

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

## **2.01 Composition and Eligibility**

Composition.

- (a) The Council will comprise 75 members (otherwise called Councillors). 3 members 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.

Eligibility

- (b) Only registered voters of the City or those living or working there will be eligible to hold the office of Councillor.

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

The ordinary election of a third of all Councillors will be held on the first Thursday in May in each year, except that in 2005 and every fourth year after there will be no regular election. The terms of office of Councillors 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.

### **2.02 (a) Term of Office on Committees and Sub-Committees**

Subject to section 102(5) of the Local Government Act (councillor not re-elected to cease to be a member of a committee), every Councillor appointed as a voting member of such a committee or sub-committee and every Councillor appointed to exercise other functions (such as Chair or Vice Chair) in relation to a committee or sub-committee shall continue as such until the appointment is terminated by the authority.

### **2.03 (a) Key Roles – All Councillors will:**

- (i) collectively be the ultimate policy-makers and carry out a number of strategic and corporate management functions;
- (ii) represent their communities and bring their views into the Council's decision-making process, i.e. become the advocate of and for their communities;
- (iii) deal with individual casework and act as an advocate for constituents in resolving particular concerns or grievances.
- (iv) balance different interests identified within the ward and represent the ward as a whole;

- (v) be involved in decision-making;
- (vi) be available to represent the Council on other bodies; 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 these purposes, “confidential” and “exempt” information are defined in the Access to Information Rules in Part 4 of this Constitution.

### **2.04 Conduct**

Councillors will at all times observe the Members’ Code of Conduct, the Protocol on Member/Employee Relations and the Protocol for Members in Relation to Development Control Matters set out in Part 5 of this Constitution.

### **2.05 Allowances**

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

