

# Article 2 – Members of The Council

## 2.01 Composition and eligibility

- (a) **Composition.** The Council comprises 39 elected members, called councillors, who are elected to represent their ward. There are 13 wards in Exeter, who elect three councillors to sit on the Council.
- (b) **Eligibility.** Only registered voters of the City or those living or working here are eligible to hold the office of councillor.

## 2.02 Election and terms of councillors

**Election and terms.** The ordinary election of a third of all councillors will be held on the first Thursday in May in each year beginning in 2020, except that in-2021 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.

A Councillor may at any time resign their position by giving notice in writing to the Returning Officer (the **Chief Executive**), who is the proper officer for that purpose and the resignation will be effective upon its receipt.

Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, the elections in May 2020, were postponed to May 2021. The terms of office of those councillors who would have been up for election have been extended accordingly. (The Local Government and Police and Crime Commissioner (Coronavirus) (Postponement of Elections and Referendums) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020, refers).

## 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) 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;
- (vii) maintain the highest standards of conduct and ethics; and
- (viii) participate, as appropriate, and attend where deemed mandatory in learning and development opportunities offered by the Council.

(b) **Rights and duties**

- (i) Councillors 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 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' Allowance Scheme set out in Part 6 of this Constitution.