

# Part 2

## Articles of the Constitution



### Article 1: The Constitution

#### 1.1 Powers of the Council

The Council will exercise all its powers and duties in accordance with the law and this Constitution.

#### 1.2 Purpose of the Constitution

The purpose of the Constitution is to ensure the good governance of the Council in the public interest by:

- (a) describing the structures and operating systems by means of which the Council will secure that it can deliver its services efficiently and effectively;
- (b) providing the means of internal scrutiny and oversight of the delivery of Council policies and services; and
- (c) improving transparency of delivery and being accountable to the local community.

#### 1.3 Aims of the Constitution

The provisions of this Constitution will

- (a) enable the Council to provide clear leadership to the community in partnership with citizens, businesses and other organisations;
- (b) support the active involvement of citizens in the process of local authority decision-making;
- (c) help Councillors represent their constituents and the district area more effectively;
- (d) enable decisions to be taken efficiently and effectively, with due regard to equity and probity;
- (e) create a powerful and effective means of holding decision-makers to public account;

- (f) ensure that no one will review or scrutinise a decision in which they were directly involved;
- (g) ensure that those responsible for decision making are clearly identifiable to local people and that they explain the reasons for decisions; and
- (h) provide a means of ensuring the delivery of services to the community.

#### **1.4 Interpretation of the Constitution**

Where the Constitution permits the Council to choose between different courses of action, the Council will always choose that option which it thinks is closest to the purposes stated above.

#### **1.5 Review of the Constitution**

The Council will monitor and evaluate the operation of the Constitution as set out in [Article 13](#) annually.