

Article 2 - Members of the Council

2.01 Composition and Eligibility

- (a) **Composition.** The Council comprises 84 Members, otherwise called Councillors. Councillors will be elected by the voters of each Ward in accordance with a scheme drawn up by the Local Government Boundary Commission and approved by the Secretary of State.
- (b) **Eligibility.** Only registered voters of the District or those living or working there will be eligible to hold the office of Councillor.

2.02 Election and Terms of Councillors

The ordinary election of a third (or as near as may be) of all Councillors will normally be held on the first Thursday in May in each year except every fourth year beginning in 2013 when there will be no regular election. The terms of office of Councillors will be four years starting on the fourth day after being elected and finishing on the fourth day after the date of the regular election four years later.

2.03 Roles and Functions of all Councillors

- (a) **Key Roles.** All Councillors will:
 - (i) collectively be the ultimate policy-makers and carry out a number of strategic and corporate management functions;
 - (ii) contribute to the good governance of the area and actively encourage community participation and citizen involvement in decision-making;
 - (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) maintain the highest standards of conduct and ethics;
 - (vii) be available to represent the Council on other bodies; and

- (viii) be available to serve on any Committee (including Area Committees) established by the Council.

(b) **Rights and Duties**

- (i) Councillors will have right 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 any 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" information are defined in the Access to Information Procedure Rules in Part 4 of this Constitution.

2.04 Conduct

Councillors will at all times observe the Councillor Code of Conduct and the Protocols set out in Part 5 of this Constitution.

2.05 Allowances

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