

## **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 The Constitution**

This Constitution and all its parts, appendices and glossary, is the Constitution of the Dorset Council.

### **1.3 Purpose of the Constitution**

The purpose of the Constitution includes, to:

- (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 Members represent their constituents more effectively;
- (d) enable decisions to be taken efficiently and effectively;
- (e) create means for holding decision-makers to public account;
- (f) seek to ensure that no one will review or scrutinise a decision in which they were directly involved;
- (g) seek to 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 improving the delivery of services to the community.

### **1.4 Interpretation and review of the Constitution**

The Council will monitor and evaluate the operation of the Constitution as set out in Article 15 – Review and Revision of the Constitution – Part 1 of the Constitution.

The Audit and Governance Committee has particular responsibility for those parts of the Constitution which relate to internal controls, including Financial Regulations.

The Monitoring Officer has responsibility for keeping the Constitution corrected and up to date and has delegated authority to make changes.

#### **Rules of Procedure**

- 1.5 Any provision of this Constitution that fulfils a statutory requirement for the provision of Standing Orders shall be construed as being a Standing Order for that purpose. Unless the context otherwise requires the remaining provisions of Parts 1, 2 and 4 shall also be construed as Standing Orders.