

Qualifications to be elected or co-opted as a councillor

To become a parish councillor either by election or co-option, you must be:

- Aged 18 or over
- A British citizen or a citizen of a Member state of the European Union or of a country that is a member of the Commonwealth.

In addition, you must comply with one of the following:

- Registered as a local government elector for the parish
- Occupied land within the parish as owner or tenant for at least 12 months prior to your candidacy
- Your principal or only place of work during the last 12 months has been within the parish
- Reside in the parish or within 4.8km (3 miles) of its boundary.

You must not have been:

- Declared bankrupt
- Be a paid employee of the council – or one who has left in the last 12 months
- Convicted of a crime within the last 5 years which has resulted in a custodial sentence of 3 months or more
- Disqualified under any enactment relating to corrupt or illegal practices.

Elections take place every 4 years or when required following a vacancy on the council. Co-option is the process whereby the council can choose a candidate to fill a vacancy that has not been filled by election.

