



**A GUIDE TO
BECOMING A
CONSERVATIVE
COUNCILLOR**



**Conservative
Councillors' Association**



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FOREWORD

WELCOME TO YOUR GUIDE

As a councillor, you can make a difference for the people who elect you, and the places you represent. You can help transform your neighbourhood, and improve the lives of its residents. You can help improve local public services, enabling them to meet or exceed ever-changing public expectations.

You will have the chance to develop and hone a wide range of your own skills; critical analysis and problem solving; public speaking and debating; diplomacy and consensus-building. And you will be able to gain all the political experience you wish.

There has never been a better time to join our team. With over 9,000 Conservative councillors across Britain, we are the largest party in local government. And as part of a wider team, you will never be alone. The Conservative Councillors' Association keeps you up-to-date, and offers you networking and mentoring opportunities, and development and training events, so you can gain from the experience of other like-minded councillors from across the country.

Conservative councillors are at the heart of our Party's campaigners. And across Britain, our local councillors show how Conservatives earn people's trust to deliver high quality, value-for-money public services. By becoming a councillor, you really can make a difference.

I hope this guide inspires you to join our winning team and put yourself forward to become a Conservative councillor.



Councillor Rory Love
Chairman of the Conservative
Councillors' Association



BEING A COUNCILLOR

INTRODUCTION

Are you a Conservative who wants to improve your local area? If so, you are an ideal candidate to become a Conservative councillor.

There are 374 local authorities in England and Wales with over 19,400 elected councillors. At present there are more than 9,000 Conservative councillors, making us the largest Party in local government. However, this progress can only continue if people are willing to stand for election and become councillors.

Becoming a Conservative councillor is a uniquely rewarding experience. You will be responsible for making decisions on behalf of local residents as well as having the opportunity to help your local community.

It will also allow you to develop many different sides to your personality - the ability to speak in public; to debate and to persuade your fellow councillors of the benefits of your proposals; and the opportunity to work with council officers to help solve your constituents' problems.

Although training will be offered to you as a new councillor, you will

find that these abilities will develop naturally.

As a Conservative councillor you will discover that the more involved you are, the more enjoyable and rewarding the work becomes.

Councillors have many different roles but the first thing to note is that all councils are different. Being a councillor is hard work; you have to find an equilibrium between the needs and interests of your residents, voters, political parties and the local council.

Most councils run a Leader and Cabinet system (often known as the Executive). Although the Leader and Cabinet system is the most popular, there are other options such as the elected Mayor and Cabinet system.

Whilst carrying out your role as a councillor, it is important to remember that you have been elected by local people to represent, plan, run and develop council business. You will be working to make decisions about local issues and improving the quality of life for the people in your ward.

BEING A COUNCILLOR CONTINUED

DECISION MAKING



Theresa May taking questions from CCA Members at the CCA Conference 2017.

The policies and general direction of a council are debated and agreed by the elected members. Councillors then play a crucial role in scrutinising those policy decisions once they have been implemented and in monitoring the council's performance.

Most councils operate a 'Cabinet' system. Several local councillors will be selected to serve in the Cabinet and take part in decision-making. Cabinet members tend to be full-time politicians who propose policy framework and ensure

its implementation. Councillors who are not members of the Cabinet play a role in scrutinising policy decisions and suggesting improvements.

The number of Cabinet members will vary from authority to authority, but it will include the Leader of the Council and senior councillors responsible for particular aspects of policy (housing, education, etc). These are known as 'portfolio holders'. Portfolio holders work closely with council officers and are responsible for the specific details of their brief as well as ensuring the implementation of agreed policy decisions. As these decisions affect the level and quality of services received by the people you will represent, they will have a significant effect on the way the council operates.

If you are not a member of the Cabinet you will still have a very important role to perform. Where the council acts as a quasi-judicial body, for example planning and licensing, it still operates the committee system. The scrutiny committees of a council are also made up of councillors who do not sit on the Cabinet.

REPRESENTATION

Councils are divided up into electoral areas called 'wards' or, for County Councils, 'divisions'. These will usually cover a few thousand households although size varies from authority to authority. Some wards and divisions are represented by a single councillor, while others will have more than one representative.

