

## Me, a District Councillor?

52 District Councillors will be elected in May 2026 to represent the local community and help to shape the future of Huntingdonshire, and you could be one of them!



The aim of this leaflet is to provide a brief guide to becoming a District Councillor and what this entails. Having read the following information, hopefully you will be in a better position to decide if you would like to stand for public office.

### **What is the current political make-up of the council?**

Their Leader is Councillor S Conboy. The main opposition group is the Conservative Group which is led by Councillor R Martin.

#### **Current political make-up:**

Conservative Members - 18

Liberal Democrat Members - 10

HDC Independent Group - 11

Cambs Independent Group - 7

Labour Members - 4

Independent - 1

Green Party - 1

**Have you ever:**

Wanted to make a change in your community?

Thought the council could make better use of its money?

Wanted to improve public services?

If so, have you ever thought of becoming a District Councillor?

**What does a Councillor do?**

A Councillor is elected for a four year period and represents the people of the District.

Councillors attend full Council meetings, which occur six times a year, they are also required

to attend Advisory Groups and Committee meetings. The majority of meetings take place in the early evening, the average length of a meeting is 2 hours.

Councillors spend time dealing with the problems and issues of the people they represent, this is done through the post, via emails and phone calls or through drop-in surgeries which allow the community to air their views.

Councillors in Huntingdonshire spend an average of 7 and a half hours a week on Council business.

**What are the legal requirements?**

To stand for election you must:

- Be 18 years of age or over;
- Be a UK, EU or Commonwealth citizen;
- Be registered to vote in Huntingdonshire, or have lived or worked in Huntingdonshire for one year.

**You cannot stand for election if:**

- You work for Huntingdonshire District Council;
- You hold a politically restricted seat in another authority;
- You are bankrupt;
- You have served a prison sentence (including suspended sentences) of 3 months or more within the last 5 years; or
- You have been disqualified under legislation relating to illegal or corrupt practices.

If you are a member of a Political Party, or thinking of joining one, you would need to contact the Party if you want to stand as their candidate. You do not need to be a Member of a Political Party to stand for election, you can be an independent candidate.

You will need to collect and return a nomination paper, these will be available a month before polling day. Your nomination paper will require a proposer and a seconder, as well as 8 electors from within the area you are standing to support the nomination.

The deadlines in the election process are absolute, so it is important that they are adhered to. For more information about the elections process please contact Elections on 01480 388129 or email [Elections@huntingdonshire.gov.uk](mailto:Elections@huntingdonshire.gov.uk)

### **What happens if I'm elected?**

After your election you will be invited to a 'New Members Induction' training day. Here you will meet the Officers who will provide you with support and advice when needed, as well as take care of any training needs you may have. The Council has a comprehensive training package to help you carry out your responsibilities.

Your employer is legally bound to allow you a reasonable amount of time off during working hours to perform your duties as a Councillor, however, your employer does not have to pay you while you are on Council business.

As a Councillor you will receive an allowance for the time and expense incurred on Council business. The taxable basic allowance

is currently set at £5,134 a year. Special responsibility allowances are paid to some Councillors for the extra work and responsibility they incur. You may also claim care allowances if you pay for childcare, or for the care of elderly or disabled dependents, while you are engaged on Council business.

### **For more information about the local political parties, you can contact:**

- Conservatives: [www.conservatives.com](http://www.conservatives.com)
- Liberal Democrats: [www.libdems.org.uk](http://www.libdems.org.uk)
- Labour: [www.labour.org.uk](http://www.labour.org.uk)
- Independents: [www.local.gov.uk](http://www.local.gov.uk)
- Green Party: [www.greenparty.org.uk](http://www.greenparty.org.uk)
- Reform UK: [www.reformparty.uk](http://www.reformparty.uk)

**Do you want to know more about Huntingdonshire District Council and its services?**

If so, you are welcome to attend one of our meetings or visit the council's website at [www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk](http://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk)

**To find out more about becoming a District Councillor, please contact:**

- Democratic Services, Huntingdonshire District Council, Pathfinder House, St Mary's Street, Huntingdon, PE29 3TN
- Tel: 01480 388169
- Email: [democratic.services@huntingdonshire.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@huntingdonshire.gov.uk)