

Article 2 – Members of The Council

2.01 **Composition and Eligibility**

- a) **Composition.** The Council will comprise 28 Members, otherwise called Councillors. One or more Councillors will be elected by the voters of each ward in accordance with a scheme drawn up by the Local Government Boundary Commission and approved by Parliament. The number of Councillors and the wards they represent are included at Schedule 1.
- 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 Councillors**

Election and Terms. The regular election of Councillors will be held on the first Thursday in May every four years beginning in 2003. 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 a number of strategic and corporate management functions;
 - ii) contribute to the good governance of the area and actively encourage community participation and citizen involvement in decision making;
 - iii) effectively represent the interest of their ward and of individual constituents;
 - iv) respond to constituent's 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.

Further details on roles and responsibilities are contained in Schedule 2. Councillors may fulfil more than one role and the detail is intended to cover these main roles.

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 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 Code of Member Conduct, the Planning Code, Protocol for Councillors on Gifts and Hospitality, Officers' Code of Conduct, Protocol on Member/Officer Relations, Code of Corporate Governance and Monitoring Officer 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.