



Seaton Town Council Constitution

Chapter 1 Introduction

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1. Introduction to the Constitution of Seaton Town Council

1.1. Seaton Town Council ('the Council') is responsible for several local services.

1.2. It must provide some of these services by law; others are discretionary.

1.3. The Council is a body created by government under an Act of Parliament.

1.4. The Constitution is the Council's internal rule book. It sets out how the Council will operate and how decisions are made. Some of the processes are required by law, while others are a matter for the Council to choose.

1.5. The Constitution also contains procedural rules which apply to the conduct of meetings of the Council.

1.6. In order to ensure the sound management of the Council's financial affairs and good corporate governance, the Constitution includes financial regulations and rules that apply to all contracts for works and the supply of goods and services to the Council.

1.7. The Constitution is a living document and the different chapters of the Constitution are kept under continual review and is re-examined regularly by the Council.

1.8. The Constitution is split into several different chapters which form the Constitution for the Council:

Chapter	Content	Last Reviewed	Next Review
1	Introduction to Constitution		
2	Standing Orders	May 2022	May 2023
3	Financial Regulations	November 2021	May 2023
4	Staff Handbook	December 2020	May 2023
5	Members' Code of Conduct	May 2017	ASAP
6	Complaints Policy	May 2022	May 2023
7	Risk Management Strategy	May 2022	May 2023
8	Risk Register	November 2022	May 2023
9	Data Protection Policy	May 2022	May 2023
10	Data Breach Policy	March 2022	May 2023
11	Protocol on Member/Officer Relations	May 2022	May 2024
12	Freedom of Information Policy	May 2022	May 2023
13	Publication Scheme	May 2022	May 2023
14	Health and Safety Policy	December 2020	May 2023
15	Communications Policy	September 2022	May 2023
16	Community Grants Policy	May 2022	May 2024
17	Allotments Non-Statutory Rules	April 2022	May 2024
18	Training & Development Policy	May 2022	May 2024

19	Memorial Bench Policy	December 2020	May 2024
20	Non-smoking & Non-vaping Policy	September 2021	May 2024
21	Lone Working Policy	December 2020	May 2024
22	Equality & Diversity Policy	May 2022	May 2023
23	Environment Policy	January 2021	May 2024
24	Civic Awards Policy	July 2021	May 2024
25	Gazebo Hire Policy	September 2021	May 2024
26	Investment Policy	December 2022	May 2023
27	Land & Buildings Hire Policy	February 2022	May 2024
28	Volunteer Policy	April 2022	May 2024
29	Tree Management Policy	May 2022	May 2024

2. Who pays?

2.1. Money for services comes from fees and charges, grants and council tax in the form of a precept.

2.2. The Council receives no income from business rates and its general expenditure is not subsidised through a government grant.

2.3. There are no central government controls or “cap” on the Council’s expenditure.

2.4. This makes the Council directly accountable to residents for the financial implication of its actions.

3. Who decides?

3.1. Every four years, voters in Seaton elect 12 Town Councillors.

3.2. They take all major decisions of the Council.

3.3. Decisions are always collective and voted on unless they have been delegated to the Town Clerk.

4. The Council's job

4.1. The Council's role is to deliver services to the people of Seaton in an open, transparent and cost-effective way, acting in the best interests of Seaton and its citizens.

4.2. This sometimes means that the 'greater good' is more important than individual or group's interests, but this is what democratic local government is all about.

4.3. Taking those decisions, after listening to the community, is the job of Town Councillors acting collectively as Seaton Town Council.

5. How is the Council organised to carry out its job?

5.1. The Council makes all policy and other decisions within the powers given to a town council by law.

5.2. Committees can make decisions only on those issues the Council has delegated, otherwise a committee must make a recommendation to Council.

5.3. Sub-committees can make decisions only on those issues the committee has delegated, otherwise it must make a recommendation to the committee.

5.4. Panels and working groups can be appointed by Council and committees and can be made up of Councillors and/or staff and/or representatives of other organisations and/or individuals. They can make recommendations to the parent committees or Council, as appropriate, and cannot decide on matters.

5.5. Staff deliver the Council's services in line with policies or directions as determined by Councillors, collectively in Council, a committee or a sub-committee. They can advise Councillors on policy issues and statutory requirements the Council must meet. They also carry out the day to day operational management of the Council's services.

6. Further information

The Town Clerk can be contacted using the contact details on the cover page of this document.