

ARTICLE 2 – MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

1 Composition and Eligibility

- (a) **Composition.** The Council will comprise 42 Councillors, otherwise called Members, to be elected by the voters of each ward in accordance with a scheme drawn up by the Local Government Boundary Commission.
- (b) **Eligibility.** Only qualifying commonwealth citizens, citizens of the Republic of Ireland or relevant citizens of the European Union who have attained the age of eighteen years and who are registered voters of the Borough or who have occupied property or worked there for the whole of the preceding 12 months or lived there during those 12 months will be eligible to hold the office of Member .

2 Election and Terms of Members

Election and Terms. Members are elected every four years. Elections are held on the first Thursday in May every four years. The terms of office of 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.

3 Roles and functions of all Members

- (a) **Key Roles.** All Members 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) 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 and the Protocol on Member/Officer relations in Part 5 of this Constitution.

- (ii) 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.
- (iii) For these purposes “confidential” and “exempt” information are defined in the Access to Information Rules in Part 4 of this Constitution.
- (iv) Members should attend any meeting of the Council where possible.

4 Conduct

Members will at all times observe the Local Code of Conduct and the Protocol on Member/Officer Relations set out in Part 5 of this Constitution and Members serving on the Planning and Licensing Committees will at all times observe the Code of Conduct for Councillor and Officers in relation to Planning and Licensing matters in part 5.2 of this Constitution.

5 Allowances

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