

Article 2 – Councillors

This article explains who *Councillors* are, what they must do and how long they serve as *Councillors*. You can find out who your *Councillor* is here and also find out information on how to stand for election as a *Councillor*.

2.1 Number of Councillors and areas they represent

The Council will have 53 members called *Councillors*. The voters of each *Ward* may elect one or more *Councillors* to represent them.

2.2 Who can be a Councillor?

Anybody aged 18 years or over who:-

- (a) is a citizen of the European Union, and
- (b) is registered to vote in local government elections in the District, or who has lived or worked there in the last 12 months, and
- (c) is not stopped by law from holding office as a *Councillor*

may stand for election as a *Councillor*.

2.3 When elections happen and how long Councillors are elected for

Elections for all *Wards* will take place on the first Thursday in May every four years. People elected as *Councillors* start being *Councillors* on the fourth day after being elected and finish on the fourth day after the next regular election.

2.4 Roles and functions of all Councillors

All *Councillors* should;

- (a) together be the makers of overall policy
- (b) represent, and speak up for their communities
- (c) deal with individual casework and speak up for members of the public
- (d) balance different interests within their *Ward* and represent it as a whole
- (e) be involved in Council decision making
- (f) be available to represent the Council on other bodies
- (g) maintain the highest standards of conduct and ethics, and
- (h) consider the views and work on behalf of all the residents in the ward, not just those who voted for them

2.5 Rights

Councillors will have rights of access to Council documents, information, land, buildings and information technology necessary to allow them to carry out their functions.

2.6 Responsibilities

Councillors must follow the *Councillor Code of Conduct* and *Protocols* and register their interests.

Councillors must undertake all mandatory training as specified within the Member Development Strategy.

2.7 Allowances

Councillors will be entitled to receive allowances in accordance with the *Members Allowance Scheme*.

2.8 Stopping being a Councillor

A *Councillor* will stop being a *Councillor* if:-

- (a) they resign by giving written notice, or
- (b) they fail to attend meetings of the Council for a period of six months without having been granted a dispensation for their absence by the *Council Meeting*, or
- (c) they are stopped by law from holding office, or
- (d) the period for which they were elected has come to an end, as set out in Article 2.2 and they have not been re-elected.