

2. THE ROLE OF COUNCILLORS

2.1 All councillors:

- (a) Make decisions collectively, as part of a member body or individually where they are reserved or delegated to a Cabinet member for decision;
- (b) Represent the Council and its interests on other bodies;
- (c) Maintain the highest standards of conduct and ethics in performing their role and ensure they do not participate in decisions or influence decisions where the Code of Conduct for councillors set out under Part 6 of this Constitution, or the law, prohibits their participation;
- (d) Contribute to the good governance and high ethical standards of the city of Southend-on-Sea as a whole;
- (e) Are community leaders, actively encouraging community participation and resident involvement in Council decision making;
- (f) Effectively represent the interests of their Ward and of individual residents including those who did not vote for them;
- (g) Respond to residents' enquiries and representations fairly and impartially;
- (h) Agree to comply with the Code of Conduct for Councillors and the Rules and Protocols set out under this Constitution;
- (i) Must register disclosable pecuniary interests and other interests in the Council's Register of Member Interests within twenty-eight days of being elected and thereafter ensure their registered interests are up to date; and
- (j) Must declare interests at meetings and take appropriate action in accordance with the Code of Conduct for councillors.

The Mayor

- 2.2 The Mayor is elected by the Council at its Annual Meeting each year, which is usually held in May. The Council also elects a Deputy Mayor who acts as the Mayor when the Mayor is not available.
- 2.3 The Mayor (and Deputy Mayor) undertake civil and ceremonial roles on behalf of the Council and represent the Council at events. The Mayor promotes public involvement in the Council's activities.
- 2.4 Although the Mayor is an elected councillor and has a vote, they have a duty to be impartial in carrying out the role of Mayor.
- 2.5 The Mayor presides over meetings of the Council to ensure that business is carried out effectively and has responsibilities for upholding and interpreting this Constitution. The Mayor's rulings on the Constitution or on any proceedings or meetings of the Council cannot be challenged, although their interpretation must have regard to the purposes of this Constitution and must be reasonable and lawful.

2.6 The Mayor cannot be a member of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee.