

Article 2 – Members of the Council

2.01 Composition and eligibility

(a) Composition.

The Council will comprise 38 Members, otherwise called Councillors. One or more Councillors will be elected by the voters of each ward in accordance with a scheme drawn up by the Local Government Commission for England and approved by the Electoral Commission.

(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 regular election of all Councillors will be held on the first Thursday in May every four years on a cycle of 2007, 2011 etc. 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

(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) represent their communities and bring their views into the Council's decision-making process, i.e. become the advocates of and for their communities;
- (iii) respond to constituents' enquiries and representations, fairly and impartially;
- (iv) balance different interests identified within the ward and represent the ward as a whole;
- (v) be involved in decision-making;
- (vi) be available to represent the Council on other bodies; and
- (vii) maintain the highest standards of conduct and ethics.

(b) 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 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.
- (iii) For these purposes, "confidential" and "exempt" information is defined in the Access to Information Rules in Part 4 of this Constitution.

2.04 **Conduct**

Councillors will at all times observe the Members' Code of Conduct, the Protocol on Member/Employee Relations, the Protocol on Dealing with Planning Matters and the Protocol for Planning site visits set out in Part 5 of this Constitution.

2.05 **Allowances**

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

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