

Key dates and information for candidates

27 MARCH – NOTICE OF ELECTION IS PUBLISHED (LATEST DATE, SOME DISTRICTS WILL PUBLISH EARLIER)

To stand as a candidate, you will need to complete a set of nomination papers. Your nomination papers require a proposer and seconder to support your nomination in the parish, town or ward (if warded) you want to represent. Nomination papers must be hand delivered to the district council and will be checked upon delivery to ensure they are correctly completed. Please check on your district council website whether an appointment is necessary.

Nomination forms are available from all parish and town council offices, or the district council.

IMPORTANT: Existing councillors wishing to stand again must submit nomination papers as per other candidates. Candidates are responsible for their own papers. Do not ask someone else to submit for you.

4 APRIL – NOMINATIONS CLOSE AT 4PM.

5 APRIL – NOTICE OF VALIDITY AND PUBLICATION OF NOMINATED PERSONS.

The district council will notify candidates in writing whether their nomination has been accepted. The statement of nominated persons is published on the district council websites, and notices displayed in parishes.

POSSIBLE OUTCOMES:

- **Contested Election.** If there are more candidates than seats, an election will be held on 4 May.
 - **Uncontested Election.** If there are the same or fewer candidates than seats, all candidates will be elected unopposed, and will take office on 9 May.
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4 MAY – ELECTION DAY

For councils with a contested election, electors will vote for their preferred candidates at local polling stations between 7am and 10pm. A notice of election results will be published on the district council website, and notices displayed in the parish, within a few days of the election (subject to local counting arrangements).

9 MAY – NEWLY ELECTED COUNCILLORS TAKE OFFICE

Councillors must make a declaration of acceptance of office before or at their first council meeting after the election. Failure to do so will mean the seat becomes vacant. The first meeting of the new council, the annual council meeting, will take place between 10 and 25 May. Contact the parish or town council office for further information about meeting dates, induction and training.

8 JUNE – REGISTER OF INTERESTS SUBMITTED AND RETURN OF ELECTION EXPENSES

Within 28 days of becoming a councillor you must notify the district council monitoring officer of any disclosable pecuniary interests. Councils with websites must display the register of interests of its members. Councillors cannot be reimbursed for any financial costs they choose to incur relating to their campaign, but must submit their expenses to the district council, even if the amount is Nil. Failure to do so is a criminal offence.

Further information for candidates

A REMINDER OF THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

You can be a Councillor for several Councils at the same time: County, District and Parish/Town Council. You can be a Councillor if you have a full-time job; by law your employer must allow you to take a reasonable amount of time off during working hours to perform your duties as a Councillor.

You do not need to belong to a political party to stand for election and can stand as a candidate to become a Parish/Town Councillor if:

You are 18 or over on the day you submit your nomination paper and are a British, Commonwealth or European Union Citizen* **and** at least one of the following:

- a registered local government elector in the electoral area you are wanting to stand as a candidate
- have resided in the area for the whole 12 months preceding the day of nominations, or
- work in the electoral area in which you want to stand and have for at least the past 12 months
- own property in the electoral area you are wanting to stand and have for at least the past 12 months
- for all of the previous 12 months you have lived in the Parish/Town or within 3 miles of the boundary

* This is expected to change for European Citizens in 2025

DISQUALIFICATION

A person is disqualified from being elected or being a Councillor if:

- You work for the Council
- You are subject to bankruptcy restrictions or interim orders
- Within five years of the election date you have been convicted of any offence and sentenced to a term imprisonment of at least three months (suspended or not) without the option of a fine
- You have been found guilty of corrupt or illegal practices, or are responsible for incurring unlawful expenditure
- You are subject to the notification requirement of or under Part 2 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003, and the ordinary period allowed for making an appeal or application in respect of the order or notification has passed.

CAMPAIGNING

All candidates should read and understand the rules on spending, attending electoral events, and campaigning, to publicise their candidacy and to avoid committing any offences. There is clear guidance available on the electoral commission website including:

- [Candidate Spending](#)
- [The Campaign](#)
- [Your right to attend key electoral events](#)

Visit www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/candidate-or-agent/parish-council-elections-england for further information.

IMPORTANT: Candidates cannot use council resources, activities, or events to promote themselves, their political party or group, during the pre-election period.

The pre-election period begins when the notice of election is published (latest 27 March).

During this period there are strict rules which prevent councils from undertaking activities which could influence how electors may vote.