



SO YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A TOWN COUNCILLOR!

No doubt, you will want to know what will be required of you?

Sandy Town Council is a non-political body made up of fifteen Members interested in serving their town.

1 from Beeston Ward, 5 from Ivel Ward, 6 from Pinnacle Ward and 3 from Fallowfield Ward.

There are at least 3 meetings to attend in every 6 weeks, all of them held on a Monday evening. Members usually sit on two standing committees as well as Full Council.

Development Scrutiny committee
Policy, Finance & Resources committee
Community Services & Environment committee
Plus
A full Council Meeting

In addition, there is a **Human Resources committee** on which 7 Members must sit.

A calendar of meetings for the year is approved each year in advance. Most meetings start at 7.30pm and usually finish between 9.00pm and 10.00pm, with the exception of the Development Scrutiny Committee which starts at 6:45pm and usually finishes at 7:30pm.

In addition to attending meetings, you will be asked to investigate residents' complaints, problems and difficulties and may be asked to attend daytime meetings with other Councils and additional Working Groups formed for a specific purpose.

The present Council will remain in Office until May 2019, unless a particular Member resigns earlier or is disqualified from Office for non-attendance at meetings or for any other reason.

That is what it will cost you!



WHAT DO YOU GET IN RETURN?

Often frustration and financially nothing!

You will however, have the satisfaction of showing a practical interest in your community, in helping to see it properly run, its expenditure sensibly controlled and the reward of knowing that you have assisted others.

What is a Councillor?

Councillors are elected to represent an individual geographical unit on the council, known as a ward. They are generally elected by the public every four years.

What do Councillors do?

Councillors have three main components to their work:

- decision making
- monitoring
- getting involved locally

Decision Making

Through meetings and attending committees with other elected members, councillors decide:

- which activities to support
- where money should be spent
- what services should be delivered
- what policies should be implemented

As well as attending meetings, councillors should be prepared to get involved in the meetings.

Monitoring

Councillors make sure that their decisions lead to efficient and effective services, by keeping an eye on how well things are working.



Getting Involved Locally

As local representatives, councillors have responsibilities towards their community and local organisations. These responsibilities and duties often depend on what the councillor wants to achieve and how much time is available.

This may include:

- going to meetings of local organisations
- going to meetings of bodies affecting the wider community
- taking up issues on behalf of members of the public
- running a surgery for residents to bring up issues

Attending Council meetings is the best way to find out what happens. By law, ordinary people are allowed to be present at most council business but not participate unless the council agrees to this. Most councils have a public participation section on their agenda.

How Much Time Does it Take Up?

Quite often councillors say that their duties occupy them for about five hours a week. Obviously there are some councillors who spend more time than this - and some less, but in the main, being a town councillor is an enjoyable way of contributing to your community, and helping to make it a better place to live and work.

Am I Qualified?

You must be over 18 years old **AND**

1. Be an elector
2. Be a Commonwealth citizen (which includes being a British citizen) or a citizen of the European Union
3. For the whole of the twelve months before the date of the co-option either
Have resided in the locality or within three miles of it
or
Have occupied any premises or land as owner or tenant therein
or
Had your principal or only place of work there (such work need not be paid but must be substantial)



You cannot stand for election if:

1. You hold any paid office, employment or other place of profit in the gift or disposal of Sandy Town Council, or any committee or sub-committee thereof
or
2. you are subject to a bankruptcy restrictions order or an interim order
or
3. you have within five years before the co-option or since been convicted in the UK, Channel Islands or Isle of Man of any offence and been sentenced to imprisonment (suspended or not) for not less than three months without the option of a fine
or
4. you are convicted of offences involving corrupt or illegal practices under Part III of the Representation of the People Act 1983
or
5. you have been convicted for the failure to register or declare disclosable interests under the Localism Act 2011 (England)

Councillors can be automatically disqualified if they do not attend meetings for six consecutive months. To avoid this, councillors need to submit reasons for their non-attendance **and** their council has to accept and minute the reasons for non-attendance.