

Council's Constitution Since the Local Government Act 2000 came into force, every local authority is required to choose a model of governance from a choice of four prescribed by Parliament. The Constitution forms the building blocks and foundation of the Council's Corporate Governance arrangements it includes Contract Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.

Contract Standing Orders ("CSOs") form part of the Constitution of the London Borough of Merton ("the Council") and govern contracts. The Council is legally obliged to have standing orders. CSOs must include provision for securing competition in the award of contracts and for regulating the manner in which tenders are invited.

In addition, each Department must have and adhere to a Scheme of Management. The Scheme of Management allows a Chief Officer to clearly define the decision making rights of those who exercise management responsibility on their behalf. It operates within the Council's Constitution.

Financial Regulations set out the financial policies and the framework for managing the Council's financial affairs. They seek to ensure that the Council conducts its affairs in a way that complies with specific statutory provisions, generally accepted accounting principles and professional good practice.

Officers and Members are authorised to make decisions in accordance with these Financial Regulations, but they do not authorise any person to make a decision which is contrary to any provision in the Constitution.

Financial Procedures detail the responsibilities of the Chief Finance Officer and other chief officers and identify key controls. They carry the same importance as financial regulations and are an integral part of the Council's framework of internal control. They operate within the Council's Constitution.

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