

COUNCIL of ELDERS

HAMILTON CITY COUNCIL OF ELDERS

CONSTITUTION

The purpose of the Council of Elders is to give Hamilton residents over 60 an opportunity to combine their experiences and local knowledge, for the benefit of all people in Hamilton City

The 15 elected members of the Council of Elders provide a voice to the Mayor and Councillors to help in their decision making

1 NAME OF ORGANISATION

- The Hamilton City Council of Elders

2 ROLE

- Examine matters affecting all residents of the City of Hamilton
- To be a voice for the people of the City of Hamilton

3 RELATIONSHIP WITH HAMILTON CITY COUNCIL

- To meet the Mayor and Councillors on a regular basis to discuss matters of common interest.
- To contribute to the development of relevant policies, plans and the Annual Plan.
- Receive Hamilton City Council committee reports and minutes.
- To submit an annual report to the Hamilton City Council.
- To respond to requests for service from Hamilton City Council and communicate with appropriate parties within the Hamilton City Council and its staff.

4 RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PUBLIC

- The Council of Elders will hold an Annual General Meeting each year, which all residents of Hamilton City are entitled to attend.

5 NUMBER OF MEMBERS

- Fifteen

6 ELEGIBILITY OF NOMINATIONS

- A resident of Hamilton having attained the age of sixty years

7 NOMINATION PROCESS

- Written nominations duly seconded and with written acceptance of the nominees be completed by the residents of Hamilton and submitted at least ten days working days prior to the Annual General Meeting.

8 ELECTION

- Elections will be held annually.
- Candidates will be invited to speak for themselves, have another person speak to their nomination or have a written statement read by the Chairperson for up to three minutes at the Council of Elders Annual General Meeting.
- Candidates will be asked to declare any potential conflicts of interest and provide information on what other committees and/or groups which they may be affiliated with.
- Election will be by secret ballot at the Council of Elders Annual General Meeting.
- Electors may vote for up to the number of positions vacant.

9 TERM OF OFFICE

- Members will be elected for a three year term.
- A Council of Elders member, having served a three year term, may choose to stand down. However, if they remain available to serve, their term may be extended for one year with the approval by secret ballot of the Council of Elders, who the following year may also approve a second one year extension, making a maximum continuous service of five years.
- In the event of there being fewer than the required number of nominations, the candidates will be elected to the Council of Elders with the power to co-opt the required additional members.
- In the event of a vacancy occurring on the Council of Elders, a member will be co-opted to fill the vacancy until the next election unless the vacancy occurs during the last quarter of the year.
- In specific circumstances, the Council of Elders will have the power to co-opt a person for a period of two years.

10 QUORUM

- Eight

11 CHAIRPERSON

- Each year, the Council of Elders shall elect a Chairperson from their number at the first meeting following the annual election.
- In the event of a vacancy occurring during the term of office the Council of Elders shall elect a chairperson for the remainder of the term.

12 OFFICERS

- The Council of Elders may elect from its members such officers as it requires.
- The Council of Elders may set up such sub-committees as it requires, and members will be expected to serve on one or more of them.

13 LOSS OF QUALIFICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

- In the event that a member is absent from three consecutive meetings without approval of the Council of Elders that person will cease to be a member.
- If, in the opinion of the Council of Elders, a member brings the Council of Elders into disrepute, or their membership entails a significant conflict of interest, that person shall cease to be a member.

14 CHANGE OF CONSTITUTION

- The constitution may be changed at an Annual General Meeting.

December 2009

The changes to this constitution were ratified at the Council of Elders Annual General Meeting held on Friday 4th December 2009.