

ARTICLE 2 – MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

2.1 Composition and eligibility

- (a) **Composition.** The Council consists of 82 Members. One or more Members will be elected by the voters of each ward into which the Council is divided.
- (b) **Eligibility.** Generally only registered voters of the Council area or those living or working in that area for an appropriate period of time will be eligible to hold office as a Member. The law disqualifies some people from holding office as councillors.

2.2 Election and terms of Members

Election and terms of office. Following elections in 2024 and 2029, the regular election of Members will be held on the first Thursday in May every four years afterwards. The term of office for Members will start on the fourth day after being elected and will finish on the fourth day after the date of the next regular election.

2.3 Roles and functions of all Members

Key roles.

Based upon “21st Century Councillor Principles”, all Members will:

Lead

- (a) balance different interests identified within his/her ward, acting as a community leader and facilitator;
- (b) identify key stakeholders for local issues and build relationships between different groups, organisations and individuals to achieve solutions to these issues;
- (c) contribute to the good governance of the area, actively encouraging and enabling the community to participate, be involved in decision making and deliver its own solutions;
- (d) help in the management of limited public resource and collaborate with others to best deliver the resources that are available;

Advocate

- (e) advocate for all citizens within their wards representing their views through the Council’s decision-making process and helping in the resolution of particular grievances;
- (f) act as a communication channel between the Council and its citizens, promoting citizens interests and needs to the council and assisting the public to better understand the issues being addressed by local government and the services it provides;

External

- (g) undertake individual casework, including working with others, to support individuals within their ward as effectively as possible;
- (h) represent the Council on other bodies and work with different groups to help develop strong working relationships;

Internal

- (i) foster professional working relationships with Officers;
- (j) ensure the Council identifies a range of equality and diversity issues associated with its services and reasonable adjustments are made to address these;
- (k) actively participate in overseeing the successful, lawful and effective management of the Council's public resources and delivery of public services;

Personal development and innovation

- (l) continue to develop and enhance their personal skills and knowledge and encourage others to develop;
- (m) ensure the highest standards of conduct and ethics;
- (n) identify and embrace the development of new and innovative ways of doing things including new technologies, processes and working practices; and
- (o) oversee trends and developments, both at county and national level, and ensure that these are taken into account through the Council's decision making process.

Rights and Duties

- (p) Members 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.
- (q) Members 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 Member or Officer entitled to know it.

For these purposes the terms "confidential" and "exempt" shall have the meanings given to them in Local Government Act 1972.

2.4 Conduct

Members will at all times observe the codes and protocols for Members as set out in Part 4 of the Constitution.

2.5 Allowances

Members will be entitled to receive allowances in accordance with the Members' Allowances Scheme – Part 5 of the Constitution.