Your primary role as a councillor is to represent your ward and the individual citizens who live in it. You are the bridge between the community and the council. This applies to every councillor whether they are Leader of the Council or a newly elected backbencher. Your activities at a local level should include:

- Representing your ward within the council and other agencies.
- Holding surgeries: this is a good way of giving residents face-to-face contact. Surgeries are usually held in a local building people know such as a community centre.
- Undertaking casework on behalf of an individual - this is an essential part of your activities. The extent to which you are approached depends on many factors: the size of your ward, if you are on any committees (such as licensing), and how often you put out regular leaflets listing your contact details.
- Campaigning on local issues and winning resources for your ward. Once elected, councillors often neglect campaigning for their ward but this should become even more important. It is essential that you maintain regular contact with groups in your community and are seen to support them.
- Supporting local partnerships and organisations.

BEING A COUNCILLOR CONTINUED

STAYING IN TOUCH

In order to represent your constituents effectively, you will need to keep in constant touch with them to find out their concerns. This can be done in many different ways.

One of the most effective is producing regular newsletters. This will show that you are interested in people's views all year round (not just at elections) and, by publicising yourself and your work (including your successes), you will raise your profile.

Newsletters also offer an opportunity to advertise your contact details so that residents can get in touch easily. If your ward is 'safe' (in a strong Conservative area) you may be asked to concentrate your campaigning activities in more marginal wards within your area.

Surveys are another way of keeping in touch with your constituents. They make residents feel that their views are appreciated, help you gain information about local issues and provide you with contact details of many potential supporters.

You should also make a list of local community newsletters, contact the editors and see if they would be happy to publish contributions from you. As long as your contributions are free from party politics and concentrate on informing residents of local issues, most editors will be happy to include them. This will also help to increase your profile.

Many councillors are increasingly using websites (either individually, with their ward colleagues or through their group/Constituency Association). The CCA offers free use of the yourcllr.com tool for members to build and manage their own councillor website. Email is also a good and efficient means of communication, especially with younger voters.

You should also, of course, help out and get involved in wider political campaigning, for example, at General elections.

As well as helping the Party, such campaigning will help you maintain a visible presence within your community and keeps you informed of your electorate's concerns.

HELPING YOUR CONSTITUENTS

As an elected representative this is a role of fundamental importance. You will be contacted by your constituents with requests for help and you are likely to receive a lot of post, emails and phone calls.

In terms of helping your constituents with their problems, you are not expected to be familiar with every single detail across a range of policies (although as you gain experience you will inevitably become more knowledgeable). Your job is to represent your constituents' concerns to the council – either via officers or the elected member for the particular area of policy – and try to get the problem solved.

You will not be able to solve every single problem but you should be able to make a difference to many of those who request your help. However, you should bear in mind that many people contact their local councillor for help on issues that are not the responsibility of a local authority. In these cases you should try to put people in touch with other relevant agencies which can help.



WHAT COUNCILS DO

COUNCIL STRUCTURES

In Britain there are two distinct types of local government structure – when deciding whether (and where) to become a councillor it is important to bear in mind the differences between them. In Scotland, Wales, and often the more urban parts of England, there is a unitary structure of local government (i.e. each area has one council responsible for providing all the services).

For many parts of England there is a two-tier structure, with each area being covered by a District and a County Council. Outside of London there are also Parish and Town Councils.

UNITARY AUTHORITIES

These are responsible for all powers delegated to local government (see table overleaf). There are 55 unitary authorities in England. In Wales all 22 local authorities are unitary as are the 32 local authorities in Scotland.

LONDON BOROUGHS

London Boroughs have very similar responsibilities to Unitary Councils but have some of their powers transferred to the Greater London Authority, with whom they work in close co-operation. The Greater London Authority also has responsibility for police and the fire service. There are 32 London Boroughs and a City of London Corporation.

METROPOLITAN DISTRICTS

The 36 Metropolitan Districts have the same responsibilities as unitary councils but comprise the areas covered by the six former Metropolitan Counties (Greater Manchester, Tyne and Wear, Merseyside, the West Midlands, West Yorkshire and South Yorkshire).

