

## **PART 2 – ARTICLES OF THE CONSTITUTION**

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

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#### **2.1 Composition**

The Authority will comprise 75 Councillors (otherwise called Members). One or more Councillors will be elected by the voters of each electoral division in accordance with a scheme drawn up by the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales and approved by the National Assembly for Wales.

#### **2.2 Election and terms of Councillors**

The regular election of Councillors will be held on the first Thursday in May every four years or at such other time as may be set by law. 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**

##### **(a) Key roles**

Councillors will:

- (i) collectively set the Policy Framework and carry out a number of strategic functions;
- (ii) represent their communities and bring their views into the Authority'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) seek to balance different interests identified within the ward and represent the ward as a whole;
- (v) contribute to the continual improvement of council services through the Wales Improvement Programme;
- (vi) be involved in decision-making;
- (vii) be available to represent the Authority 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 and this Constitution;

(ii) Councillors may visit any land or premises of the Authority subject to the following:

- they must properly identify themselves to the person in control of the premises and may not issue instruction to employees;
- or interview any employee other than a Corporate Director, Chief Officer or senior officer nominated for that purpose on matters of policy or principle, or any matter which is either under consideration by the Council or Cabinet or likely to be brought before it or any of its Committees;
- visits to residential establishments must have regard to the privacy and safety of residents and therefore may only be undertaken following proper notice to the relevant Chief Officer or his/her nominee and the visit may then be made in accordance with arrangements specified.

(iii) Councillors will not make public information which is confidential information or exempt information without the consent of the Authority or divulge information given in confidence to anyone other than a Councillor, officer or other person legally entitled to know it.

## 2.4 **Conduct**

Councillors and employees will at all times observe their Code of Conduct and the Protocol on Member/Officer Relations set out in Part 5 of this Constitution.

Each Councillor will after their election give the Cardiff Undertaking to publicly demonstrate their commitment with all other Councillors to upholding the highest standards of conduct and to serving the interests of the Council, Cardiff, its citizens and those to whom the Council owes a duty.

The giving of the Cardiff Undertaking will take place at:

- (a) the annual meeting after the ordinary election or
- (b) if the Councillor does not attend that annual meeting at the first meeting of the Council thereafter which the Councillor attends or
- (c) where the Councillor is elected at a by-election the first meeting of the Council which the Councillor attends after the by-election.

## 2.5 **Allowances**

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