

Article 2 – Councillors

2.1 Membership of the Council

The Council consists of 60 Councillors representing 20 wards. 3Three Councillors are elected by the voters of each ward in accordance with the scheme drawn up by the Electoral Commission and approved by the Secretary of State.

Only eligible persons, as defined by electoral law, will be permitted to hold the office of Councillor.

2.2 Elections and Term of Office

There will be an ordinary election of one third of all councillors held on the first Thursday in May each year, except that in 2013 and every fourth year following, there will be no local elections. The terms of office of councillors will be four years starting on the fourth day after being elected and will finish on the fourth day after the date of the regular election four years later.

2.3 Roles and functions of all Councillors

All Councillors will:

- a. collectively be the ultimate policy-makers and carry out a number of strategic and corporate functions for the Council;
- b. represent their communities and bring their views into the Council's decision- making process;
- c. contribute to good governance of the area and actively encourage community participation and citizen involvement in decision-making;
- d. be available to represent the Council on other bodies;
- e. maintain the highest standards of conduct and ethics.
- f. deal with individual casework, respond to Constituents' enquiries and representations fairly, promptly and impartially and act as an advocate for constituents in resolving particular concerns or grievances;
- g. effectively represent the interests of their Ward and of individual constituents;
- h. be aware of their responsibilities regarding corporate parenting

2.4 Rights and Duties

- a. Councillors will have such rights of access to those documents, information, land and buildings of the Council as is necessary for the proper discharge of their functions and in accordance with the law.
- b. Councillors will not make any information public if it is confidential or exempt, without the consent of the Council, or divulge information given in confidence to anyone other than a Councillor or employee entitled to know it.
- c. For these purposes, “confidential” and “exempt” information are defined in the Access to Information Rules contained in Part 4 of this Constitution.

2.5 Conduct

Councillors will at all times observe the Council’s Code of Conduct for Councillors, Councillor/Employee Relations Protocol and other general guidance set out in Part 5. Councillors are required to register interests in certain matters, including their employment or businesses and certain financial interests in local companies, contracts and land. The register is open to inspection by members of the public.

2.6 Councillors’ Allowances

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

- 2.7** To ensure accountability, compliance with the Councillor Code of Conduct, arrangements relating to liability and indemnification, and to secure representation of the Council’s interests, only Councillors may be appointed to outside bodies by Council or Cabinet (as appropriate), except in the case of certain charitable trust organisations that may be determined by Council/Cabinet from time to time.