

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 appendices, is the Constitution of the Crawley Borough Council.

1.3. Purposes of the Constitution

The purpose of the Constitution is to:

- (1) enable the Council to focus on the needs of the people of Crawley;
- (2) enable the Council to work in partnership with local people, businesses, voluntary groups and other agencies to provide clear leadership to the community for the wider benefit of all;
- (3) support the active involvement of citizens in the process of local authority decision-making;
- (4) help Councillors represent their constituents more effectively;
- (5) enable decisions to be taken efficiently and effectively;
- (6) create a powerful and effective means of holding decision-makers to public account;
- (7) ensure that no one will review or scrutinise a decision in which they were directly involved;
- (8) ensure that those responsible for decision-making are clearly identifiable to local people and that they explain the reasons for actions and decisions;
- (9) provide a means of listening to what people want and continually improving the quality and efficiency of services to the community;
- (10) strive to develop employees so that they achieve the highest standards in personal performance and are best equipped to serve the needs of the community;
- (11) ensure that the Authority acts with fairness, honesty, openness and integrity;
and
- (12) ensure that the diversity of the local community and of the employees is valued and that equality and justice underlines the Council's approach to securing services.

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 purposes stated above in the best interests of the people of Crawley.

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