WHAT COUNCILS DO CONTINUED

COUNCIL STRUCTURES

DISTRICT COUNCILS

Districts have various responsibilities such as: refuse collection, housing, licensing, planning, leisure facilities, environmental health, car parking, markets and protecting the environment. There are around 200 District Councils.

COUNTY COUNCILS

County Council responsibilities include: education, social services, libraries, roads, street lighting, the fire service, planning and consumer protection. There are 27 County Councils. It is possible to serve as both a County and a District councillor, known as a dual councillor or dual-hatter.

PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS

There are around 10,000 Community (found in Wales), Parish and Town Councils in England and Wales which are made up of nearly 100,000 councillors. Parish Councils can exist where there are anything from 100 residents to over 50,000.

DIRECTLY ELECTED MAYORS

Following the Government's announcement of its aspiration to build a Northern Powerhouse and lead a devolution revolution, the Government has stated that significant powers will only be devolved down to local areas if they first agree to establish a directly elected mayor.

Many neighbouring councils are working together towards devolution deals with a directly elected mayor. The mayor, in conjunction with the combined authority, exercises the powers and functions devolved from Government.

The Government believes the role ensures clear accountability over the powers, functions and funding that is devolved from national government to a local level.

There were several mayoral elections in May 2017 and 2018, where candidates stood for election in the same way an MP or councillor would by representing a political party or standing as an Independent candidate.

LOCAL AUTHORITY RESPONSIBILITY

| | Metropolitan/ London authorities | | | Shire/Unitary authorities | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|--------|------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| | Joint Authorities | Met councils | London | District councils | Unitary | County Councils |
| Education | | ▪ | ▪ | | ▪ | ▪ |
| Housing | | ▪ | ▪ | ▪ | ▪ | |
| Planning applications | | ▪ | ▪ | ▪ | ▪ | |
| Strategic planning | | ▪ | ▪ | | ▪ | ▪ |
| Transport planning | | ▪ | | | ▪ | ▪ |
| Passenger transport | ▪ | | | | ▪ | ▪ |
| Highways | | ▪ | ▪ | | ▪ | ▪ |
| Fire | ▪ | | | | ▪ ¹ | ▪ |
| Social Services | | ▪ | ▪ | | ▪ | ▪ |
| Libraries | | ▪ | ▪ | | ▪ | ▪ |
| Leisure & recreation | | ▪ | ▪ | ▪ | ▪ | |
| Waste collection | | ▪ | ▪ | ▪ | ▪ | |
| Waste disposal | ▪ | | | | ▪ | ▪ |
| Environmental health | | ▪ | ▪ | ▪ | ▪ | |
| Revenue collection | | ▪ | ▪ | ▪ | ▪ | |
| Public health | | ▪ | ▪ | | ▪ | ▪ |

1. Joint fire authorities in counties that have unitary authorities in them. These are combined fire authorities. There are three combined fire authorities for Wales.

GETTING ELECTED

ELIGIBILITY

TO BECOME A COUNCILLOR YOU MUST BE:

- A British or Commonwealth citizen, or a citizen of a Member State of the European Union, and resident in the United Kingdom.
- 18 or over on the day of nomination.
- Either on the electoral register for the council area in which you are seeking election; or have lived or worked in that council area for at least the last twelve months.

You will not be able to stand for election if:

- You hold a paid office or employment made or confirmed by the council you wish to stand for.
- You are the subject of a bankruptcy restrictions order or interim order.
- You have been convicted of a criminal offence and sentenced to not less than three months imprisonment (including a suspended sentence) in the last five years.
- You can also be disqualified from holding office, by order of the court, if you have incurred illegal expenditure (when acting as a councillor) of over £2,000 and if you have been found guilty of corrupt or illegal practices under the Representation of the People Act (1983) or the Audit Commission Act (1998).

FIRST STEPS

The first stage in getting elected is to get in touch with your Constituency Conservative Association. They are responsible for deciding who is nominated to stand for election as a Conservative councillor. You can also express your interest in becoming a councillor to the CCA via our website.

Once you have completed the application process and have been successfully nominated you will need to prepare and organise your campaign and you will be required to sign an 'Agreement to Stand' as a Conservative candidate. Your local branch and Constituency Association will help with your campaign.

