

## **Article 2 Members of the Council**

### **2.1 Composition and eligibility**

- (a) Composition. The Council comprises 74 members, otherwise called councillors. All councillors will be elected by the voters of each electoral division in accordance with a scheme drawn up by the Local Government Boundary Commission in Wales and approved by the Wales Government.
- (b) Eligibility. To be elected as a member of the County Council a person must be at least 21 years of age and a Commonwealth citizen, a citizen of the Republic of Ireland or a citizen of another Member(s) State of the European Community. And either:-
  - (i) is and continues to be a local government elector for the area of the authority; or
  - (ii) has during the whole of the preceding twelve months occupied as owner or tenant any land or other premises in the area of the authority; or
  - (iii) is a person whose principal or only place of work has been in the area of the authority; or
  - (iv) has resided in the area of the authority during the whole of the preceding twelve months.

### **2.2 Election and term of office of councillors**

Elections for all members of the council normally take place every five 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**

The Job Profile and Person Specifications for a Councillor can be found in Part 6 of this Constitution within the Councillors' and Co-opted Members' Allowances Scheme

### **2.4 Rights and Duties – Members' Access to Files**

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.

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 the Constitution.

All such requests for access to documents will be made to the Chief Executive or other appropriate Chief Officer who will decide whether access is necessary for the proper discharge of a member's functions and in accordance with the law. The Monitoring Officer will be consulted by the relevant officer, if so required.

## **2.5 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.

## **2.6 Allowances**

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