

Article 2 – Members of The Council

2.01 Composition and eligibility

- (a) **Composition.** The Council comprises 40 elected members, called councillors, who are elected to represent their ward. There are 18 wards in Exeter, most elect two councillors to sit on the Council although four wards, with a larger number of electors, elect three councillors.
- (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 (or as near as may be) of all councillors will be held on the first Thursday in May in each year beginning in 2000, except that in 2001 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.

~~Following a change to the ward boundaries in 2000, all 40 councillors stood for election and the length of office before standing for re-election is dependent on how many votes they secured compared to the other elected councillor(s) representing that ward.~~

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, in training 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.