

## **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.