

## **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 documents, is the Constitution of the Tewkesbury Borough Council ("the Council").

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

The purpose of the Constitution is to:

- (a) enable the Council to provide clear leadership to the community in partnership with the public, businesses and other organisations;
- (b) support the active involvement of the public in the process of local authority decision-making;
- (c) help Councillors represent their constituents more effectively;
- (d) enable decisions to be taken efficiently, effectively and transparently, with due regard to probity and equity;
- (e) create a powerful and effective means of holding decision-makers to public account;
- (f) ensure that no one will review or scrutinise a decision in which he or she was 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.

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

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

The Council will monitor and evaluate the operation of the Constitution as set out in Article 14.

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