

3 Councillors

Havant Borough Council is made up of 38 **Councillors**, also known as “**members**”. Councillors are elected by and are democratically accountable to the residents of their ward. The overriding duty of Councillors is to the whole community, but they have a special duty to their constituents, including those who did not vote for them. Only registered voters of the Borough or people living or working here are eligible to stand to be elected as a Councillor.

The regular election of Councillors is usually held on the first Thursday in May three years in every four, for the ordinary election of a third (or as near as may be) of all Councillors except that in every fourth year, there will be no regular election. In wards with two Councillors an election to select a Councillor will happen every two years. The term of office of Councillors starts on the fourth day after being elected and will finish on the fourth day after the date of the next regular election (except for the Mayor and Deputy Mayor; and the Leader and Deputy Leader whose term of office continues until the following Annual Full Council Meeting even if they are not re-elected). Find out when the [next elections](#) will take place.

A full list of Councillors' names, contact information, term of office, and their membership of political groups is available [here](#) on the Council's website along with details of the committees and bodies on which they serve. Find out which [ward](#) you are in and view details of the [political composition](#) of the Council.

Councillors have the following roles and functions:

- a) Collectively deciding the Council's **Budget and Policy Framework** and carrying out a number of other strategic functions;
- b) Initiating, developing and scrutinising policy;
- c) Representing their communities and bringing their views into the Council's decision-making process, i.e. becoming the advocate of and for their communities;
- d) Contributing to the good governance of the area and encouraging community participation;
- e) Dealing with individual casework and acting as an advocate for constituents in resolving particular concerns or grievances;
- f) Balancing different interests identified within the ward and representing the ward and the Council as a whole;
- g) Maintaining the confidentiality of confidential and exempt information and assisting to ensure transparency of information that is publicly available (otherwise there may be a breach of the **Code of Conduct for Councillors**);
- h) Being involved in decision-making;
- i) Being available to represent the Council on other bodies; and
- j) Promoting and maintaining the highest standards of conduct and ethics.

Councillors have to follow a **Code of Conduct for Councillors** to ensure high standards in the way they undertake their duties. The **Standards Committee** and Monitoring Officer advise Councillors on the Code of Conduct; promote high standards of behaviour; and monitor standards of conduct.

The Council maintains a register of interests declared by Councillors which is open to inspection by members of the public and available on the Council's website. Councillors are entitled to receive allowances in accordance with the Councillors' Allowances Scheme set out in Part 5 of this Constitution.