

SECTION 3

MEMBERS OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL

1. Composition and eligibility

- 1.1 The Council will be made up of Members, otherwise known as County Councillors, elected by the voters of each electoral division in accordance with legislation. (Currently 62 Members)
- 1.2 Only registered voters of the county area or those living or working there will be eligible to hold the office of County Councillor.
- 1.3 A list of the current County Councillors along with their address and contact details is maintained on the County Council website at <http://moderngov.staffordshire.gov.uk/mgMemberIndex.aspx?bcr=1>.

2. Election and terms of councillors

- 2.1 The regular election of councillors will be held on the first Thursday in May every four years beginning in 2001. 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.

3. Roles, functions, rights and responsibilities of all councillors

- 3.1 All councillors will:
- (i) collectively be the ultimate policy-makers and carry out strategic and corporate management functions;
 - (ii) contribute to the good governance of the area and encourage community participation and citizen involvement in decision making;
 - (iii) effectively represent the interests of their electoral divisions and of individual constituents and bring their views into the Council's decision-making process;
 - (iv) respond to constituents' enquiries and representations, fairly and impartially;
 - (v) participate in the governance and management of the Council;
 - (vi) be available to represent the Council on other bodies; and
 - (vii) maintain the highest standards of conduct and ethics, observing the provisions of the constitution, especially the Members Code of Conduct attached to this section.
- 3.2 The County Council has agreed role descriptions for Councillors and the various office holders in the County Council and will keep these under review. Councillors are also encouraged to prepare and publish an accountability statement each year.

3.3 Councillors will have such rights of access to such documents and information as are necessary for the proper discharge of their functions and in accordance with the law.

3.5 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.

3.5 For these purposes, “confidential” and “exempt” information are defined in the access to Information Rules in Section 13 of this Constitution.

4. Allowances

4.1 Councillors will be entitled to receive allowances in accordance with the Members’ Allowances Scheme set out in this Constitution.

5. Staffordshire Local Community Fund

5.1 The County Council operates a Staffordshire Local Community Fund under which Councillors are able to recommend expenditure of up to a prescribed amount each year on initiative(s) in their electoral divisions which are intended to promote the well-being of the division. Details of the Scheme are set out on the County Council’s website <http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/yourcouncil/slcf/>.