

Article 2 – Members of the Council

2.1 Composition and eligibility

- a) **Composition.** The Council will comprise 64 members, otherwise called Councillors. Councillors will be elected by the voters of 61 electoral divisions in accordance with a scheme drawn up by the Local Government Commission and approved implemented by Statutory Order.

- b) **Eligibility** - Legislation governs the eligibility of candidates to be elected, but in summary, only registered voters of the county area or those living, working or occupying land there will be eligible to be elected to the office of Councillor.

2.2 Election and terms of councillors

The regular election of Councillors is 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. A by-election may be held if a vacancy occurs in a division between each regular election, except if such vacancy occurs within 6 months of the date of the next regular election.

2.3 Roles and functions of all councillors

- (a) Key roles.** All Councillors will:
- (i) collectively be the ultimate policy-makers as set out in the Constitution and carry out strategic and corporate management functions;

 - (ii) contribute to the good governance of the area and encourage community participation and citizen involvement in decision-making;

 - (iii) effectively represent the interests of their electoral divisions and of individual constituents and bring their views into the Council's decision-making process;

 - (iv) respond to constituents' enquiries and representations fairly and impartially;

- (v) participate in the governance and management of the Council, including scrutiny arrangements as appropriate;
- (vi) be available to represent the Council on other bodies; and
- (vii) maintain the highest standards of conduct and ethics in the conduct of the business of the Council or their office and comply with their Code of Conduct.

(b) Rights and duties

- (i) Councillors will have such rights of access to such documents and information 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” information are defined in legislation and the Access to Information Rules in Appendix 6 of this Constitution.

(c) Role Profiles

The Council has agreed Member Role Profiles for Councillors and the various office holders in the Council and will keep these under review. These are contained in Appendix 17 of this Constitution.

2.4 Conduct

Councillors will at all times observe the Members’ Code of Conduct as adopted from time to time and the Protocol on Member/Officer Relations as adopted and as set out respectively in Appendices 11 and 13 and the conduct provisions of the Council Procedure Rules (set out in Appendix 3) at meetings to which they apply.

2.5 **Allowances**

Councillors will be entitled to receive allowances in accordance with the Members' Allowances Scheme set out in Appendix 15 of this Constitution.

