

ARTICLE 2 - MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

2.01 Composition and Eligibility

2.01.1 Composition. The Council will comprise 38 members, otherwise called councillors. One or more councillors will be elected by the voters of each ward.

2.01.2 Eligibility. Only registered voters of the district or those living or working in the district will be eligible to hold the office of councillor.

2.02 Election and Terms of Councillors

2.02.1 Election and Terms. The regular election of councillors will be held on the first Thursday in May every four years. The terms of office of councillors will start on the fourth day after being elected and will finish on the fourth day after the date of the next regular election.

2.03 Roles and Functions of all Councillors

2.03.1 Key Roles

All councillors will:

- (i) collectively be the ultimate policy-makers and carry out a number of strategic and corporate management functions;
- (ii) represent their communities and bring their views into the Council's decision making process, i.e. become the advocate of and for their communities;
- (iii) effectively represent the interests of their ward and of individual constituents;
- (iv) respond to constituents' enquiries and representations, fairly and impartially;
- (v) participate in the governance and management of the Council;
- (vi) be available to represent the Council on other bodies;
- (vii) maintain the highest standards of conduct and ethics.

2.03.2 Rights and Duties

- (i) Councillors will have such rights of access to such documents, information, land and buildings of the Council as are necessary for the proper discharge of their functions and in accordance with the law.
- (ii) Councillors will not make public information which is confidential or exempt without the consent of the Council or divulge information given in confidence to anyone other than a councillor or officer entitled to know it.
- (iii) For these purposes “confidential” and “exempt” are defined in the Access to Information Procedure Rules in Part 4 of the Constitution.

2.04 Cessation of Membership

A councillor will cease to be a member if they resign by giving notice in writing, if they fail to observe the requirements to attend Council meetings as prescribed by Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 or if they are disqualified from holding office by virtue of Section 80 of the Local Government Act 1972 or any other statutory provision.

2.05 Conduct

Councillors will at all times observe the Code of Conduct for Members; the Planning Code of Conduct; the Licensing Code of Conduct and the Protocol on Member/Officer Relations set out in Part 5 of this Constitution.

2.06 Allowances

Councillors will be entitled to receive allowances in accordance with the Members' Allowances Scheme set out in Part 6 of this Constitution