

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

### **2.1 Composition and eligibility**

- 2.1.1 The Council will comprise 40 members, otherwise called councillors. One or more councillors will be elected by the voters of each ward in accordance with a scheme drawn up by the Local Government Commission or Electoral Commission and approved by the Secretary of State.
- 2.1.2 Only registered voters of the District or those living or working there will be eligible to hold the office of councillor.

### **2.2 Election and terms of councillors**

- 2.2.1 The regular election of councillors will be held on the first Thursday in May every four years beginning in 2003. The term of office of councillors 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 Key roles**

- 2.3.1 All Councillors will:
- 1) collectively act as the ultimate policy-makers;
  - 2) contribute to the good governance of the District and actively encourage community participation in decision making;
  - 3) effectively represent the interests of their ward and of individual constituents;
  - 4) respond to constituents' enquiries and representations, fairly and impartially;
  - 5) participate in the governance and management of the Council; and
  - 6) maintain the highest standards of conduct and ethics.

### **2.4 Rights and duties**

- 2.4.1 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.
- 2.4.2 Notwithstanding the provisions of the paragraph 2.4.1 above the Council may resolve from time to time that all Councillors shall have access to the agenda and reports of the Council and its Committees and the Cabinet and any Committee of the Cabinet without having to demonstrate a need to know.
- 2.4.3 Councillors will not make public that 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.

2.4.4 For the purposes of the foregoing paragraph 2.4.3 “confidential” and “exempt” information are defined in the Access to Information Rules set out in Section D of Part 4 of this Constitution.

## **2.5 Conduct**

2.5.1 Councillors will at all times observe the adopted Code of Conduct for Members and the Protocol on Member/Officer Relations set out in Sections A and D of Part 5 of this Constitution Conduct or any other Code or Protocol from time to time adopted by the Council which governs the conduct of elected or co-opted members of the Council.

## **2.6 Allowances**

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