



CONSTITUTION OF THE COUNCIL

Revision Date	April 2007
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The constitution is available on the Council's website – www.hart.gov.uk

(Copies are available in Large Print on Request)

INTRODUCTION

WHY A CONSTITUTION? New Forms of Governance

Major changes have taken place in the governance of local authorities in England. The committee mode of Member decision-making has been replaced by new constitutions as a result of the Local Government Act 2000. These changes are part of a wider policy to strengthen local authorities' ability to deliver effective community leadership, democratic renewal and continuous improvement in services. The purpose of these changes is to create efficient, accountable and transparent governance, which will support this wider agenda.

Hart District Council has undertaken an extensive public consultation exercise on the models set out in the Act that would form the basis of decision-making in the future. As a result of that exercise, the Council has adopted the Leader and Cabinet option. This document sets out how this decision-making system will work.

This document will enable you to understand how Hart District Council makes its decisions and who is responsible for those decisions. It sets out how you can participate in the Council's business and how you can contact Members and Officers. It also sets out how all those who work for Hart - Officers and Members - have to behave and work together.