The most important elements will be a timetable, budget and a team. While your timetable should cover the official dates of the election period, you will have to plan your campaign well in advance and do much of the work before the formal campaign. Your budget will make sure you do not go over the legal election expenses limit. Building a team need not be difficult, your local branch will help you, as will supporters, family

and friends. Don't be afraid to ask people to help.

You need to get to know your voters; this can be done in several ways:

- Reading the local paper – especially the letters page.
- Canvassing – by knocking on doors and by phone.
- Compiling a survey to find out the issues which concern voters the most.

Once you have found out about your electorate you will need to spread your message. There are several ways of doing this:

- Leafleting.
- Coverage in local newspaper articles and the letters page.
- Organising a petition or survey.
- Talking to the electorate about issues on a street stall or door-to-door.
- Lobbying other councillors.

GETTING ELECTED CONTINUED

WHO PAYS FOR YOUR ELECTION?

If you become a council candidate, your local Conservative Association will normally print and pay for leaflets and other campaign materials. If you are elected it is not unusual for Associations to ask for a contribution towards the election costs. This is outlined in the 'Agreement to Stand' which candidates are required to sign.

If you raise any money yourself, or pay personally for leaflets to be printed etc, then restrictions apply as to whom you can accept sums of more than £500 from, and if you receive donations over £1,500 whether as a single contribution or smaller sums from the same source each of which is over £500, you will have to declare the donations to the Electoral Commission. This is not as scary as it sounds, and your Association will be able to help check what donors are allowed to give.

If somebody provides something for you, such as a photocopier, free leaflets or use of office space etc, then a commercial value has to be determined for it and, if over £500, the same restrictions and reporting requirements will apply.

Note that at election time, the threshold for checking a donor is permissible drops to £50 (fifty pounds), and each donor must be listed on your Return of Election Expenses instead. It is therefore generally advised that donors should give to your Association's fighting fund, where the threshold remains £500 at all times.

For further information please contact the Compliance Department at CCHQ:

compliance@conservatives.com
or **020 7984 8005**

POLLING DAY

Make full use of polling day - you should carry on knocking on doors and delivering targeted leaflets right up until the close of poll. Make sure your pledge voters actually go to the polling station and vote. A 'good morning' or 'good day' leaflet or personalised letter may make all the difference in getting out the known Conservative vote.

WHAT TO EXPECT

TERM OF OFFICE

Councillors are elected for four years unless they are elected at a by-election or in exceptional circumstances such as a boundary change. If you are elected at a by-election you will have to stand again at the next normal election for the seat.

County Council and London elections are held once every four years when all the seats are up for election. Metropolitan Councils have elections for a third of the council three out of four years. District and Unitary Councils are slightly more complicated. Some have all-out elections meaning that every four years every councillor is up for re-election. Others elect by thirds where every year for three years a third of the council is up for re-election and in the fourth year there are no elections. Finally some councils have elections by halves where every other year half the council is up for re-election.

TRAINING

Along with the CCA, most local authorities provide basic training for new councillors and some even run courses for prospective candidates.

SUPPORT

As a councillor you will rely heavily on council officers to provide you with information e.g. for help with a constituent's enquiry, but they will also provide administrative support in relation to any committees that you sit on and anything relating to your role as a councillor.

You are unlikely to have your own office (although most councils do have a Members' Room), or a secretary. However, a number of groups do employ a political researcher/admin assistant and some councils provide members with laptops and mobiles to help them carry out their duties. You will be given a council email address.

The CCA supports councillors in various ways: conferences and events, public speaking workshops, policy briefings, email bulletins, publications, guidance and advice etc. Another valuable source of support is the LGA Conservative Group, the national body that represents local councils. You can find further details here: www.conservativegroup.lga.gov.uk

WHAT TO EXPECT CONTINUED

TIME COMMITMENT AND FINANCIAL COST

Before making a decision about whether you want to become a councillor you should find out the typical pattern of council meetings to see whether they could fit into your lifestyle. Speak to someone who is already a councillor for advice. As a rough guide, it has been estimated that councillors spend an average 16 hours a week on council business.

The amount of your time taken up with council business will depend on the extent of your involvement, your political activities and what role you take on the council. Most councillors serve on a committee as well as the full council. Also bear in mind preparation time for meetings; papers will be sent to you in advance.

