

PART 2

Articles of the Constitution

Article 1 - The Constitution

1.1 POWERS OF CHELTENHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cheltenham Borough Council (referred to in the Constitution as the Authority) will exercise all its powers and duties in accordance with the law and this Constitution.

1.2 THE CONSTITUTION

This Constitution, including all its appendices, is the Constitution of the Authority

1.3 PURPOSE OF THE CONSTITUTION

The Constitution:

- (a) enables the Authority to provide clear leadership to the community in partnership with members of the public, businesses and other organisations;
- (b) supports the active involvement of members of the public in the process of local authority decision-making;
- (c) helps Councillors represent their constituents more effectively;
- (d) enables decisions to be taken efficiently and effectively and whenever possible, in public;
- (e) creates a powerful and effective means of holding decision makers to public account;
- (f) ensures that no one will review or scrutinise a decision in which they were directly involved;
- (g) ensures that those responsible for decision making are clearly identifiable to local people and that they explain the reasons for decisions;
- (h) ensures that there is open and accountable decision making based on the principles of open government and access to information;
- (j) provides a means of improving the delivery of services to the community; and
- (k) provides an up-to-date point of reference for access to all the operating rules of the Authority.

1.4 **INTERPRETATION AND REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION**

Where the Constitution permits the Authority to choose between different courses of action, the Authority will always choose that option which it thinks is closest to the purposes stated above.