

Chapter 14 – Suspension, Interpretation, Maintenance and Publication of the Constitution

14.1 Suspension of the Constitution

- (a) **Limit to suspension:** The Chapters of this Constitution may not be suspended. Any rules of procedure, except those required by law, may be suspended to the extent permitted within those rules and the law.
- (b) **Procedure to suspend:** A motion to suspend any rules will not be moved without notice unless at least one half of the whole number of Members entitled to be present is present. The extent and duration of suspension will be proportionate to the result to be achieved, taking account of the purposes of the Constitution set out in Chapter 1.

14.2 Interpretation of the Constitution

The ruling of the Chairman (or in his/her absence the Vice Chairman), having received legal advice, as to the construction or application of this constitution or as to any proceedings of the Council, shall not be challenged at any meeting of the Council. Such interpretation will have regard to the purposes of this Constitution contained in Chapter 1.

14.3 Maintenance of the Constitution

- (a) The Monitoring Officer will ensure that there are periodic operational reviews of the Constitution.
- (b) The Monitoring Officer will also ensure that an up-to-date version of this Constitution is maintained and that it is widely available for consultation by Members, staff and the public, as set out in 14.4 below.

14.4 Publication

- (a) On the Member first being elected to the Council, the Monitoring Officer will make an electronic copy of this Constitution available to him or her once that Member makes his or her declaration of acceptance of office.
- (b) The Monitoring Officer will ensure that copies are available for inspection on the council's website in a form that can be downloaded and that copies are available for inspection at council offices and can be purchased by members of the local press and the public on payment of a reasonable fee.