

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

### **2.01 Composition and Eligibility**

The Council will comprise 45 Members (otherwise called Councillors). One or more Councillors will be elected by the voters of each Ward in accordance with the scheme drawn up by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

Only registered voters of the District or those living or working there will be eligible to hold the office of Councillor.

The Local Government Act 1972 sets out in full the qualifications for standing for election as a Councillor.

### **2.02 Election and Terms of Councillors**

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 beginning in 2018, except in 2021 and every 4th year after then when there will be no regular election. For Councillors elected from 2018 onwards, the terms of office 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.<sup>1</sup>

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

All Councillors will undertake the following key roles:

- a) Collectively be the ultimate policy makers and carry out, and participate in a number of strategic and corporate management functions;
- b) Contribute to the good governance of the area and actively encourage community participation and citizen involvement in decision-making;
- c) Effectively represent the interests of their ward and individual constituents;
- d) Respond to constituents' enquiries and representations, fairly and impartially;
- e) Participate in the governance of the Council;
- f) Maintain the highest standards of conduct and ethics.

### **2.04 Rights and Duties of Councillors**

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<sup>1</sup> Councillors Terms of Office are governed by the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972, Section 7. The Leader, Chairs and Vice-Chairs, subject to remaining an elected Councillor, hold office until the annual meeting of the Council.

As detailed in the Access to Information Procedure Rules (Part 4) 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. They will not make public any information which is confidential or exempt, or divulge information given 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.

#### 2.05 Conduct

Councillors will at all times observe the Members Code of Conduct and the Protocol for Member/Officer Relations set out in Part 5 of this Constitution.

#### 2.06 Allowances

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