Outside the council meeting, your representative role will involve you making yourself available to your electorate. Residents will expect you to lead local projects to improve and protect your area. You will also be expected to have regular contact with the Parish/Town Councils.

An understanding employer is a

definite advantage, and you may be entitled to some time off under Section 50 of the Employment Rights Act (1996). If you are self-employed ensure that your business can allow you time for council duties. The key thing to remember is that most councillors are volunteers who do manage to juggle their role as a councillor with the competing demands of family and work etc.

Councillors do not get a salary. It is regarded as a voluntary position and therefore councillors are paid an allowance (which is subject to tax) to reimburse costs incurred doing council business which is paid in monthly instalments. Allowances vary from council to council but you should not be left out of pocket. The council may provide stationery, business cards and I.T. equipment.

You can also claim for travel and subsistence allowances when you represent the council at external meetings or special conferences. In addition, there is also a child care and dependants' carers' allowance payable on production of receipts.

YOUR ROLE WITHIN THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY

Your council will also provide a special responsibility allowance to those who undertake extra duties such as Council Leader and portfolio holders.

Once you are elected as a councillor it is important to remember that you have been elected to speak in support of Conservative principles. You need to consider your actions whether making a speech or voting in council to ensure that it reflects the Party's objectives.

As a councillor you are not just a representative of your ward but also a key player within the Conservative Party. You will, for example, be expected to support the Constituency Association's social and fundraising events and to represent the Party within your locality (by writing letters to the local paper, fielding media enquiries etc).

Above all, you should remember that one of the most important units in the Party is the Branch.

10 HOT TOP TIPS FOR COUNCILLORS:

- 1 Keep in touch with your voters.
- 2 Communicate regularly with your fellow councillors and officers.
- 3 Make an impact - find out how the council takes decisions and influence them.
- 4 Organise yourself/manage your time - learn how to manage your paperwork.
- 5 Take advantage of formal training offered by your council.
- 6 Learn how the council works and read their corporate plan.
- 7 Concentrate on areas that are of interest to you.
- 8 Talk to the media.
- 9 Don't take too much on too quickly.
- 10 Keep in touch with the Party - Join the CCA!



CONCLUSION

ABOUT BEING A COUNCILLOR

Being a councillor allows you to pursue your political beliefs and contribute to your community. It can be a career enhancing activity, allowing you to develop leadership and analytical skills and to obtain practical, managerial work experience. It can also be a good stepping stone if you wish to further your career in politics; many MPs began as councillors.

Becoming a Conservative councillor is an important achievement. Most councillors enjoy the fact that they have the opportunity to take decisions that will improve the quality of life in their local community.

Having the opportunity to represent constituents and speak and act on their behalf is a unique privilege.



HOT TIP: “Remember to show openness, honesty, integrity and never make promises that you may not be able to fill: just offer to do your best”

Councillor Robert Parkinson
Derbyshire County Council

CONCLUSION CONTINUED

TIPS FROM OUR YOUNGEST AND LONGEST-SERVING COUNCILLORS

Being a councillor can be challenging; but it is also rewarding and worthwhile. Don't take our word for it - we asked some of our longest-serving and newest councillors to offer advice and tell us why they became councillors.

What made you decide to stand as a councillor?

I had a lot to say on local issues, so I thought it was time to "put up or shut up!" I was further prompted by a phone call from a ward chairman at an ungodly hour one Sunday morning asking me to stand. I was too young and naïve to see through those immortal words: "It won't take too much of your time...!" By that Sunday evening, I was selected.

Cllr Rory Love,
Shepway District Council (27+ years of service)

I wanted to become a Conservative Councillor after seeing how poorly managed the Borough was. We had an amazing, positive campaign in May 2018, which led to the Conservatives more than doubling their seats in Sutton!

Cllr Ryan Stoneman,
Sutton Council (Elected in 2018, aged 21)

What advice would you give someone who is considering standing for council?

Deciding to become a councillor was certainly the best decision I have made so far in my career.

Cllr Holly Ramsey,
Sutton Council (4 years+, Holly was Sutton's youngest Conservative councillor when she was first elected in 2014)

I had a demanding job in the City. I had just had a baby and was bored. A friend who was a serving Town Councillor asked if I was interested in taking up a casual vacancy on the Town Council. Anything to get me out of the house and my husband could take over in the evening.

