



Strategy & Governance  
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Date: 2 September 2009  
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Dear Partner

### **The Council's New Constitution: 12 month review**

I am writing to seek your views on the new constitution the Council has recently adopted.

On 15 May last year, the City Council moved to a new constitutional system, in which most decisions are taken by a Leader and a Cabinet of members appointed by him/her. Although the basic structure of the constitution is laid down in statute, the Council has considerable latitude around its day to day operation, including member portfolios, times of meetings, procedures etc.

At the time of the change, we made a commitment to review the operation of the constitution six and twelve months after its implementation. The six-month review was an opportunity to check that the implementation had gone smoothly, and to make any minor changes that the operation of the constitution had shown to be desirable, these included:

- The extension of speaking rights and a seat at the table at Cabinet and Cabinet Member meetings to the Leader/Convenor of all opposition parties
- Clarifying the procedure for special meetings
- Adding Community Affairs and Inclusion as an item on the Cabinet agenda at least every 6 months
- Improvements and guidance regarding Notices of Motion, Member and public questions at Council meetings

Thank you, if you contributed to the six-month review.

We are now at the twelve-month review stage, and I would be interested to hear any views you may have on how the new constitution is working and the changes that have been made as a result of the six-month review; and what impact, positive or negative, they have made on how your organisation and those it represents interact with the Council. We would also welcome any suggestions you might have on how the Council's constitution could be improved.



Director of Strategy & Governance: Alex Bailey  
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If you would like to comment, please respond to this letter, or email [consultation@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:consultation@brighton-hove.gov.uk) by 30 September 2009.

The views of all respondents will be considered by the Governance Committee on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2009. They will make recommendations to the Cabinet and Council as to how the constitution might be amended.

Yours faithfully



Anthony Zacharzewski  
Acting Director of Strategy & Governance

**List of Partners contacted**

Members of the Local Strategic Partnership  
Brighton & Hove Chamber of Commerce  
Brighton & Hove Federation of Disabled People  
Black Minority Ethnic and Community Partnership  
Spectrum  
Interfaith Contact Group  
Brighton & Hove City PCT  
Brighton & Hove Arts Commission  
The Older People's Council  
The Youth Council  
Rottingdean Parish Council  
The Community Inclusion partnership  
The Community and Voluntary Sector Forum  
Age Concern  
The Women's Centre  
Eco-Logically  
All neighbourhood forums via their community development worker

