

Article 9 - Decision-making

This Article sets out how the Council takes decisions.

2.9.1. Principles of decision making

When the Council takes a decision it will:

- a) be clear about what the Council wants to happen, how it will be achieved, who is accountable for the decision and who is accountable for implementing it and monitoring implementation;
- b) consult properly and have regard to the professional advice from its Officers;
- c) have regard to the public sector equality duty and respect for natural justice and human rights;
- d) make the decision public unless there are good reasons for it not to be;
- e) give due weight to all material considerations, only take relevant matters into account, and make sure the action is proportionate to what the council wants to happen;
- f) explain what options were considered and give the reasons for the decision; and
- g) follow the proper procedures as set out in the Constitution.

2.9.2. Responsibility for decision making

The Council's activities are described in law as functions. The Council as a whole cannot make every decision. The Council has adopted the Leader and Cabinet arrangement and therefore unless stated all functions are exercised by the Cabinet.

How the council and cabinet discharge those functions are set out in the functions scheme. Decisions may be delegated to Officers, and this will be set out in the Officer Scheme of Delegation. (Part 3).

2.9.3. Decision rules

The decision-making procedures for all Council, Cabinet and Committee meeting decision making is set out in part 4.

2.9.4. Codes

In making decisions and conducting its business the Council and the bodies and person(s) exercising functions on its behalf will have regard to the codes and guidance set out in part 5 of this constitution.