

A Councillor who me?

Councillors are ordinary people with extraordinary commitment.

They play a vital role as the voice of the community, shaping and directing the effectiveness of local services.

You don't need to be a politician to stand for election (although in practice most Councillors are identified with a political group). People stand for many reasons.

About our council

There are 27 Borough Councillors. The Borough is made up of 9 wards and each ward has 3 councillors to represent the residents in that ward. Each councillor serves a four-year term and elections are held across the Borough every four years.

What's involved in being a councillor?

It's a varied role. The Council has responsibility for a wide spectrum of issues, including housing, environment and planning, economic development, arts and culture. You could be the voice of the people in your area, championing their ideas in the development of policies and effecting change.

The three main areas of responsibility are: -

- Representing the people in your area
- Community leadership
- Formulating policy

What can I contribute?

Your experience, whether that be life skills or professional or business skills. Your drive and determination to see things through. Your tact and diplomacy in resolving constituents' problems.

Your sense of humour!

How do I qualify?

You need to be at least 18 and a British, Commonwealth or European Community citizen.

You also need to be a local elector or have lived, worked or owned a property in the Borough for at least one year.

Do I have time?

This will depend on the extent of your involvement, your political activities, and what role you take in the Council.

The average length of a meeting is two and half-hours. You will also need to deal with constituents' queries at home. We would estimate about ten hours a week would be required.

Can I afford it?

The council pays allowances to its members. Although modest they go some way towards recognising the time councillors spend in their duties and meeting expenses incurred.

Can I get time off work?

Most employers are prepared, within reason to grant some time off for council work. You should discuss this with your employer before making the commitment.

Will I receive training?

The council does provide members with training.

Contact Us

Want to know more? Then please contact: -

LOCAL DEMOCRACY

TOWN HALL, GROVE ROAD, EASTBOURNE.

Telephone: 01323 415022 or

Email: localdemocracy@eastbourne.gov.uk

What do I need to do to stand for election?

You will need to register to stand, which involves completing a set of nomination papers and involves finding a proposer, seconder and the backing of eight other people from the ward you wish to stand in. Nomination packs and timetable are available from the Electoral Services Office.

The deadline for receipt of nominations is Noon on:

Wednesday 4 April 2007.

For further information visit www.electoralcommission.org.uk

Or contact: ELECTORAL SERVICES SECTION

TOWN HALL, GROVE ROAD, EASTBOURNE

Telephone: 01323 415074

Email: elections@eastbourne.gov.uk