

Test Valley Borough Council

Political Management Arrangements

Under the Local Government Act 2000, Test Valley Borough Council operates a leader and cabinet model of executive arrangements.

The leader is elected by Council for a term of four years under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. The leader appoints a deputy leader, determines membership of the cabinet and the scheme of delegations.

The Council's Constitution sets out the details of the governance arrangements by which the Council operates.

Extract from the Council's Constitution:

Part 2 - Articles of the Constitution

Article 2 – Members of the Council

2.1 Composition and eligibility

- a) **Composition.** The Council will comprise 48 members, otherwise called Councillors. One or more Councillors will be elected by the voters of each ward in accordance with a scheme drawn up by the Local Government Commission and approved by the Secretary of State.

- b) **Eligibility.** Subject to the rules on disqualification and having attained the age of 18, registered voters of the Borough will be eligible to hold the office of Councillor. In addition, a person will be qualified if he/she has either during the whole of the twelve months before the day on which being nominated as candidate, or the day of the election, resided in the borough or occupied as owner or tenant any land or premises therein or had his/her principal or only place of work there.

2.2 Election and terms of Councillors

The regular election of Councillors will be held on the first Thursday in May every four years beginning in 2003. 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.

2.3 Roles and functions of all Councillors

a) Key roles. All Councillors will:

- (i) collectively be the ultimate policy-makers and carry out a number of strategic and corporate management functions;
- (ii) contribute to the good governance of the area and actively encourage community participation and citizen involvement in decision-making;
- (iii) (effectively represent the interests of their ward and of individual constituents;
- (iv) respond to constituents' enquiries and representations, fairly and impartially;
- (v) participate in the governance and management of the Council; and
- (vi) maintain the highest standards of conduct and ethics.

(b) Rights and duties

- (i) Councillors will have such rights of access to such 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 which is exempt, other than with the consent of the Council; nor
 - divulge information given in confidence to anyone other than a Councillor or officer entitled to know it.
- (iii) For these purposes, "confidential" and "exempt" information are defined in the Access to Information Rules in Part 4. Part 2 – Articles of the Constitution 6

2.4 Conduct

Councillors will at all times observe the Members' Code of Conduct and the Protocol on Member/Officer Relations set out in Part 5.

2.5 Allowances

Councillors will be entitled to receive allowances in accordance with the Members' Allowances Scheme set out in Part 6.

References: Part I, Part VA and Section 79, Local Government Act 1972 Chapter 2, DETR Guidance Section 18, Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and regulations thereunder Section 7, Superannuation Act 1972 and regulations thereunder

Test Valley Borough Council's full Constitution is available here: [TVBC Constitution](#)