

West Suffolk Shadow Council

Article 2 – Members of the Shadow Council

2.1 Composition and eligibility

The Shadow Council will comprise Councillors of Forest Heath District Council and St Edmundsbury Borough Council, at the time of the Implementation Order coming into force (referred to as “councillors”).

2.2 Elections and term of office

The term of office of councillors will finish on the fourth day after the date of the election required to be held in 2019. Councillors shall remain as members of West Suffolk Council until this date even though Forest Heath District Council and St Edmundsbury Borough Council are abolished on 1 April 2019.

Should a Councillor cease to be a member of Forest Heath District Council or St Edmundsbury Borough Council on or before 30 September 2018, then they shall also cease to be a member of the Shadow Council a by-election will be held at the earliest appropriate opportunity to elect a new Councillor for Forest Heath District Council or St Edmundsbury Borough Council, who will also become a member of the Shadow West Suffolk Council.

If a Councillor ceases to be a member of Forest Heath District Council or St Edmundsbury Borough Council after 30 September 2018, then a by-election shall not be held and the seat on the Shadow West Suffolk Council will remain vacant.

2.3 Roles and functions of councillors

The councillors will be expected to continue to undertake the roles and functions as set out in the ward councillor job description which forms the Appendix to Article 2 of the Forest Heath District Council/St Edmundsbury Borough Council Constitution(s).

It is recognised that Councillors, when serving on West Suffolk Shadow Council, will be obliged to operate in the best interests of the whole of West Suffolk, but will still have duties in relation to either Forest Heath District Council or St Edmundsbury Borough Council. Their duties to each individual Council should not, by default, create a conflict of interest as all parties have a duty to co-operate to ensure the most effective and efficient transfer of functions to West Suffolk Council.

2.4 Rights and duties

- 2.4.1 Councillors have rights of access to Shadow Council documents, information, land and buildings as are necessary for them to be able to carry out their role properly and in accordance with the law.
- 2.4.2 Councillors will not make any information public if it is confidential or exempt without the consent of the Shadow Council, or divulge information given in confidence to anyone other than a councillor or officer entitled to know it.
- 2.4.3 For these purposes, 'confidential' and 'exempt' information are defined in the Access to Information Rules contained in Part 4 of the Constitution.

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 the Constitution.

2.6 Allowances

Councillors will not receive allowances from the Shadow Council in relation to the undertaking of its roles and functions, but will receive allowances in accordance with the Members' Allowances Scheme as set out in Part 6 of the Forest Heath District Council/St Edmundsbury Borough Council Constitutions.