

Article 4 – The Council

4.1 Composition

The Council comprises 40 Members meeting as a body (or as many of those Councillors who are in office at the time concerned).

4.2 Functions of the Council

The functions that can only be exercised by the Council are set out in [Part 3B](#) Table 1 of the Constitution.

4.3 Council Meetings

There are four types of meeting of the Council:

- (a) the Annual Meeting;
- (b) the Annual and Selection Meeting;
- (c) Ordinary Meetings, and
- (d) Extraordinary Meetings;

and they will be conducted in accordance with the Procedure Rules in [Part 4A](#) of this Constitution.

4.4 State of Cheltenham Debate

The Leader may, and shall if the Council so resolves, call a State of Cheltenham debate on such date and in such form as shall be agreed with the Mayor.

The form of the debate shall be such as to enable the widest possible public involvement and publicity. This may include holding workshops and other events prior to or during the State of Cheltenham debate.

The debate will be chaired by the Mayor.

The results of the debate will be:

- (a) disseminated as widely as possible within the community and to agencies and organisations in the area; and
- (b) where appropriate, considered by the Leader in proposing the Budget and Policy Framework to the Council for the coming year.

4.5 Meanings

- (a) ‘Policy Framework’ currently comprises of the following plans and strategies:

- (i) Corporate Plan;
- (ii) Community Safety Strategy;
- (iii) Plans and strategies which together comprise the Development Plan
- (iv) Housing Strategy
- (v) Licensing Policy Statements (Licensing Act 2003 and Gambling Act 2005)

Note: The names and descriptions of the above policies/strategies etc. may be subject to change from time to time.

- (b) 'Budget' The budget includes the allocation of financial resources to different services and projects, the Medium Term Financial Plan/Strategy, proposed contingency funds, setting the Council Tax, decisions relating to the control of the Council's borrowing requirements, the Capital Strategy, the control of capital expenditure and the setting of virement limits.

Note: The Council will receive recommendations from the Cabinet in relation to the Policy Framework and Budget matters identified above.