

## **DRAFT Constitution**

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

#### **2.1 Composition and eligibility**

##### *[Forest Heath]*

The Council comprises 27 councillors who are elected by the voters in the district. There are 14 wards in the district and one or more councillors will be elected to each ward in line with a scheme which was drawn up by the Electoral Commission and approved by the Secretary of State.

To be eligible to stand for election as a councillor, a person must be registered to vote in the district, or live or work there.

##### *[St Edmundsbury]*

The Council comprises 45 councillors who are elected by the voters of the borough. There are 31 wards in the borough and one or more councillors will be elected to each ward in line with a scheme which was drawn up by the Electoral Commission and approved by the Secretary of State.

To be eligible to stand for election as a councillor, a person must be registered to vote in the borough, or live or work there.

#### **2.2 Elections and term of office**

The regular election of councillors is held on the first Thursday in May, every four years. The term of office of councillors will start on the fourth day after being elected and finish on the fourth day after the date of the next regular election.

#### **2.3 Roles and functions of councillors**

These are set out in the ward councillor job description which forms Appendix [...] to the Constitution.

The extra responsibilities of the Leader and Cabinet are set out in [ ... ]

#### **2.4 Rights and duties**

2.4.1 Councillors have rights of access to 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 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 ..] 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 ...] of the Constitution.

## **2.6 Allowances**

Councillors will be entitled to receive allowances in accordance with the members' allowances scheme set out in [Part ...] of the Constitution.