - THE CONSTITUTION

---

## 1.1 Powers of the Council

The Council will exercise all its powers and duties in accordance with the law and this Constitution.

## 1.2 The Constitution

This Constitution, and all its appendices, is the Constitution of the Ryedale District Council (hereafter “the Council”).

## 1.3 Purpose of the Constitution

The purpose of the Constitution is to:

1. enable the Council to provide clear leadership to the community in partnership with citizens, businesses and other organisations;
2. support the active involvement of citizens in the process of local authority decision-making;
3. help Councillors represent their constituents more effectively;
4. enable decisions to be taken efficiently, effectively and transparently, with due regard to probity and equity;
5. create a powerful and effective means of holding decision-makers to public account;
6. ensure that no one will review or scrutinise a decision in which he or she was directly involved;
7. ensure that those responsible for decision-making are clearly identifiable to local people and that they explain the reasons for decisions; and

8. provide a means of improving the delivery of services to the community.

#### **1.4 Interpretation and Review of the Constitution**

Where the Constitution permits the Council to choose between different courses of action, the Council will always choose that option which it thinks is closest to the purposes stated above.

The Council will monitor and evaluate the operation of the Constitution as set out in Article 14.

#### **1.5 Changes to the Constitution**

The Council is responsible for approving any alterations to the Constitution. Such changes can reflect decisions of the Council, for example to alter the alternative arrangements or standing orders, decisions of committees, for example to alter delegations to officers, or from changes to national legislation. In order to keep the Constitution up to date as a central reference point for the rules by which the Authority operates, the Council has delegated power to the Head of the Paid Service to amend the Constitution as required to reflect decisions of the Council, of its Committees or legislative changes. Any other amendments will continue to require the express resolution of Council.