

# Election Materials and Guides

## LRALC Website

<http://www.leicestershireandrutlandalc.gov.uk/>

## NALC Elections Webpage

<http://www.nalc.gov.uk/our-work/elections>

## NALC “It Takes All Sorts” (information for prospective candidates)

<http://www.nalc.gov.uk/library/publications/804-it-takes-all-sorts/file>

## NALC “Good Councillor Guide”

<http://www.leicestershireandrutlandalc.gov.uk/uploads/goodcouncillors-guide.pdf>

## NALC “Power to the People: What are Local Councils” (information for the public)

<http://www.nalc.gov.uk/library/publications/power-to-the-people/809-section-1>

## Electoral Commission “Candidates and agents at Parish and community council elections in England and Wales”

<http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/candidate-or-agent/parish-and-community-council-elections-in-england-and-wales>

## “Be a Councillor” website

<http://www.beacouncillor.org.uk/>



# BEING A LOCAL COUNCILLOR

## What's it all about?

Want to do something positive?

Help make a difference by influencing decisions that affect your community?

Then stand for election to become a Councillor on your Local Council!

These include:

- Parish Councils
- Town Councils
- Community, Village and
- Neighbourhood Councils

**Are you concerned about your local area and the wellbeing of its residents?**

**Do you want to take a civic role & represent your area and local people?**

**Do you want to contribute your business or personal skills and expertise for the benefit of the community?**

**Are you passionate about facilities and services provided for your community?**

*Produced by Leicestershire and Rutland Association of Local Councils from an original by the Kent, Sussex and Surrey Associations of Local Councils*

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## **Who is eligible?**

The law specifies that any person over the age of 18 who is a citizen of the United Kingdom, The European Community, or the Commonwealth can be a Councillor if they are an elector in, work in, live in or live within three miles of the area of the local Council is eligible. Certain circumstances will mean that an individual may be “disqualified” from standing; check with your council if unsure.

## **What will I do if elected?**

- Attend Council meetings
- Raise matters that the Council can consider and formally decide to take action about at meetings
- Make informed contributions which influence the debate on the business that needs to be decided at those meetings
- Participate in the Council’s decision making process, which in itself is subject to strict rules and guidelines
- Represent the Council externally



From Local Councils Explained  
by Meera Tharmaarajah Solicitor  
for the National Association of Local Councils

## **Key Points**

- A Councillor’s normal term of office is 4 years
- He/She is the holder of a Public Office and not a volunteer
- They can receive expenses for their role
- The main job of a councillor is to participate in the collective decision making processes of the Council
- He/She has no authority to make decisions about Council business on their own.
- A Local Council may arrange insurance cover to indemnify its councillors against liability resulting from them being representatives of the Council
- A councillor’s financial and certain other interests in Council business must be transparent
- He/she is subject to obligations set out in the Code of Conduct adopted by the Council
- Information about councillors is available in the Council’s publication scheme
- The first business of the Council’s annual meeting is the election of its Chairman.
- Most Councils appoint a Vice Chairman, but this is optional
- The normal term of office for the Chairman and Vice Chair is one year.

## **So, what are you waiting for?**

Advice is always available regarding becoming a councillor.  
Contact your local council today to find out more!