

Article 2 – Members of the Council

2.1 Composition and Eligibility

Composition

2.1.1 The Council comprises 45 Members, called Councillors.

Eligibility

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

2.1.3 Councillors must be 18 years of age or over

2.2 Election and Terms of Councillors

2.2.1 In May 2019 the Council undertook all out elections for all 45 seats. Councillors were elected for periods of between 1 and 4 years depending on the results of the elections. This allowed the election of thirds to be undertaken in subsequent years. The elections of a third of all Councillors will normally be held on the first Thursday in May in each year beginning in 2020 except that in 2023 and every fourth year after there will be no regular election.

2.2.2 The terms of office of Councillors will, after the 2019 elections 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.

2.3 Roles and functions of all Councillors

Key roles

All Councillors will:

2.3.1 collectively be the ultimate policy-makers and carry out a number of strategic and corporate management functions;

2.3.2 represent their communities and bring their views into the Council's decision-making process, i.e. become the advocate of and for their communities;

2.3.3 deal with individual casework and act as an advocate for constituents in resolving particular concerns or grievances;

2.3.4 balance different interests identified within the Ward and represent the Ward as a whole;

2.3.5 be involved in decision-making;

2.3.6 be available to represent the Council on other bodies;

2.3.7 maintain the highest standards of conduct and ethics; and

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2.3.8 have regard to the duties and responsibilities set out in role descriptions approved by the Council.

Rights and Duties

2.3.9 Councillors will have 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.

2.3.10 Councillors will not divulge confidential or exempt information without the consent of the Council, or divulge information given in confidence to anyone other than a Councillor or Officer entitled to know it.

2.3.11 For these purposes, “confidential” and “exempt” information is defined in Procedure Rule 1 – Access to Information, in Part 4 of this Constitution.

2.4 Conduct

2.4.1 Councillors will at all times observe the Members’ Code of Conduct and other agreed protocols and procedures

2.5 Members’ Allowances

2.5.1 Councillors will be entitled to receive allowances in accordance with the Members’ Allowances Scheme