INTRODUCTION TO THE CONSTITUTION

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The Council's Constitution

1.1 Redditch Borough Council has a constitution which sets out how the Council operates, how decisions are made and the procedures which are followed to make sure that decisions are transparent, efficient and accountable to the local residents. Some of these processes are required by law, while others are a matter for the Council to choose. The Council must operate in accordance with its constitution and the rules set out there which the Council has agreed.

1.2 Because it has to be comprehensive and meet legal requirements and address technical concepts, the Constitution is both long and complex. It is made up of a number of key documents which are set out in the Index, together with background documents which can be found on the Council's website (insert link?). The background documents are not formally part of the Constitution but are relevant in that they provide explanation of the Constitution or are policies in their own right which may apply to elected members or officers.

1.3 The Council has chosen to operate a Leader and Cabinet model of governance. The structure diagram at Appendix 1 shows the formal relationships between the Council, the Executive and the other Committees and Boards (Non -executive).

1.4 Legislation provides that the Leader and Cabinet are responsible for what are called 'executive functions' (which cover most of the "day to day" political decisions), and the Council and committees are responsible for 'non-executive' functions.

1.5 More detail in relation to the operation of the Council and its committees and the role of elected members is set out in the "The Articles of the Constitution" which can be accessed using this link **:- insert link**

Shared Services with Bromsgrove District Council and other local authorities

2.1 In 2009 Redditch Borough Council and Bromsgrove District Council took he decision to work in partnership. The first step was the appointment of a joint chief executive and in 2010 this was followed by the appointment of a joint management team. The co-operation between the Council was formally recorded in a legal agreement known as the "Overarching Framework Agreement" which was signed in 2011.

2.2 The overall aim was to introduce collaborative working, bringing teams together to provide services jointly across the two councils, and delivering savings and efficiencies for both councils. From the outset both Councils chose to remain politically independent, with separate processes for decision making and operating independent budgets and spending.

2.3 Working practices have been put in place through the Overarching Framework Agreement and under the relevant local government legislation, and officers employed by one Council may carry out functions for the other in accordance with the Councils' respective Schemes of Delegation.

2.4 Reflecting the move towards greater sharing of resources between public bodies, the Council also collaborates with a number of other local authorities in Worcestershire to deliver services jointly. Further details of the arrangements for shared working with Bromsgrove District Council and with other partner councils are set out in Part 7 of the Constitution "Joint Arrangements".