

## Councillors

This Section explains who Councillors are, what they must do and how long they serve as Councillors.

### 1.1 Who can be a Councillor?

Anybody aged 18 years or over who: -

- (a) in some cases, is currently a citizen of the European Union?
- (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.

### 1.2 When elections happen and how long Councillors are elected for.

The Elections for Councillors in all of our 'Wards' covering specific communities take place once every four years, on the first Thursday in May. Those elected start being Councillors on the fourth day after they are elected and finish on the fourth day after the next election.

### 1.3 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

## SECTION 1 – COUNCILLORS

### 1.4 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.

### 1.5 Responsibilities

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

Councillors must undertake all required training to help them carry out their different roles.

### 1.6 Allowances

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

### 1.7 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 Council within 6 months of their last attendance, or
- (c) they are stopped by law from holding office, or
- (d) the period for which they were elected has come to an end and they have not been re-elected.