

ARTICLE 2 – MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

2.01	Composition and Eligibility
(a)	Composition:
The Council will comprise 44 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 Boundary Commission and approved by the Secretary of State.	
(b)	Eligibility:
Only qualifying Commonwealth, Republic of Ireland or EU citizens who are over 18 and:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Registered local government electors of the Borough; or - Living, working or occupying land as an owner or tenant there (at the time when nominations are made for candidates for election and for the previous 12 months) 	
will be eligible to hold the office of councillor.	
2.02	Election and terms of councillors
The regular election of all councillors will be held on the first Thursday in May every four years. The terms of office of councillors will start on the fourth day after being elected and finish on the fourth day after the date of the regular election four years later.	
2.03	Roles and Functions of All Councillors
(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)	contribute to the good governance of the area and actively encourage community participation and citizen involvement in decision-making;
(iii)	represent their communities and bring their views into the Council's decision-making processes, i.e. become the advocate of and for their communities;

(iv)	be involved in decision-making, including attending relevant member training for the committees and bodies on which they sit;
(v)	maintain the highest standards of conduct and ethics;
(vi)	balance different interests identified within the ward and represent the ward as a whole;
(vii)	participate in the governance and management of the Council;
(viii)	be available to represent the Council on other bodies;
(ix)	deal with individual casework and act as an advocate for constituents in resolving particular concerns or grievances; and
(x)	respond to constituents' enquiries and representations, fairly and impartially.
(b)	Rights and Duties:
(i)	Councillors will have 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.
(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 and the Protocol on Member/Officer Relations 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.	