

# **Article 1 - The Constitution**

## **1.01 Powers of the Council**

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

## **1.02 The Constitution**

This Constitution, and all its appendices, is the Constitution of Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council. The electronic copy of the Constitution appearing on the Council's website is to be regarded as the master copy of the Council's Constitution.

## **1.03 Purpose of the Constitution**

The purpose of the Constitution is:

1. to enable the Council to provide clear leadership to the community in partnership with citizens, businesses and other organisations through the implementation of the Sandwell Plan;
2. to support the active involvement of citizens in the process of local authority decision-making;
3. to help councillors represent their constituents more effectively;
4. to enable decisions to be taken efficiently and effectively;
5. to create a powerful and effective means of holding decision-makers to public account;
6. to ensure that no one will review or scrutinise a decision in which they were directly involved;
7. to ensure that those responsible for decision-making are

clearly identifiable to local people and that they explain the reasons for decisions; and

8. to provide a means of improving the delivery of services to the community.

#### **1.04 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.

The Council will monitor and evaluate the operation of the Constitution as set out in Article 15.