So off I toddled to this aged male gathering! Thirty years on, now a District and County Councillor... I love what I do.... giving something back to the community. Remember you are not there for your own gratification. There is no better feeling than being able to make a difference to people's lives.

Cllr Teresa Heritage,
Hertfordshire County Council/
St Albans District Council (30+ years of service)

PARISH COUNCILLORS

HOW TO BECOME A PARISH COUNCILLOR

Despite the name, Parish Councils have nothing to do with the church. Parish and Town Councils represent the first tier of local government and there are approximately 70,000 Parish/Town councillors in England.

It is the most local level of government - local people elected by local residents to tackle purely local issues. While they may be responsible for smaller areas and fewer people than primary councils, they are recognised as the grassroots layer of democracy and are the most 'local' level of local government.

Many Parishes are 'unwarded' (not divided into wards), so councillors represent the whole Parish. Where Parishes are warded, these wards do not necessarily have the same boundaries as the District wards.

Some Parish Councils are allowed to use the description of 'Town Council'. Councillors will then be known as Town councillors rather than Parish councillors and the council will have a Town mayor rather than a Parish chairman. The

legal status of Town and Parish Councils is the same.

Parish and Town Councils exist in most parts of the country, although not in London. They have small budgets and a limited number of powers, but they provide an important link between individual communities and the principal councils in that particular area.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility is identical as for primary councils on page 15 except that instead of the criteria that you must appear 'either on the electoral register for the council area in which you are seeking election; or have lived or worked in that council area for at least the last twelve months', you must appear 'on the electoral register for the area in which you are seeking election; or be living within three miles of it, or working, owning/leasing land or property in that Parish for at least the last twelve months'.

PARISH COUNCILLORS CONTINUED

YOUR ROLE AS A PARISH COUNCILLOR

Parish Council elections are held every four years, usually on the first Thursday in May. If you would like to stand for election, you will need to obtain a nomination paper from the Parish Council Clerk and arrange for someone (who is an elector for the locality) to propose and another to second your nomination. If you wish to stand as a Conservative candidate, you will need to contact your local Conservative Association to gain their permission and backing.

Parish councillors may be elected if there is a 'casual vacancy', due, for example, to a councillor's resignation. This vacancy may be filled by a by-election or by 'co-option' (where a Parish Council finds someone who might be suitable and then votes to select them, without a by-election). Co-option usually occurs if there are not enough candidates to fill the vacant council seats. If you are interested in being co-opted, make yourself known to the Parish Council Clerk. Contact details should be on the Parish Council website.

The role of a parish councillor entails:

- To represent the ward and your electorate's views at grassroots level.
- To ensure that council business is planned, run, improved and monitored correctly.
- To work in areas of community leadership.

THE TIME COMMITMENT

There are regular meetings, usually in the evening and at least once a month, and you will be expected to work in and for your local community. It is worth checking this with your local council to ensure you will be able to attend these meetings. The Parish Council has a number of committees which you can join.

THE FINANCIAL COST

Some Parish or Town Councils pay allowances to their councillors. Others do not have allowances but reimburse councillors for expenses if they attend meetings outside the Parish, with the approval of the council.

As well as their basic responsibilities to represent the whole electorate within the Parish, deliver services to meet local needs and strive to improve quality of life; Parish Councils can also be responsible for providing a range of community services such as: street lighting, allotments, local transport and traffic services, and tourist information centres.

They can make a particularly important contribution to tourism, planning, legal proceedings, licensing, community halls, representation, transport, management of town and village centres and providing community centres. Parish Councils have few restrictions on the use of their powers but expenditure does have to be paid by the Parish. As Parish Councils do not face 'capping' or receive any government

grants they have more flexibility than principal councils on their spending.

The Parish also has a reasonable amount of power. A prime example of this is in planning applications. The planning authority is the District or Borough Council, but they often give details of planning applications within the Parish to the Parish Council and will consider the councillors' comments when coming to a decision. Also the County Council is often the highway authority, but it often consults the Parish when considering any road scheme, for example, the placing of double yellow lines, or implementation of a cycle path.

