

I'd like to become a councillor. What do I do next?

You will need to obtain a nomination pack from the Elections Office and be proposed and seconded by electors of the ward in which you are standing for election.

When completing your nomination, please note:

- The people supporting your nomination must not have signed a nomination for any other candidate.



Do you want to make a difference?



How to become a councillor

Rossendale
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Useful Contacts

External contacts which may be useful for you to find out further information:

- Local Government Association (LGA) www.lga.gov.uk
- Levelling Up, Housing and Communities www.communities.gov.uk
- Directgov—public services all in one place www.direct.gov.uk
- Electoral Commission www.electoralcommission.org.uk

Rossendale Borough Council
Elections Office:
Elections Manager
Email: elections@rossendalebc.gov.uk
Telephone: 01706-252445/46
Address: Elections Office Rossendale Borough Council The Business Centre Futures Park Bacup Rossendale OL13 0BB
Switchboard: 01706 217777
Website: www.rossendale.gov.uk
Further information on becoming a councillor can be found by visiting our website.

Why become a councillor?

There are many reasons why you may decide to become a councillor:

- To make a difference to your community
- To represent the views of local people
- To pursue political beliefs

How do I qualify?

There are three basic qualifications to stand for election, which are, that on the day of nomination, you must be:

- 18 years of age or over
- A British citizen, an eligible Commonwealth citizen or a citizen of any member state of the European Union
- Registered to vote in your local area or have lived or worked there for at least 12 months prior to election



What is a Councillor's role?

Most major decisions are made at committee meetings of the council, which are normally open to the public. Decisions at meetings can range from setting the Council's budget (Full Council) to helping organise training for councillors (Governance Working Group)

Most of the Council's meetings are held in the evening and include:

- Annual Council (inc. Mayor Making)
- Full Council
- The Cabinet
- Overview & Scrutiny
- Development Control
- Licensing Committee
- Audit & Accounts

If elected as a councillor, you are required to attend meetings as you will be appointed to one or more committees.

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How much of my time will it take?

The amount of time you spend on your work as a councillor is entirely up to you. It does however depend on your role within the council and the number of duties you take on. For example if you sit on only one committee, you will have fewer demands on your time than if you sit on several.

Will I get paid?

There is no salary for being a councillor, however you will be paid an allowance to reimburse you for the time and expenses incurred whilst on council business. Members at Rossendale are currently paid £3,342 each year (subject to Income Tax & NI Contributions). This will be more if you have a special responsibility such as being a Portfolio Holder (Cabinet Member) or a Committee Chair.

What support will I receive and will I be given training?

The Committee and Member Services Team will initially be your first port of call for all enquiries.

All councillors are required to attend an induction which will be held after the election. At the induction you will meet the Corporate Management Team and will be provided with important information to help you in your role as a councillor. You will also be required to attend a number of essential training sessions in the weeks following your appointment.