

Report Title	AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION			
Purpose of Report	To make an amendment to the Constitution to formalise the position of Deputy Leader of the Council			
Decision(s)	Council RESOLVES to Amend the Constitution in accordance with the recommendation made in paragraph 3 of the report			
Consultation and Feedback	None			
Report Author	Patrick Arran, Monitoring Officer Email: Patrick.arran@stroud.gov.uk			
Options	Council can accept the recommendation, make amendments to the recommendation, or refuse to make the amendment.			
Background Papers	None			
Appendices	None			
Implications (further details at the end of the report)	Financial	Legal	Equality	Environmental
	No	No	No	No

1. INTRODUCTION

Since reverting to a committee system, Stroud District Council has mandated the Chair of Strategy & Resources Committee to be the Leader of the Council. [See here](#). The role profiles for councillors also set out the responsibilities of the Leader in Section 16 which can be viewed [here](#).

- 1.1 Whilst it has been an accepted convention that the Vice Chair of Strategy & Resources Committee has been considered to be the Deputy Leader, this has not been formalised in the Constitution. The purpose of this report therefore is to regularise the position of the Deputy Leader.

2. BACKGROUND

As the Council operates a Committee System, no formal legal powers and duties are vested in a Leader or Deputy Leader under the Local Government Act 1972 or the Local Government Act 2000. In practice, however, all local authorities appoint a councillor to hold the most significant elected member role within the Council, to be seen as the political head of the Council and to provide a focal point for political leadership and strategic direction for the Council, both within the Authority but also to outside organisations, partners, governmental bodies, and the community at large.

- 2.1 Likewise, there are several other roles that involve political leadership and representation of the Council, beyond civic or formal functions and the role of a councillor as a member of the Authority. The Role Profiles set out the role of the Leader but there is no reference to a Deputy Leader.
- 2.2 The Constitution Working Group has been considering draft Articles for the Constitution which includes provision for the appointment and responsibilities of the Leader and Deputy Leader, but this document is not quite ready and needs further work.
- 2.3 In the meantime, elections have taken place, an Alliance has been formed and there is a need to formalise the position of Deputy Leader who
- shall be the Vice-Chair of the Strategy and Resources Committee
 - will assist the Leader in representing the Council to its residents, stakeholders, and partners and in providing political leadership for the Council and the District
 - undertake the responsibilities of the Leader in their absence.

3. PROPOSED AMENDMENT

It is therefore recommended that the Constitution is amended to formally recognise the vice chair of Strategy & Resources Committee as the Deputy Leader of the Council. This will be achieved by amending Section 2, Meetings of the Council, Summary of Council Bodies, Strategy and Resources by adding the text as follows:

The chair of this committee is the Leader of Council. [The Vice Chair of this committee is the Deputy Leader of Council](#)

4. IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations made in this report.

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4.2 Legal Implications

There are no legal implications arising from the recommendations in this report save that any amendments to the Constitution must be agreed by Council.

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4.3 Equality Implications

No equality implications arise from the recommendations in this report.

4.4 Environmental Implications

No environmental implications arise from the recommendations in this report.