Governance and decision making

The council operates leader and cabinet style 'executive arrangements'.

This means that the responsibility for decision making on most services such as education, highways, housing, leisure, libraries, parking, refuse collection, street cleansing and social services rests with an Executive.

The Executive comprises of the Leader of the Council and (currently) seven other leading Members of the Council.

The full council remains the forum where the council's budget and policy framework are set. Councillors meet to debate issues of importance and question Executive members and committee chairmen.

The first full council meeting after the election will be the Annual Meeting on the 16th May 2018. Sometimes called “Mayor-Making” this meeting takes place in the Civic Suite and elects the new Mayor, the Leader and appointments to various roles and committees.

Quasi-judicial and regulatory functions such as planning, and licensing decisions are delegated from the Council to separate committees and therefore are not Executive functions. These committees are non-political where decisions are reached regarding individual cases on the facts presented and within legal limits.

You can find out more about how decisions are made here - http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/info/200310/about_the_council/62/how_decisions_are_made

Full details of the arrangements can also be found in the Council's Constitution - http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/downloads/download/38/council_constitution

There are Standing Orders set within the constitution which formally govern how the Council’s formal meetings (including Full Councils, Committees and Overview and Scrutiny Committees) are conducted and how decisions are taken. They provide guidance on the business and practice to be observed at each meeting. They include detail on how petitions are presented, how questions are raised and how to speak at a meeting.

It is important that you take time to familiarise yourselves with these rules. A copy has been provided in the Member Welcome Pack, but they can also be accessed via the constitution above.

Training will be provided to help you understand these procedures, and Democratic Services’ staff can help provide any advice you need.
**Accessing agendas – “Modern.Gov”**

A calendar of meetings and the agendas, papers and minutes for formal meetings are published via the Modern.Gov pages on the council’s website: [https://democracy.wandsworth.gov.uk/ieDocHome.aspx](https://democracy.wandsworth.gov.uk/ieDocHome.aspx)

You can also access the council’s forward plan of decisions, contact details of councillors and their Declarations of Interests from these pages.

Wandsworth Council operates a “paperlite” decision making system. All members of the council are provided with iPads with access to the modern.gov app that allows agendas to be downloaded, viewed and annotated with ease.

Paper copies of agendas will not be routinely mailed to councillors, although there might be a small number of exceptional circumstances examples when this might be considered appropriate. This approach significantly reduces overall costs (even taking into account the upfront costs of IT equipment).