

A Brief Introduction to the BMC Members' Council

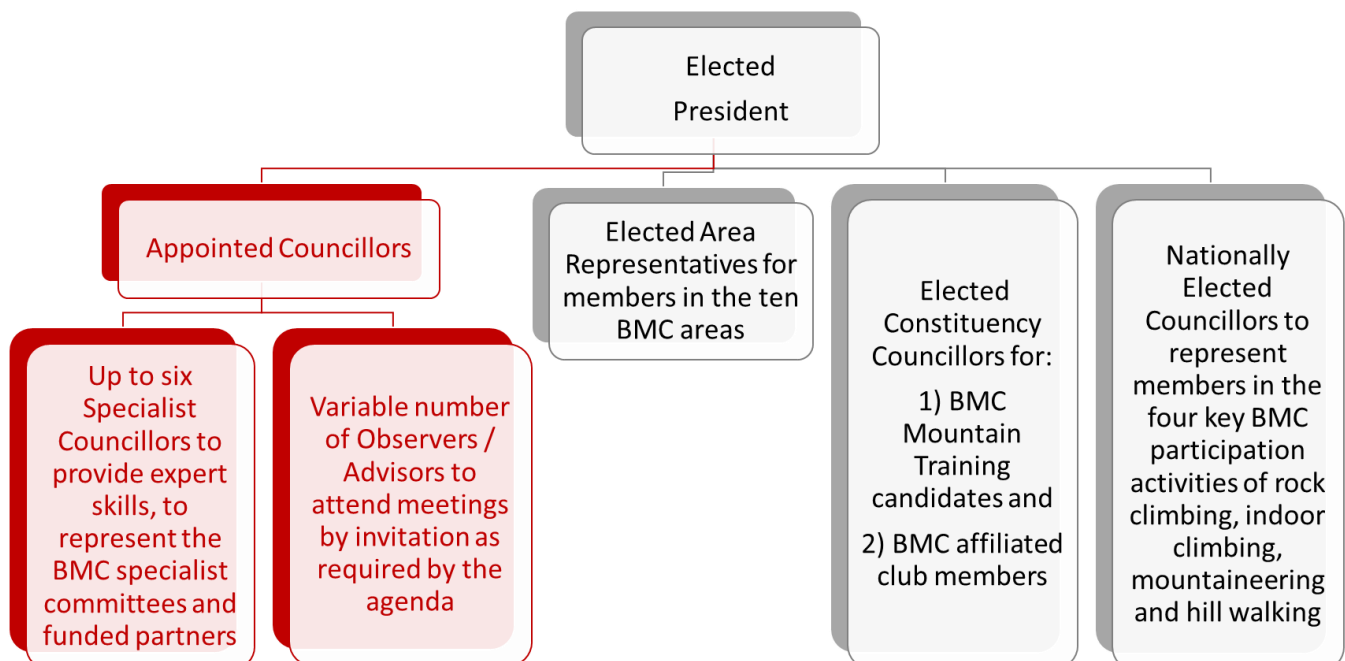
Aims and Ambitions of the Members' Council

The Members' Council (the Council) is a non-executive group of volunteers, which acts as the representative body for BMC members to represent their interests to the Board of Directors. The Council supports the BMC Strategy & Vision which is to ensure 'a better future for climbers, hill walkers and mountaineers'. To achieve this. Council has four primary ambitions:

1. Engagement with the members
2. Engagement with all parts of the BMC
3. Role of Critical friend to the board
4. Outreach beyond the BMC core business

Structure of the Council

The Council is chaired by the President and is made up of elected Councillors, appointed Councillors and Observers. All elected Councillors represent their constituency or specified area of interest and have a vote on Council. Appointed Councillors provide expert skills and advice to Council, and consist of Specialist Councillors, who have a vote, and Observers who don't. The outline structure is shown below:



Specialist Councillors are appointed from the Specialist Committees which represent areas of particular importance to the membership and thus Council (including Access, Clubs, Competition Climbing and Funded Partners). Observers are invited by Council and include BMC directors & staff, other Specialist Committees, Partner organisations and more. Further details on the structure and workings of Council are described in the Council Terms of Reference (ToR).

Councillor Responsibilities

Council is made up of volunteers who have a non-executive role but are expected to attend Council meetings and participate actively in Council business, such as sitting on committees or ad-hoc working groups. Councillors bring considerable expertise, which is highly valued by Council and the BMC as whole. Councillors are ambitious on behalf of the BMC and act in its best interests. It is a demanding role and has the following general responsibilities:

1. Adhere at all times to the principles described in the Council Code of Practice. In reality, this means councillors should:
 - a. Behave in ways that earn the trust of others & respects all parties, act with integrity, and value diversity of people and thought
 - b. Make a positive and enthusiastic contribution to the development and delivery of the Objects of the BMC and its Values, Vision, Mission and Strategy
 - c. Represent the interests of Mountaineering and all Mountaineers within the UK, as well as the Members of the BMC
 - d. Be ambitious for the BMC and act in its best interests; act as a critical friend and advocate of the BMC
 - e. Participate in all Council discussions in a positive, proactive & constructive manner, to enable it to work as a cohesive group with collective responsibilities
 - f. Build good working relations with other Councillors and BMC volunteers generally to share knowledge, issues and best practices
2. Understand that this is a non-executive role; recognise the balance and interaction between this and the executive (i.e. the Board, CEO & Staff)
3. Be prepared to analyse complex issues and apply strategic & analytical approaches to the collective decision-making process
4. Assist the Council in its role of monitoring and reviewing the BMC's financial and strategic performance, ensuring that the BMC delivers for its Members
5. Use judgement as to how best to represent both BMC Members and Mountaineering as a whole where issues are discussed and decisions made by the Council without any prior consultation with the Members
6. Become familiar with the technologies & working practices used by the Council, and be prepared to undertake such training as may be necessary
7. Keep abreast of BMC communications generally and be aware of what is going on within the organisation (e.g. Board updates, ODG reports, newsletters, Facebook posts etc) and mountaineering generally

See the full Councillor Role Description for more details.

Confidentiality & Impartiality

Whilst working to be as open and transparent as possible, as well as honouring their primary responsibility to the Members, Councillors will at times be privy to information that must be kept confidential. In addition, Councillors should always aim to remain impartial irrespective of their own views, both when reflecting the views of the Members they represent to Council/Board, or communicating information from the BMC to the Membership. See the Council ToR for full details.