

The Council is led by democratically elected councillors (often called 'members') who set the vision and direction of the Council. The Council also has paid staff (officers) dealing with delivery of services and professional judgements. Worcestershire County Council is made up of 57 Councillors who represent 52 Electoral Divisions across the County.

All Councillors are expected to represent and champion the interests of the community, businesses and constituents in their area. To achieve this as a Councillor you will need to:

- Keep yourself informed about the needs of your area;
- Represent your Division within the County Council and other bodies;
- Be accessible to the people in your area e.g. through regular surgeries but in any event responding to letters, emails and phone calls;
- Play a leading role in your area and keep in contact with local groups and societies and, where they exist, parish council;
- Keep the residents in your electoral division informed about your work.

As well as the local representational role, Councillors participate in the political management of the council. Your role and responsibilities:

- Will include being a member of the Council which agrees the budget and policy framework and holds the executive to account;
- May include serving on Scrutiny Panels to help develop Council policy, and scrutinising decisions taken by the Cabinet, in order to improve outcomes for our residents;
- May include serving on specific Committees or Panels which have regulatory, quasi-judicial or statutory duties for the county e.g. Planning Committee.

Nearly all of our democratic meetings are open to the public and you are welcome to attend if you would like to see how the Council's political structures operate. A timetable of meetings is available on the Council's website and many of the public meetings are also webcast and viewable on our website - you can access the information at www.worcestershire.gov.uk.

Some Councillors may also be appointed to represent the Council on a wide range of local, regional and national organisations.

The way Councillors act in office, particularly over matters where they have a financial or personal interest, is governed both by the law and by a Code of Conduct. The Council has a legal duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by its councillors.

If elected, you will be required to sign a declaration stating that you undertake to observe the council's Code of Conduct for Councillors. Full details of the council's Code of Conduct can be found by accessing this link www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20013/councillors_and_committees/108/complaints_about_conduct_of_councillors

You will also be required to declare certain financial and other interests which you may have.

The public rightly have high expectations of the conduct of our Councillors. Amongst other requirements, you must treat others with respect and, must not conduct yourself so as to bring your office or the Council into disrepute.

There will be a programme of induction and training sessions for Councillors after the elections.

This will depend on your roles and responsibilities; the work of a Councillor can vary greatly but is likely to be a good number of hours each week according to the commitments you take on. In addition to your work in the community, there will be Council meetings and briefings to attend, most of which will be held at County Hall in Worcester during office hours.

The great majority of meetings take place during the working day so, if you are in employment, you will need to discuss the time commitment with your employer. The number and length of meetings do vary.

For most of the meetings you attend there will be associated reports and supporting papers, which you will need to read beforehand. In line with the Council's policy on sustainability and commitment to the use of ICT as a Digital Council, many of these will be circulated electronically and you are definitely encouraged to use IT. Other calls on your time may involve evidence-gathering and research in respect of scrutiny exercises.

Councillors are supported by officers who will provide you with assistance with your community leadership



If you are thinking of standing as a candidate for a particular political party, then you should first get in touch with that party's local organisation. If you plan to stand as an independent candidate, your local Elections Team (details below) will be pleased to give you further information.

| Bromsgrove & Redditch | elections@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk Telephone: 01527 881421 |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Malvern Hills | elections@malvern hills.gov.uk Telephone: 01684 862259 |
| Worcester City | electoralservices@worcester.gov.uk Telephone: 01905 722530 |
| Wychavon | elections@wychavon.gov.uk Telephone: 01386 565437 |
| Wyre Forest | electoral@wyreforestdc.gov.uk Telephone: 01562 732762 |

