

## PART 2 OF THE CONSTITUTION

### Articles

#### Article 1 – The Council and the Constitution

This article explains what the Council's mission and values are and how this Constitution works.

##### 1.1 Mission and values of the Council

(a) Mission

The Council will seek to make a difference by building thriving communities through partnership, community leadership and excellent service delivery.

(b) Values

The Council will follow these values:-

- (i) We are honest, open and accountable.
- (ii) We value people's differences and we will treat everybody fairly and with respect.
- (iii) We listen, involve and respond to all our communities.
- (iv) We always look for new and better ways of working to improve quality and value.

##### 1.2 Powers of the Council

The Council must follow the law of England and this Constitution when it carries out its powers and duties.

##### 1.3 The Constitution

This Constitution and all its appendices is the Constitution of North East Derbyshire District Council.

##### 1.4 Purpose of the Constitution

The purpose of the Constitution is to:-

- (a) help the Council lead the district of North East Derbyshire working together with members of the public, business and other organisations;

- (b) help members of the public be involved in decision making;
- (c) help *Councillors* represent members of the public effectively;
- (d) make sure decisions are taken efficiently, appropriately and effectively;
- (e) make sure those who take the decisions can be held to account;
- (f) make sure that members of the public know who in the Council takes decisions and why they have taken them; and
- (g) provide a way of improving the delivery of services to the community.

## **1.5 Meaning of the Constitution**

- (a) If the Constitution gives the Council a choice about what to do, the Council must choose the option that it thinks is closest to the purposes of the Constitution in Article 1.4.
- (b) The decision of the *Chairman of the Council* on the meaning of the Constitution or on any proceedings of the Council cannot be challenged by anyone at a *Council Meeting*. The *Chairman of Council* must have regard to the purposes of the Constitution when making a decision.
- (c) The meanings of many of the words and phrases in italics are given in the *A – Z of the Constitution*.

## **1.6 Review of the Constitution**

The *Monitoring Officer* must monitor and review how the Constitution is working to make sure it gives full effect to the purposes in Article 1.4.

## **1.7 Changes to the Constitution**

Changes to the Constitution can only be approved by the *Council Meeting*. Responsibility for reviewing the Constitution rests with the Standards Committee. The *Monitoring Officer* may make any associated changes to the Constitution to reflect what the *Council Meeting* has agreed.

## **1.8 Suspension of the Constitution**

The *Articles* cannot be suspended. The *Council Meeting* may suspend the operation of some of the *Procedure Rules*.

## **1.9 Publication**

The *Monitoring Officer* will make sure that every *Councillor* has access to the *Constitution* and that it is made widely available to staff and the public.