

Who may be a candidate?

Below are the five qualifications. The first must apply to the candidate together with at least one of the four others both on the day nomination papers are handed in and on polling day:

1. You must be at least 18 years of age, and a Commonwealth citizen or a citizen of a Member State of the European Union.
2. You must be and continue to be a local government elector for the area of the local authority.
3. You must have, during the whole of the twelve months preceding both nomination day and the day of the election, occupied as owner or tenant any land or other premises in the area of the local authority.
4. Your principal or only place of work in the twelve months preceding your nomination day and the day of election, must have been in the area of the local authority.
5. You must have, during the whole of the twelve months preceding both your nomination day and the day of election, resided in the area of the local authority.



Do I know enough to stand for election?

Don't underestimate your own abilities. Each councillor will have something to offer the council. You will not be expected to take direct responsibility for running the council on the first day that you are elected.

Your main qualifications are a genuine concern for the community and willingness to learn. Knowledge and experience will soon follow.

Remember, you will not be on your own. You are very much part of a team and can talk to your fellow prospective council candidates, many of whom will already be experienced councillors.

New councillors bring new ideas and fresh enthusiasm to the council.



Can I afford to be a councillor?

Councils pay a basic allowance to councillors that varies depending on the type and size of the council.

Some councils also pay telephone costs and some provide computers and fax machines. Most councils provide personalised stationery to write to your electors on council business.

Have I the time to be a councillor?

It is possible to spend the whole of your working life on council work, but most councillors have jobs, families and hobbies that demand a lot of their time.

You should talk to a sitting councillor to get a good idea of the time required on the council you are thinking of standing for.

What are councillors and what do they do?

Unless you take particular interest in the work of your council, chances are that you will know little about what a councillor does, other than what you may have read in the local papers or at local election time.

A councillor is a member of the council and is usually elected to represent a particular ward or division for a four year term.

Serving councillors are a broad mix of people from the local community. While they may be politically divided, they share a common, active interest and concern for their local community.

Councillors take collective decisions that form the policy of the council. This will therefore reflect the views of the majority of the members.

Most councils now operate a Cabinet system, through which a smaller number of councillors is responsible for seeing that the policy of the council is carried out.

The council's officers will advise councillors on their work. They are professionally trained staff who are employed to carry out the lawful function and duties of the council.

What do I do now?

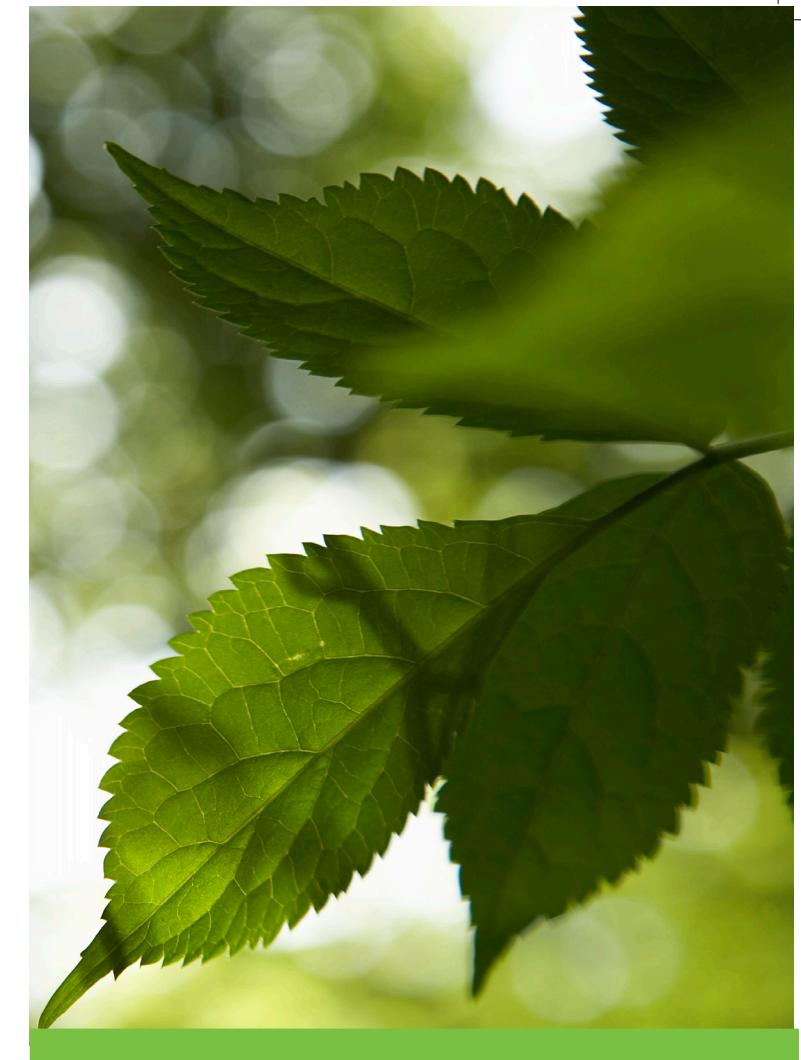
The Conservative Councillors' Association has produced A Guide to Becoming a Conservative Councillor, an introductory booklet for those interested in standing for local council.

If you are interested in finding out more, contact your local Conservative Association who will provide you with a copy of the booklet. Their contact details can be found on www.conservatives.com.

Alternatively, contact the Conservative Councillors' Association directly on 020 7984 8144 or at cca@conservatives.com.



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Join the Conservative Councillor team

