

## Summary of Members' Responses to Constitution Survey

### Q9 - Do you have any other comments or suggestions as to how the Constitution could be improved?

Councillor	Comments on how to improve the Constitution	Other Comments
1	Shorten it	
2	No, thanks.	
3	I think some member education around the constitution would be really helpful. I was given it when I first joined but then have never had any schooling on it. I am interested in it too.	
4	It's far too big. Is not easy to read or understand. Not reviewed often enough. Seems to be used to resolve a problem when it's not the right vehicle for the solution and therefore creates an unwieldy mess.	I'd be amazed if a single citizen knows it exists  Within the council we can't even work out from it who should make a decision - so how could we expect citizens !  Because much of it doesn't make sense and anyway no one knows about it !
5	No Comment	
6	No Comment	
7	The Constitution should be a backstop to ethical and effective performance of councillors' duties. An adage is that good contracts are left in drawers, so the Constitution should be seen in the same vein.	
8	It needs to tie in with parish/town councils, they must agree to it too so no contradictions.	
9	Seriously think about the likely roles of those needing the info and produce a structure or a variety of indexes or quick flowcharts that helps them. Implement the recommendation to advertise on the consultations website that stakeholder discussions about policies or services are starting.	
10	No comment	
11	Budget debate amendments.  Submitting and debating budget amendments is designed to improve the budget for residents. It is hard to keep politics out of this but the process must always be fair and transparent.  Residents should be confident that political favouritism has been eliminated from this process. In a Council that has 'no overall control' officers should take extra steps to ensure that 'opposition' Parties or Members who have publically declared a 'cordial' arrangement with the administration Party are denied preferential treatment in terms of the registration and acceptance of budget amendments.	No document of 307 pages is digestible for the average citizen. The Constitution should be more prominent on the MK Council homepage with its own weblink. It should be fully online not just a downloadable document. The Constitution website should have sub categories broken up into logical sections. Each section should be fully searchable. Transparency and public consultation is often disposed

	<p>The process should be professional and in the democratic interest of residents. Officers should discourage the unseemly practice of contending parties fighting at Cabinet to get amendment submissions registered first in an attempt to circumvent similar or duplicate amendments submitted by others.</p> <p>To avoid this, Officers could ask Parties and Members to submit their amendments in good time with a deadline before the relevant Cabinet pre-budget decision meeting. Electronic and physical submissions should both be accepted for consideration. In addition the rules on the official submission time for a budget amendment should be changed so that the 'sent' date stamp on the email containing the amendment submitted to the relevant officer is accepted as an official submission time.</p> <p>These changes would encourage all opposition Parties and Members to focus on their own amendments and not what the amendments of others might be. It will prevent an unsightly scrum at Cabinet. It will make clearer the rules for deciding the date of submissions. It will help to discourage political connivance in the whole budget setting process. It will help prevent attempts at amendment plagiarism and instead encourage opposition Parties and Members to focus on their own ideas for improvement rather than how to diminish the ideas of others in an effort to make political gain</p>	<p>of in the interest of expediency. Council priorities should always be checked against general public consensus</p> <p>The Council does not broadcast debates and therefore the average citizen is unable to follow debates and decisions easily.</p> <p>Residents are largely unaware of the decisions being made by Council. A monthly high level summary of critical decisions taken in plain language could be made available on the MK Council homepage. Weblinks from the summary headings could drill down to the location of the detailed decision documents and background papers.</p>
12	No Comment	
13	No Comment	
14	No Comment	
15	<p>Constitution and all related docs should be easily downloadable, browse able and available on line</p> <p>Make them visually attractive with Contents, Index, Columns to identify different doc and sections</p> <p>Create a new different document a guidance document for the public and other stakeholders.</p> <p>The Scheme of Delegation should be involved in this.</p> <p>Work.</p> <p>Plan for known “bugs”:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mediated Call Ins</li> <li>• Call In Recommendations without referee back</li> <li>• 2 questions per speaker per meeting</li> </ul>	<p>This is a good aspiration but actually the Constitution is a heavy , legalistic set of rules</p> <p>No actually hard</p>

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