

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

### **1 Composition and Eligibility**

The Council will comprise 75 Members, otherwise called Councillors. These 75 Councillors will be elected by the voters of each electoral division in accordance with a scheme drawn up by the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales and approved by the Welsh Government.

Eligibility – to be elected as a Councillor of the City and County of Swansea a person must

- be at least 18 years old
- be a British citizen, an eligible Commonwealth citizen or a citizen of any member state of the European Union
- meet at least one of the following requirements:
  - is and continues to be a local government elector for the area of the authority; or
  - has during the whole of the preceding 12 months occupied as owner or tenant any land or other premises in the area of the authority; or
  - is a person whose main or only place of work for the preceding 12 months has been in the area of the authority; or
  - has resided in the area of the authority during the whole of the preceding 12 months.

### **2 Election and Terms of Councillors**

The regular election of Councillors will be held as determined by legislation. Elections for all members of the council normally take place every five years. The terms of office of Councillors is normally for 5 years. The term starts and finishes as defined in legislation.

### **3 Roles, Rights and Duties 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 electoral division and represent the electoral division as a whole;
- v) Contribute to the continual improvement of Council services;
- vi) Be involved in decision-making through the Council meeting;
- vii) Be available to represent the Council on other bodies; and

- viii) 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;
  - 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.

#### **4 Conduct**

Councillors will at all times observe the Members’ Code of Conduct and the Officer/Councillor Relations Protocol set out in **Part 5** of this Constitution.

#### **5 Allowances**

Councillors will be entitled to receive allowances in accordance with the Councillors’ Remuneration Scheme set out in **Part 6** of this Constitution.