



Constitutional Matters

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What is Flintshire County Council?

» **S.21 Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)**

(1) For every principal area in Wales there shall be a council consisting of a chairman and councillors.

(2) Each such council shall be a body corporate and shall have the functions given to them by this Act or otherwise.

» **Functions can be carried out by**

» Committees/sub-committees

» Joint committees

» Other councils

» Officers

» **Constitution**

» **Ultra vires**

How the Council operates

COUNCIL

Executive

- » **Cabinet**
- » **Overview and Scrutiny**

Non Executive

- » **Audit**
- » **Constitution**
- » **Democratic Services**
- » **Licensing**
- » **Pensions**
- » **Planning**

Officers

The Executive – the basics

- » **Local Government Act 2000**
 - » Cabinet and Overview & Scrutiny Committees
- » **Cabinet**
 - » Up to 10 members
 - » Intended to create greater political accountability
 - » majority of council functions delegated to Cabinet
- » **Overview and Scrutiny**
 - » 6 committees of 15 members
 - » Policy development
 - » Review cabinet decisions (call in process)



“Let’s never forget that the public’s desire for transparency has to be balanced by our need for concealment.”

Committees – the basics

- » **What is a committee?**
 - » 2 or more councillors
 - » Collective decision making
 - » Terms of reference
- » **Agendas**
 - » Published 3 days in advance
 - » All items of business
 - » Reports – all relevant information
- » **Getting items on agendas**
- » **Member**

Participation in Meetings

- » **Role and powers of chair**
- » **Rules of debate**
- » **Effective questioning**
- » **Quasi-judicial committees**
- » **Standards of behaviour**

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“Excellent! So that’s all agreed, then! All we need do now is draft the consultation document.”

Decision Making

- » **Selflessness**

- » Interests

- » Importance of perception

- » **Evidence**

- » Pre-preparation and information from officers

- » Reports, public speaking and debate

- » Predetermination

- » Training

- » **Judicial review**