

## Section 3 – Members of the County Council

### 1. Composition and eligibility

- 1.1 The Council will be made up of County Councillors, otherwise known as elected members, 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 elected members along with their contact details is maintained on the County Council website at: [Your County Councillors - Staffordshire County Council](#).

### 2. Election and terms of elected members

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

- 3.1 All elected members will:
  - a. collectively be the ultimate policymakers and carry out strategic and corporate management functions;
  - b. contribute to the good governance of the area and encourage community participation and citizen involvement in decision making;
  - c. effectively represent the interests of their electoral divisions and of individual constituents and bring their views into the Council's decision- making process;
  - d. respond to constituents' enquiries and representations, fairly and impartially;
  - e. participate in the governance and management of the Council;
  - f. be available to represent the Council on other bodies; and
  - g. 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 elected members and the various office holders in the County Council and will keep these under review. In the spirit of transparency and openness, information on elected members' activity is available on the council's public website.
- 3.3 Elected members 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.
- 3.4 Elected members 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 an elected member or officer entitled to know it.
- 3.5 For these purposes, "confidential" and "exempt" information are defined in Section 12 (Access to Information Procedure Rules) of this Constitution.

#### **4. Allowances**

- 4.1 Elected members will be entitled to receive allowances in accordance with the Members' Allowances Scheme set out in this Constitution (Section 3 – Members of the County Council).

#### **5. Members' Fund**

- 5.1 The County Council operates a members' fund under which elected members are able to recommend expenditure of up to a prescribed amount each year on projects that fit defined criteria for the fund during each financial year. Details and key criteria of the Scheme are set out on the County Council's website: [Community Fund - Staffordshire County Council](#)

