

## **ARTICLE 2 - COMPOSITION AND ELIGIBILITY**

### **2.01 COMPOSITION AND ELIGIBILITY**

- (a) **Composition.** The Council will comprise 75 Members, otherwise called Councillors. Three Councillors will be elected by the voters of each Ward in accordance with a scheme drawn up by the Local Government 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 be elected to the office of Councillor.

### **2.02 ELECTION AND TERMS OF COUNCILLORS**

**Election and terms.** The ordinary election of a third (or as near as may be) of all Councillors will be held on the first Thursday in May in each year with effect from 2002, except that in 2005 and every fourth year after 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, FUNCTIONS, RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF ALL COUNCILLORS**

- (a) **Key roles.** All Councillors will:
  - (i) collectively be the ultimate policy-makers and collectively carry out a number of strategic and corporate management functions in line with the corporate strategy;
  - (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) 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 rights of access to such Council resources as are relevant and necessary for the proper discharge of their functions and in accordance with the law, subject to the limitations contained in this constitution.
  - (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 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](#) 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' Allowances Scheme](#) set out in Part 6 of this Constitution.