

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 as approved by the Secretary of State.

(b) Eligibility

Only registered voters of the district or those living or working there will be eligible to hold the office of councillor. **(Section 79 of the Local Government Act 1972).**

2.02 Election and Terms of Councillors

The regular election of councillors will be held on the first Thursday in May every four years beginning in 2003. 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. **(Sections 3-7 of the Local Government Act 1972/Section 37 of the Local Government Act 2000 and paragraph 3(b) of the Constitutions Direction 2000).**

2.03 Roles and Functions of Councillors

(a) Key Roles

All Councillors will:

- (i) collectively be the ultimate policy-makers and carry out a number of strategic and corporate 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; and
- (vii) maintain the highest standards of conduct and ethics.

(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. (Section 37 of the LGA 2000 and paragraph 3(v) of the Directions) and paragraph 17 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000 as amended.
- (ii) Councillors will not make public information which is given in confidence and exempt from publicity without the consent of the Council.
- (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 - (Section 18 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, Section 37 of the Local Government Act 2000 and paragraph 3(d) of the Constitution Directions)**

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

2.06 **Role Description for Councillors**

The Council has produced a document which sets out the Role Description of Warwick District Councillors that is annexed to this Constitution