

Article 2: Members of the Council

2.01 Composition and eligibility

The Council comprises 54 members, otherwise called councillors. Three councillors are elected by the voters of each electoral ward in accordance with a scheme drawn up by the Local Government Commission and approved by the Secretary of State.

Only registered voters of the London Borough of Havering or those living or working there are eligible to hold the office of councillor.

The regular election of councillors is held on the first Thursday in May every fourth year from 2002. The terms of office of councillors start on the fourth day after being elected and finish on the fourth day after the date of the next regular election.

Vacancies in the office of Councillor are filled by a by-election; those elected at a by-election hold office until the fourth day after the date of the next regular election.

2.02 Roles and functions of all councillors

(a) Key roles

All councillors will:

- (i) collectively be the ultimate policy-makers;
- (ii) contribute to the good governance of the area and actively encourage community participation and citizen involvement in decision making; participate in the governance and management of the Council
- (iii) effectively represent the interests of their constituents, fairly, impartially and without unlawful discrimination;
- (iv) maintain the highest standards of conduct and ethics.

(b) Rights and duties

- (i) Councillors will have such rights of access to 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 member of staff entitled to know it.

- (iii) For these purposes, “confidential” and “exempt” information are defined in the Access to Information Procedure Rules in Part 4 of this constitution.

(c) **Champions**

Council has established six positions to act as and be a Champion:

- (i) Champion for the Armed Forces
- (ii) Champion for Equalities and Diversity
- (iii) Champion for Historic Environment
- (iv) Champion for the Over Fifties
- (v) Champion for the Voluntary Sector Compact
- (vi) Champion for the Young People

Such appointments are made at Annual Council.

In relation to the issues for which they are responsible, the Champions shall be required to report annually to Council, shall have the right to report to Council or to Cabinet at any ordinary meeting and may be questioned at an ordinary meeting of the Council by any member.

2.03 Conduct

Councillors will at all times observe the Members’ Code of Conduct, the Protocol on Member/Officers Relations, the Protocol on Probity in Planning matters and the Protocol on Gifts and Hospitality set out in Part 5 of this constitution.

2.04 Allowances

Councillors are entitled to receive allowances in accordance with the Members’ Allowances Scheme set out in Part 6 of this constitution.