

Article 2 – Members of the Council

2.01 **Composition and eligibility**

- (a) **Composition.** The Council will comprise 50 Members, otherwise called Councillors. 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 Borough or those living or working there will be eligible to hold the office of Councillor.

2.02 **Election and terms of Councillors**

The regular election of Councillors will be 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.

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 Borough and actively encourage community participation and citizen involvement in decision making;
 - (iii) effectively represent the interests of their Wards and of individual constituents;
 - (iv) respond to constituents' enquiries and representations, fairly and impartially;
 - (v) represent the Council in the community;
 - (vi) participate in the management of the Council; and
 - (vii) maintain the highest standards of conduct and ethics.
- (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 the Council or divulge information given in confidence to anyone other than a Councillor or Officer entitled to know it.
 - (iii) For the purposes of (ii), "confidential" and "exempt" information are defined in the Access to Information Procedure Rules in Part 4 of this Constitution.

- (iv) Councillors will comply with any Rules or protocols issued by the Council relating to the use of information given to them in confidence by any Councillor or Officer.

2.04 **Conduct**

Councillors will at all times observe the Member's 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 all allowances in accordance with the Members' Allowances Scheme set out in Part 6 of this Constitution.