

## **CHAPTER 2 – ARTICLES OF THE CONSTITUTION**

### **1. ARTICLE 1 – INTRODUCING THE CONSTITUTION**

#### **1.1 This Constitution**

This is the Constitution of Medway Council. The Council will exercise all its powers and duties, and move forward towards its vision set out within the Council Strategy in accordance with the law and this Constitution.

#### **1.2 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.

#### **1.3 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*