

CHAPTER 2 – ARTICLES OF THE CONSTITUTION

1. ARTICLE 1 – INTRODUCING THE CONSTITUTION: THE COUNCIL’S VISION FOR MEDWAY AND ITS COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP ROLE

- 1.1 The Council’s vision for Medway is that Medway will be thriving, confident and healthy, a place where people are proud to live, work and learn. There will be opportunities for everyone to achieve and succeed, and to get the most out of life. We will celebrate the diversity of our communities, tackling disadvantage in all its forms. The local economy will grow an increasing number and range of jobs created by the expansion of existing businesses and the attraction of new ones. With a University for Medway offering opportunities for all local people, we will have a highly educated and skilled workforce, able to meet the needs of employers. Economic prosperity and progress will not however, be achieved at the expense of the environment. People living in Medway will enjoy a high quality of life, with decent, affordable housing. There will be a responsive transport system, helping to reduce traffic congestion. We will improve the environment and maintain it for future generations.
- 1.2 This can only be achieved through the participation of all – the community, the Council, businesses and others sharing ambition and responsibility. We will listen to local people and jointly take pride in improving the place where we live. Networks of voluntary groups working with local people will be encouraged.
- 1.3 Medway Council will provide high quality services, always working to improve value for money. Over and above this the Council will consult and involve local people so that decisions are taken on spending limited resources together. The Council will co-ordinate partnerships across boundaries to achieve common objectives. Medway Council will seek to set an example as a good and fair employer.
- 1.4 Medway matters – there is no limit to what we can achieve. Working together we will shape the future of Medway and create an environment of flourishing communities with people who fulfil their potential.

1.5 This constitution

This constitution and all its appendices, is the constitution of Medway Council. The Council will exercise all its powers and duties, and move forward towards its vision in accordance with the law and this constitution.

1.6 Purpose of the constitution

The purpose of the constitution is to:

- enable the Council to provide clear leadership to the community in partnership with local people, businesses and other organisations;
- provide a means of improving the delivery of services to the community;

- support the active involvement of local people in the process of local authority decision-making;
- help Councillors represent their constituents more effectively;
- enable decisions to be taken efficiently and effectively;
- create a powerful and effective means of holding decisions-makers to public account;
- ensure that no one will review or scrutinise a decision in which they were directly involved; and
- ensure that those responsible for decision-making are clearly identifiable to local people and that they explain the reasons for decisions.

1.7 **Interpretation and review of the constitution**

Where the constitution permits the Council to choose between different courses of action, the Council will choose the option that it thinks is closest to the purpose stated above.

The Council will monitor and evaluate the operation of the constitution as set out in article 14.

Reference:

Section 37, LGA 2000

Chapter 10, DETR Guidance

The Local Government Act 2000 (Constitutions) (England) Direction 2000