PART 2 – ARTICLES OF THE CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE 5 – CHAIRPERSON OF THE COUNCIL

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1. ROLE AND FUNCTION OF THE CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSON OF THE COUNCIL

1.1 The Chairperson is elected and the Vice- Chairperson is appointed by the Council at the Annual Meeting. The Councillors who currently hold these positions are identified in Part 6 of this Constitution. The Chairperson of the Council and, in their absence, the Vice- Chairperson, will have the following roles and functions:

2. CIVIC AND CEREMONIAL ROLE

2.1 The Chairperson will attend such civic and ceremonial functions as they determine appropriate having regard to Council protocol, and local functions as part of supporting the community or promoting the interests of the Council and the District. They will promote public involvement in the Council's activities and will encourage the Council to engage in activities to increase the understanding of democratic processes, particularly amongst minority and disadvantaged groups and young people.

3. CHAIRING MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL

3.1 The Chairperson will have the following responsibilities at Council meetings:

(a) To uphold and promote the purposes of the Constitution, and to rule on its interpretation and application when necessary.

(b) To preside over meetings of the Council so that its business can be carried out efficiently and with regard to the rights of Councillors and the interests of the community. The ruling of the Chairperson as to the construction or application of this Constitution or as to any proceedings of the Council shall not be challenged at any meeting of the Council. Such interpretation will have regard to the aims of this Constitution contained in Article 1.

(c) To ensure that the Council meeting is a forum for the debate of matters of concern to the local community so that its business can be carried out efficiently in accordance with the law and this Constitution with regards to the rights of councillors and the interests of the community.

4. OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES

4.1 To call extraordinary meetings of the Council under Schedule 12 paragraph 3 to the Local Government Act 1972.

4.2 The detailed role of the Chairperson of the Council, in particular the civic responsibilities, are contained in the Council's Civic Protocol.