

COUNCILLOR ROLE DESCRIPTION

Councillor

Role

To participate in the good governance of the County Council and to represent effectively the interests of all the residents of their electoral division. To contribute actively to the formation and scrutiny of the Council's policies, budgets, strategies and service delivery.

Community Leadership Role

As a democratically elected local community leader, councillors may engage across their local community and bring local interests together to help resolve issues and shape future provision. In particular, they could:-

- Act as a local community champion and leader for the area, helping to provide direction, resolve local concerns and reconcile competing views and interests.
- Raise awareness of policy development, service planning and decision making and encourage local people to contribute towards these processes.
- Promote effective relationships with public, private, voluntary and community organisations in their area.
- Be the Council's link with town and parish councils (where they exist) and play a key role in supporting local community groups.
- Monitor the performance of local public services in their area, hold poor performance to account and help plan improvements to local services.
- Promote both the principles and practises of community cohesion, social inclusion and equality and diversity.
- Communicate the latest news about the Council's activities to the local community.
- Represent the interests of their local community when participating in the Council's decision-making process.

Corporate Role

As a member of the Council, the councillor has a significant role to play, which may include:

- Agreeing the Council's overall strategic aims and policies, agreeing revenue and capital budgets and council tax levels.
- Agreeing and reviewing the Council's Constitution.
- Appointing committees and sub-committees.
- Promoting and preserving the integrity of the Council.
- Representing the Council on other bodies.
- Undertaking the role of Corporate Parent.
- Membership of the Fire Authority.

If appointed to serve on one of the Council's regulatory committees, councillors will:

- Act fairly and judiciously.
- Act in accordance with all relevant legislation.
- Ensure that local views and perspectives from local town and parish councils (where they exist) are considered. Ensure proceedings are carried out in an open and transparent way.

If appointed to serve on one of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees, councillors will have the opportunity to:

- Contribute towards policy development and review.
- Hold the Executive to account by assessing the performance of the Council. Scrutiny Members should allow performance to be assessed from the perspective of customers and citizens.
- Scrutinise the effectiveness and performance of partnerships.
- Respond to community call for actions where required.
- Contribute to regional scrutiny arrangements as appropriate.

If appointed to the Executive, councillors will:

- Be a member of the decision-making Executive and be responsible for making key decisions on a wide range of issues which affect and shape the quality of life in the County.
- Be a publicly recognisable and accountable 'key decision-maker' with responsibility for Council performance in their portfolio area. Work with the Executive team to propose and develop policy, taking a lead in their portfolio area.
- Collectively provide strong and fair executive leadership and clear political guidance to other Councillors and Officers.
- Develop with partners a clear vision for what the County needs and develop policies and take decisions which respond to local peoples' needs and aspirations.

Working with officers

Officers and councillors should develop effective working relationships based on mutual respect and cooperation. Councillors are also expected to behave in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct which can be found in Part 5 of the Council's Constitution.