

## **Article 2 – Members of The Council**

### **2.01 Composition and Eligibility**

(a) **Composition**

The Council shall comprise 39 Members otherwise called Councillors. One, two or three Councillors shall be elected by the voters of each ward in accordance with the scheme drawn up by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England and approved by Parliament.

(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 Office**

The ordinary election of all Councillors shall be held on the first Thursday in May every fourth year from 2016. The terms of office of Councillors shall normally be four years starting on the fourth day after being elected and finishing on the third day after the date of the regular election four years later.

The Secretary of State may, in a year when a General Election is held, make an Order to change the ordinary day of election of Councillors so as to be the same date as the Poll in that General Election.

### **2.03 Roles and Functions of All Councillors**

(a) **Key Roles**

All Councillors shall:

- (i) collectively be the ultimate policy-makers and carry out a number of strategic and corporate 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) deal with individual casework and act as an advocate for constituents in resolving particular concerns or grievances;
- (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; and
- (vii) maintain the highest standards of conduct and ethics.

(b) **Rights and Duties**

- (i) Councillors shall have 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 shall not make public information which is confidential or exempt without the consent of the Council or divulge information given to them in confidence to anyone other than a Councillor or officer entitled to know it.

For these purposes, “confidential” and “exempt” information are defined in the Access to Information Rules in Part 4 of this Constitution.

#### **2.04 Conduct**

Councillors shall at all times observe the Members’ Code of Conduct, the Planning and Development Code of Practice, the Probity in Licensing and Enforcement Code of Practice, and the Protocol on Member/Officer Relations set out in Part 5 of this Constitution.

#### **2.05 Allowances**

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