

## RCP elected councillors – duties

RCP Council wants to ensure that fellows nominated as elected councillors understand the duties expected of the role. Elected councillors are an important voluntary RCP role. Nominees should understand the level of commitment required and ensure that they are able to manage any local arrangements needed to fulfil the role if elected.

- RCP Council is the professional decision-making body of the RCP. Routinely, it meets six times each year, normally in January, March, May, July, September and November. Meetings are fully hybrid allowing attendance in person or online. Meetings start at 10am or 10.30am and aim to finish by 1pm or 1.30pm.
- Where the later start time is specified, Council meetings are preceded by Fellowship Council (attended by fellows only) at 9.30am. Additional meetings of Council may also be called where necessary. Councillors should consider attendance at both Council and fellowship meetings to be a very high priority. The same applies to the RCP annual general meeting, which takes place in September every year. Various strategic/management boards and committees of the RCP include individual councillors as members. Although this workload is distributed, the expectation is that elected councillors will join at least one and a maximum of two boards each.
- As well as the formal meetings, councillors are involved in other supporting work. These commitments are shared and distributed fairly by mutual agreement. For example, small groups of councillors are asked to review reports or publications and make recommendations about their acceptance to Council as a whole. There are also various ad hoc duties that involve councillors, such as appointment panels for RCP officers. Participation in RCP fellowship and membership ceremonies is also actively encouraged.
- In addition, there is an expectation that councillors fulfil an external role in promoting the RCP and fellowship within their communities. Councillors are expected to nominate colleagues for fellowship on a regular basis (at least 1–2 fellows per fellowship cycle).
- The RCP Board of Trustees includes three seats for members of Council (aside from the senior officers), at least two of whom are elected councillors.
- Elected councillors are free to contact the president, registrar, other senior officers and committee managers at any time to raise issues, seek clarity and for consideration of material to be shared with the full membership of Council. The president/registrar will host a short pre-Council meeting for all elected councillors. The RCP is committed to an open, productive and transparent way of working within Council and the college overall as well as with our membership. Transparency rules have been agreed by Council and it is important that they are followed in-order-to maintain trust and the effective functioning of Council. Agendas include both an open and closed section. The open section agenda, resultant Council report

and Council minutes are made available to the membership on the [RCP website](#). Council members, attendees and observers should read 'The role and responsibilities of RCP Council' document for detailed information on the transparency rules.

In accordance with bye-laws 30.8 and 33.1, the proceedings, papers and correspondence of Council and other meetings of the RCP may at times be deemed confidential and not divulged further without permission. New members of Council and RCP officers will be required to give the Faith to this effect, but guests or those attending Council in an observational capacity should also respect this.

Candidates should note that the RCP Remuneration Committee has agreed that RCP officers and other volunteers, whether or not they are trustees, shall not receive honoraria or other remuneration for their services to the RCP. Candidates should be aware that these posts are not remunerated, and it is the duty of a candidate for office to obtain advance agreement from their employing authority that they will be given time to perform RCP duties, in the context of activities recognised by the Department of Health and Social Care as being in the wider interests of the NHS. However, RCP officers can claim reimbursement of all eligible expenses.

## **Accountability and performance**

Members elected to the RCP Council are entrusted with the responsibility of representing the collective voice of the RCP's membership, rather than advancing personal views or agendas. Councillors are expected to engage in conversation and debate meaningfully, recognising and respecting that viewpoints of others may differ. Council members are expected to demonstrate openness to feedback and constructive criticism from their peers and the wider membership. They should actively seek input from the broader college community to ensure that their decisions and contributions reflect the diversity of perspectives within the RCP.

In cases where concerns arise regarding their performance or conduct, Council members will be expected to engage in open dialogue with their colleagues and the membership to ensure that their actions are consistent with the principles of good governance and the core values of the RCP. This accountability is grounded in a commitment to transparency, inclusivity, and ethical leadership. Council members should have a commitment to the vision, mission and values of the RCP and its [Code of Conduct](#).

## **Council membership – roles and responsibilities**

The current membership of Council can be found on the [RCP website](#).

Please see 'The role and responsibilities of RCP Council' document for more information.

## Our values

We are committed to taking care, learning and being collaborative. These values drive the way we behave, how we interact with each other, and how we work together to achieve our vision and improve patient care.

*The RCP is all about our people – our members, staff, volunteers and leaders. We educate, influence and collaborate to improve health and healthcare for everyone and know we can only do this by being inclusive, encouraging and celebrating diverse perspectives. Welcoming into our community people who represent the 21st-century medical workforce and the diverse population of patients we serve is a priority for us.*

**Last reviewed:** November 2025 (revision to be considered annually)