

ARTICLE 2 - MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

2.1 Composition and Eligibility

- (a) **Composition** The Council currently comprises 30 Members, otherwise called Councillors as from 1 May 2003. 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 for England and approved by the Secretary of State.
- (b) **Eligibility** Only registered voters of the District or those living or working in Ryedale are eligible to hold the office of Councillor.

2.2 Election and Terms of Councillors

Election and Terms The regular election of 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 will finish on the fourth day after the date of the next regular election.

2.3 Roles and Functions of all Councillors

- (a) **Key Roles** All Councillors will:
 - (i) collectively be the ultimate policy-makers and carry out the principal strategic and corporate management functions, taking a District wide view;
 - (ii) engage with and represent their communities whose views they will bring into the Council's decision-making process;
 - (iii) balance different interests identified within the Ward and represent the Ward as a whole;
 - (iv) deal with individual casework and act as an advocate for constituents in resolving particular concerns or grievances;
 - (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, and show respect for fellow Members, staff and the community.

(b) Rights and Duties

- (i) 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. The Head of Paid Service may refuse inspection of documents where the documents are, or in the event of legal proceedings would be, protected by privilege arising out of a Solicitor and Client relationship;
- (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;

- (iii) No Councillor can issue an order for works to be carried out by or on behalf of the Council and nor can he/she claim any right to inspect or enter any land unless specifically authorised to do so by the Council.

2.4 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.

The Council is required to maintain and update a Register of Interests of its Members and co-opted Members. Details of the Register are set out in Part 3 of the Members’ Code of Conduct. The Register is available for public inspection at the Council’s offices.

2.5 Allowances

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