PART 2

ARTICLES OF THE CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE 1 – THE CONSTITUTION

1.01 Powers of the Council

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

1.02 The Constitution

This Constitution, and all its appendices, is the Constitution of Surrey County Council.

1.03 Purpose of the Constitution

The purpose of the Constitution is to:

1. enable the Council to provide clear leadership through its own work and in partnership with other organisations, and to help the people and communities of Surrey improve their quality of life. It wants Surrey to be a prosperous, safe and attractive place in which to live and work – for the present generation and for the sake of generations to come. In particular, it wants to make sure that its services represent the best possible value for money so that its limited budget achieves the greatest good;

2. involve Surrey people and Surrey organisations in what it does to make Surrey a better place;

3. ensure that it keeps up with the changing needs of Surrey people and that the services it provides are the services that people want and need;

4. help county 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 decisions; and

9.   provide a means of improving the delivery of services to the Surrey community.

1.04   **Interpretation and Review**

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 above.

The Council will monitor and evaluate the operation of the Constitution as set out in Article 13.