

## **ARTICLE 1 - THE CONSTITUTION**

### **Powers of the Council**

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

### **The Constitution**

2. This Constitution, its Articles and all its appendices, is the Constitution of the Epping Forest District Council.

### **Purpose of the Constitution**

3. The purpose of the Constitution is 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 councillors represent their constituents more effectively;
  - (d) enable decisions to be taken efficiently and effectively;
  - (e) create an effective means of holding the Council to public account in terms of the decisions that it makes;
  - (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 improving the delivery of services to the community.

### **Interpretation and Review of the Constitution**

4. Where the Constitution permits the Council to choose between different courses of action, it will always choose that option which fulfils the purposes stated above, or their aims and objectives. Such choice will be made by reference to the option which the Council considers to be the most appropriate in the circumstances.
5. The Council will monitor and evaluate the operation of the Constitution.