CONCLUSION

Being a Parish councillor brings no special privileges other than the satisfaction of working for the Parish in which you live. Becoming a local councillor is career enhancing - it shows you can make decisions, work in a team, are community minded and pro-active.

ABOUT THE CCA

INFORMATION AND MEMBERSHIP

The CCA exists to provide a strong and unified voice for all Conservative councillors within the Party and in the wider community. The CCA supports councillors in their important role and provides them with the tools to both work effectively on behalf of local residents and to campaign successfully as Conservatives.

Membership of the CCA costs just £35.00 per year for which members receive a wide range of services including:

- Weekly news bulletins containing the latest campaigning information and news updates from the CCA and the Conservative Party.
 - CCA members' magazine issued quarterly.
 - CCA campaign support including our campaign packs and guides.
 - Access to online resources in the secure area of our website
- including information on best practice, by-elections and CCA events as well as briefings and campaigning guides.
- Yourcouncillor.com/campaigningforyou.com - a free website platform with different Party branded templates to choose from for elected councillors/council candidates.
 - CCA publications including *Engaging with your Constituents*, our *Guide for New Conservative Councillors and Councilors and the Law*.
 - Discounted rates at CCA events.
 - CCA staff and Board Members on hand to help with your queries and campaigning needs (the CCA employs three full-time members of staff to administer the Association).
-

ABOUT THE CCA

EVENT SPOTLIGHT

The CCA holds a number of events throughout the year from training and skills workshops to the annual Local Government Conference and Councillor Development Weekend.

Many of these events are exclusive to members, with tickets heavily subsidised to ensure as many members as possible can attend.

Here you will find a number of events that we hold throughout the year. The 'Events' page of the CCA website is regularly updated and you can find an up-to-date list of events at: www.conservativecouncillors.com/events.

The Roe Public Speaking Course

The CCA holds Public Speaking Courses for members throughout the year. These are held with the Roe Project and are led by Dame Marion Roe and professional trainer Dilwyn Scott. We have been arranging these courses for over five years, and feedback has been excellent, with attendees saying the courses gave them a new found confidence when speaking in public.

Councillor Development Weekend

The Development Weekend is always a popular event for members. Attendees can look forward to a packed programme full of sessions focused on improving their skills in their important role as both a Conservative councillor and a campaigner. It is also a great opportunity to meet with fellow councillors from across the country.

Conservative Local Government Conference

The annual Conservative Local Government Conference is a great weekend for councillors from across the country to come together and discuss policy ideas, network and get motivated ahead of elections.

Policy Seminars

We are lucky to hold a number of events throughout the year where we welcome Ministers from the MHCLG Team to speak to members about key policy issues that affect their work as councillors. Previous seminars have focused on social care and housing.

ABOUT THE CCA CONTINUED

HOW WE HELP COUNCILLORS AND CANDIDATES

CCA Candidates' Membership Scheme

Each year the CCA offers a special membership for council candidates. From June onwards, selected candidates can join the CCA for a reduced rate.

Please visit the 'Subscribe' section of www.conservativecouncillors.com for further information or contact the CCA on **020 7984 8144** or by email at cca@conservatives.com.

Candidate Members receive the same membership benefits as Full Members but they are not eligible to vote in the annual CCA Local Government Board elections.

Alternatively, there is the CCA Associate Membership Scheme for Party Members, details of which are available on the CCA website.

CCA Bursary Scheme

The CCA is able to offer a number of bursaries to members. The Scheme's focus is on assisting those councillors from groups who are less well represented amongst our members. Those accepted

onto the Bursary Scheme benefit from free or reduced price tickets to some of the CCA's most popular events as well as a mentor to guide and advise them in their professional role of a councillor.

Young Councillors' Mentoring Scheme

Aimed at the under 35s but open to any younger member who would like support, the scheme offers:

- Guidance to any newly elected young councillors
 - Support to any young councillor looking to become a portfolio holder, Group Leader etc
 - An external source of experience and expertise outside
 - Networking opportunities
 - Mentoring from young leaders and experienced councillors
- The CCA has built up a range of mentors across the country to assist in the mentoring scheme.

For further information on either scheme please see the 'Subscribe' section of the CCA website.



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**Conservative
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