

Article 2 – Members of the Council

2.01 Composition and eligibility

- (a) **Composition.** The Council comprises 54 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 electors of the borough or those living, working or owning property in the borough will be eligible to hold the office of Councillor.

2.02 Election and terms of Councillors

Election and terms. The regular election of Councillors will be held on the first Thursday in May every four years beginning in 2002. 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 strategic and corporate management functions;
 - (ii) contribute to the good governance of the area and actively encourage participation and public involvement in decision making;
 - (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) balance the interests of the Ward and the Borough more generally (a balance that Executive Members in particular must be seen to achieve);
 - (vi) participate in the governance and management of the Council;
 - (vii) be available to represent the Council on other bodies;
 - (viii) maintain the highest standards of conduct and ethics; and
 - (ix) have the right to refer to an Overview and Scrutiny Committee any matter which affects his/her ward except one in relation to a planning, licensing or regulatory application or where an individual has a right of appeal or review (see Scrutiny and Overview procedure rules).

(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 information which is confidential or exempt without the consent of either the full Council or the Monitoring Officer, 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 Members’ Protocol 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.