

Article 1 – The Constitution

1.01 Powers of the Council

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

1.02 The Constitution

This Constitution, and all its appendices, is the Constitution of Exeter City Council.

1.03 Purpose of the Constitution

The Council, through its Corporate Plan will pursue its stated goal which is "To enhance Exeter as the regional capital working with our partners to improve the quality of life for all people living, working and visiting the city."

In pursuing this goal the following core values will be promoted:

- Meet customers' needs with high-quality services
- Be flexible and have can-do approach
- Show trust and respect
- Tell people what is going on, listen and respond to their views
- Be proud to work for the city and the council

A principal objective of the Council is to promote equality of opportunity and social inclusion and the Council has agreed the following policy statement:

"The City Council is committed, both as an employer and as a deliverer of services, to ensuring that no recipient of services provided by the Council receives less favourable treatment on any grounds such as disability, ethnic origin, age, gender, sexuality, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, association with a national minority, locality, property, birth or other status".

This constitution supports these aims and objectives and explains the mechanisms and processes that the Council operates to ensure that:

- councillors are able to play a significant role in the work of the Council and represent their constituents

- decisions are taken in as open and transparent way as possible
- the view of residents and stakeholders are recognised as important influences on the way the Council operates and decisions are taken
- accountability is enhanced

1.04 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.