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 within the provisions set out in this Constitution.

1.2 THE CONSTITUTION

This Constitution, and all its appendices, is the Constitution of Rushmoor Borough 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 citizens, businesses and other organisations, as set out in Rushmoor's Corporate Plan and its strategies for securing economic, social and environmental well being;

(b) support and encourage the active involvement of citizens in the process of local authority decision-making;

(c) help councillors represent their constituents effectively;

(d) enable decision to be taken efficiently and effectively;

(e) create a powerful and effective means of holding decision-makers to public account;

(f) ensure that the actions taken by the Council show integrity, probity and are in accordance with relevant codes of conduct;

(g) ensure that those responsible for decision-making are clearly identifiable to local people and that they explain the reasons for decisions;

(h) provide a means of improving the quality and delivery of services to the community; and provide an explanation of how the Council conducts its business and makes decisions in a clear and understandable way.

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.

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