

Article 4 – The Full Council

4.1 Introduction

This Article defines the functions that are reserved for decision by the full Council. The Council is responsible for approving the policy framework and the annual revenue and capital budget. The Council also retains responsibility for (i) regulatory functions (which include planning, licensing and health and safety at work); (ii) certain constitutional and quasi-legislative functions (primarily the conduct of elections and making of by-laws); and (iii) most of the local choice functions which the Council is free to decide whether they are the responsibility of full Council or the Executive. The Council also has a role in holding the Executive to account.

2. Meanings

a. **Policy Framework.** The policy framework means the following plans and strategies:

- i. Council Plan
- ii. Sustainable Community Strategy
- iii. County Durham Plan (Plans and alterations that together form the Development Plan) ~~Local Development Framework (Plans and alterations that together form the Development Plan)~~
- iv. County Durham Youth Justice Plan
- v. ~~Housing Strategy~~
- vi. ~~Homelessness Strategy~~
- v. Licensing Authority Policy Statement
- vi. Statement on Gambling Policy
- vii. Any other plan or strategy which the Council determines should be adopted or approved by them.

b. **Budget.** The budget includes the allocation of financial resources to different services and projects, proposed contingency funds, setting the council tax and decisions relating to the control of the Council's borrowing requirement, the control of its capital expenditure and the setting of virement limits.

4.3 Functions of the full Council

The functions of full Council are set out in Part 3A of the Constitution.

4.4 Council meetings

There are three types of Council meeting:

- i. the annual meeting;

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ii.ordinary meetings;

iii.extraordinary meetings.

and they will be conducted in accordance with the Council Procedure Rules in Part 4 of this Constitution. Meetings will be chaired by the Chair or Vice-Chair of the Council.